

## St. Catherine's Primary School

### Religious Education Policy

#### Mission Statement

***St. Catherine's mission is to educate children  
in the virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity.  
With Christ as our Teacher, we grow in Faith as  
enthusiastic learners in a safe and supportive family.***

#### Context

As a Catholic school, Religious Education is at the heart of our curriculum as we strive to proclaim and live the Christian values taught by Jesus Christ, within the Catholic tradition. This permeates every aspect of our school life. With parents and Parish, we hope to lead children to a greater understanding of who God is and to celebrating with deeper faith and understanding, the liturgy of the Church.

#### Aims

Our subject specific aims for the teaching of religious education are to enable all children to:

- grow in understanding of who God is for us as a Catholic community;
- grow in knowledge and understanding of Jesus' life and teachings;
- gain a deeper knowledge and understanding of the Catholic tradition and the liturgy of the Church;
- recognise and appreciate the spiritual and religious dimensions of life through feelings of awe, wonder, delight and joy.
- examine their own religious feelings, views and responses.
- respect each individual and dignity of the human person made in the image of God
- take an active role in our world as co-creator with God and to be Christ's hands and bodies on earth
- understand Catholic tradition and belong to a loving Catholic community with Christ at the Centre

#### Content

Religious education is an enriching subject, a subject at the heart of school life, which all children should enjoy. As a Catholic school we offer Religious Education as an important contribution to the faith development of pupils. The requirements of the Religious Education Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools in England and Wales are met through the use of '*To Know You more Clearly*', which was introduced in Key Stage One in September 2023. Reception children through to Year 3 children are using the published scheme, Vine and Branches, where as Year 4 to Year 6 children follow the Come and See scheme, as recommended by the Diocese and Academy Trust. The curriculum is enriched by using a wide range of resources to stimulate, engage and challenge the pupils. These include relevant videos, music, posters, stories and use of the Bible. The scheme covers many aspects of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

#### Teaching and Learning

Religious Education in the Catholic school is a core subject and is allocated 10% of the teaching time in classes. Teachers are encouraged to use a wide range of creative teaching strategies to deliver Religious Education so that children enjoy the subject and are engaged in their learning. The topics covered are those suggested in the used schemes and are enriched by using a range of visual and audio resources. Children are encouraged to participate in the lesson through paired work, group work, class discussion and drama. Where possible, links are made to other subject areas, particularly literacy and science.

### **Staff Professional Development**

We are committed to ensuring ongoing staff development in religious education so that all staff grow in understanding of the Catholic faith. The Religious Education Subject Leader (RESL) attends all of the Subject Leader Training and disseminates information and ideas to the whole staff. Staff meetings, formal and informal, are integral to our monitoring process and we provide CPD for staff needs when they arise. We work with colleagues in Carlisle, throughout the year, to moderate RE work, prior to the Diocesan moderation in the Summer Term.

### **Assessment**

Assessment of the curriculum in Reception to Year 3 is based on the end of branch assessment as stated in the *'To Know You more Clearly'* document.

Assessment of the curriculum in Year 4 to Year 6 is based on the Age-Related Standards (3-19) in Religious Education provided by the Catholic Education Service. Pupils are assessed within an age phase, (7-11), according to the Standards; Knowledge and Understanding, (Learning About); Engagement and Response, (Learning From); Analysis and Evaluation.

In all year groups teachers make a judgement of Working Towards Standard (WTS), Expected (EXP) or Exceeding (EXC) on a termly basis based on the appropriate phase. Assessments are recorded onto a class proforma. Staff moderation meetings take place with the RESL to monitor and evaluate the attainment in R.E. Data is submitted to the HT and RESL and recorded on the whole school tracker for analysis. Outcomes of the analysis are recorded for the RESL Action Plan and School Improvement Plan.

External moderation meetings also take place with the Carlisle Cluster and alongside work from other schools in the Diocese.

### **Reporting to parents**

Annual pupil reports focus on each child's progress with regards to achievements in the topics undertaken and attitudes to Religious Education. They are also discussed at the termly Parent's Evening.

### **SEND**

Children with SEND are supported, as in any other subject. Planned lessons and activities in Religious Education are adapted to meet the needs of all pupils in the class.

### **Homework**

Prayer bags are sent home to develop quality prayer time with families. Appropriate homework is sent at the discretion of the Class Teacher.

### **Review and Development**

Religious education is subject to constant review in the light of Diocesan Guidelines and current teaching practice. This involves the whole staff to ensure that necessary changes are made and development implemented.

In September 2023 we introduced *'To know You more clearly'* The new Religious Education Directory into Reception and Year One. In September 2024 we launched this in Year 2 and Year 3. The Religious Education Directory is being phased into school over the next two years where it will replace all previous schemes of work from 1 September 2025.