

Our Lady of Lourdes RC Primary School



An Academy School Part of
The Good Shepherd Catholic Trust



RE Policy 2024

Our Mission Statement:

We are a catholic school. We strive to be a sign of Christ's presence in the world. We follow Jesus.

Date Approved by Governing Body:	18 th December 2024
Date To be Reviewed by:	Autumn 2027
Signed By:	Richard Sharman - Chair of Governors

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Mission Statement

We are a Catholic School. We strive to be sign of Christ's presence in the world. We follow Jesus.

Rationale

- Our Mission Statement and Cultural Eco System is at the heart of all aspects of school life.
- Religious Education is central to the educative mission of the Church.

'At the heart of Catholic education lies the Christian vision of the human person. This vision is expressed and explored in Religious Education.'

- Religious Education is 'the core of the core curriculum.'

*'Therefore Religious Education is never simply one subject among many, but the foundation of the entire educational process. The beliefs and values studied in Catholic religious education inspire and draw together every aspect of the life of a Catholic school.... All pupils have the right to receive an overall education which will enable them, in the light of the faith of the Church, to engage with the deepest questions of life and find reasons for the hope which is within them. Religious Education is, then, the core subject in a Catholic school.'*ⁱ

- Religious Education is the systematic study of the teaching of the Church and the mystery of Christ and is a rigorous academic subject in its own right.

*Religious Education is regarded as an academic discipline with the same systematic demands and the same rigour as other disciplines."*ⁱⁱ As such it is to be taught, developed and resourced with the same commitment as any other subject.

*"Excellence in religious education, then, will be characterised by a clarity of succinct religious learning objectives and of key content, by appropriate methodologies, rigour, richness of resources, achievement of identified outcomes and accurate methods of assessment. Classroom RE will be a challenging educational engagement between the pupil, the teacher and the authentic subject material."*ⁱⁱⁱ

- Whilst evangelisation and catechesis are happening in our school for some pupils, the specific contribution Religious Education makes to the Catholic Life of the school is primarily educational and will be planned, taught, assessed and monitored with the same rigour as other curriculum subjects.

- The outcome of Classroom Religious Education is:

"Religiously literate and engaged young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills - appropriate to their age and capacity - to reflect spiritually, and think ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life".^{iv}

Aims

The Aims of Religious Education as stated in the RE Curriculum Directory are to:

- Present engagingly a comprehensive content which is the basis of knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith;
- Enable pupils continually to deepen their religious and theological understanding and be able to communicate this effectively;
- Present an authentic vision of the Church's moral and social teaching so that pupils can make a critique of the underlying trends in contemporary culture and society;
- Raise pupils' awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities in order to respect and understand them;
- Develop the critical faculties of pupils so that they can relate their Catholic faith to daily life;
- Stimulate pupils' imagination and provoke a desire for personal meaning as revealed in the truth of the Catholic faith;
- Enable pupils to relate the knowledge gained through Religious Education to their understanding of other subjects in the curriculum;
- Bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture.^v

Religious Education - Curriculum Time Allocation

10% of curriculum time is allocated to Religious Education. This does not include Collective Worship.

Programme of Study

To fulfil the above aims and to address the four areas of study outlined in the Religious Education Curriculum Directory, 2012 - Revelation, Church, Celebration and Life in Christ - the 'Come and See' programme is used as recommended by the Diocese.

Process

Religious Education is taught through the process of *Explore, Reveal, and Respond*. This follows the pattern of: the human **search** for meaning, God's initiative in **Revelation** and the **response** in faith. This pattern is outlined both in the Catechism of the Catholic Church and in the Curriculum Directory.

As the Directory states:

'Teaching in Religious Educationshould help people be attentive to the meaning of their experiences, illumined by the light of the Gospel, so that they may respond to God more fully. Experience can also make the Christian message more intelligible.'^{vi}

At Our Lady of Lourdes we support pupils to:

- Respect and promote pupils' innate spiritual capacity.
- To provide questions and materials for children to reflect on their own experience of life.
- Help children explore the beliefs, values and way of life of the Catholic Faith.
- Help children learn about beliefs, values and ways of life of other Faiths
- Explore the religious dimension of questions about life, dignity and purpose within the Catholic Faith.

- Encourage and facilitate children's' personal analyses of their own beliefs and values.
- Provide opportunities for celebration, prayer and reflection in implicit and explicit ways.
- Provide children with the language of religious experience.
- Ensure a systematic presentation of Christian events in the Catholic tradition, messages and way of life in ways appropriate to the development of the child.
- Ensure that Religious Education permeates all aspects of school life and takes place at many different levels, including teaching within class lessons and the development of expectation regarding attitudes and conduct.
- Provide a collective act of worship each day. This may take the form of: prayers in class; hymn practice; KS1 assembly; KS2 assembly or whole school assembly.
- Teach the R.E. curriculum throughout the school.

Inclusion and Equality

All pupils in our school, irrespective of ability, faith and background will have appropriate differentiated access to the Religious Education programme.

The governing body have wider responsibilities under the Equalities Act 2010 and will ensure that our school strives to do the best for all of the pupils, irrespective of disability, educational needs, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, sex, gender identity, religion or sexual orientation or whether they are looked after children.

Right of withdrawal from RE

Parents have the right of withdrawal from RE for their children. The school has a separate Policy for the Withdrawal from RE.

Other Religions

Two other religions are taught from EYFS to Year 6 following the programme of study in 'Come and See'. These are Judaism, which is taught in the Autumn Term, and Islam, Hinduism or Sikhism which is taught in the Summer Term on a three-year cycle. At least one week's teaching and learning time per year is given to each.

Assessment, Monitoring, Recording and Reporting

- Assessment of standards is carried out using the Age-Related Standards in Religious Education (3-19) interim document agreed by Bishops' Conference.
- Each teacher keeps a class record of assessed work and records of pupils' progress.
- An in - house moderation of pupils' books is held termly.
- Monitoring of teaching and learning follows the school pattern for all subjects. Books and plans are monitored termly. Learning walks, led by members of the Senior Leadership team, occur termly. More formal observations of teaching and worship are held in line with other core subjects.
- During the period of use of the Age-Related Standards in Religious Education (3-19) interim document progress and achievement is recorded by class teachers and tracked using the O Track system. Data is analysed and acted upon by the Deputy Head and RE Coordinator.
- Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to parents/carers in a written report at the end of each academic year.
- Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to SLT and Governors termly.

Management of the Subject

Mrs. Liz Roca-Mas, the Co-ordinator/Subject Leader has responsibility for leading, managing and supporting the delivery of and training in Religious Education.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy will be monitored, evaluated, reviewed and updated by the RE Coordinator, Senior Leadership Team, Governors.

ⁱ Religious Education Curriculum Directory, Department of Catholic Education and Formation, Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, 2012, p.3

ⁱⁱ Religious Education Curriculum Directory, Department of Catholic Education and Formation, Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, 2012, p.3

ⁱⁱⁱ Religious Education in Catholic Schools, Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, 2000, para 7

^{iv} Religious Education Curriculum Directory, Department of Catholic Education and Formation, Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, 2012, p.6

^v Religious Education Curriculum Directory, Department of Catholic Education and Formation, Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, 2012, p.6

^{vi} Religious Education Curriculum Directory, Department of Catholic Education and Formation, Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, 2012, p.7