

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

### Version: 2



**St. Catherine's**  
RC Primary School

<b>Name and Designation of Policy Author(s)</b>	Jessica Quiligotti, RE Co-ordinator and Deputy Headteacher		<b>Is this a Statutory Document</b>
			No
<b>Approved By (Committee / Group)</b>	FGB Approved as no Curriculum Committee meeting during COVID		
<b>Date Approved</b>	n/a		
<b>Date Ratified by FGB</b>	13/5/2020		
<b>Date Published on Staff &amp; Governor Website</b>	26/11/2020	<b>Is this to be published on school website?</b>	Yes
<b>Review Date</b>	(Every 2 years)		
<b>Target Audience</b>	Staff, Parents, Governors		
<b>Links to Other Strategies, Policies, Procedures, etc</b>	Prayer and Worship Policy, PHSE Policy, Relationships and Sex Education Policy		

#### Version History

Date	Ver	Author Name and Designation	Summary of Main Changes
June 2015	1	Robert Tanti, RE Co-ordinator	Old policy updated and put into the new standard format (hence version 1)
May 2020	2	Jessica Quiligotti	Amalgamates RE Policy with Prayer and Worship Policy. Updated to take account of Come and See being the core scheme in use alongside other resources.

#### Monitoring Compliance with the Policy

Describe Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)	Target	How will the KPI be Monitored?	Which Committee will Monitor this KPI?	Frequency of Review	Lead
This policy will be available for staff, parents, governors and is in date	100%	Check policy is on website termly	Curriculum Committee	Annual	R.E Co-ordinator
Children's views on RE are collected annually	100%	Children's Voice meeting with the RE Co-ordinator	Curriculum Committee	Annual	R.E Co-ordinator

### **Mission Statement**

Our school community is rooted in the Gospel and the vision of St. Catherine of Siena. This inspires each of us *'To be who God wants us to be and so set the world on fire.'*

- We are called to love one another as we seek to be the best in all that we learn and do.
- We celebrate and nurture the gifts, talents and skills of everyone.
- We commit ourselves to grow together in faith, love and service.

### **Aims of Religious Education**

- 1 To present a comprehensive content which engages pupils and is the basis of knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith;
- 2 To enable pupils continually to deepen their religious and theological understanding and be able to communicate this effectively;
- 3 To 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;
- 4 To raise pupils' awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities in order to respect and understand them;
- 5 To develop the critical faculties of pupils so that they can relate their Catholic faith to daily life;
- 6 To stimulate pupils' imagination and provoke a desire for personal meaning as revealed in the truth of the Catholic faith;
- 7 To enable pupils to relate the knowledge gained through Religious Education to their understanding of other subjects in the curriculum;
- 8 To bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture.<sup>1</sup>

### **Curriculum time allocation**

In line with Bishops' Conference recommendations, 10% of curriculum time is allocated to Religious Education. This does **not** include Collective Worship.

### **Programme of Study and Planning**

At St. Catherine's, to fulfil the above aims and to address the four areas of study outlined in the Curriculum Directory – Revelation, Church, Celebration and Life in Christ – the 'Come and See' programme is used as recommended by the Diocese. Teachers are encouraged to supplement the scheme with resources they feel are appropriate.

### **Assessment, Monitoring, Recording and Reporting**

- Assessment of standards is carried out according to Diocesan guidelines using the criteria in the interim document Age-Related Standards in Religious Education approved for use in Catholic schools by the Department of Education and Bishops' Conference in July 2018.

- Each teacher reports on yearly attainment and termly assessments are completed in Years 1-6 to support with this judgement.
- Parents and carers receive information through our annual reporting to show whether children are on track to meet age-related expectations in Religious Education, alongside a detailed comment about progress within Religious Education.
- Assessment criteria is based on objectives and guidance from Salford Diocese and is based around the two strands, three in Key Stage 2:

AT1: Knowledge and Understanding ('learning about')

AT2: Engagement and Response ('learning from')

AT3: Analysis and Evaluation (KS2 only)

- Assessment in religious education is used to identify difficulties and areas for future development; provide information on strengths, progress and achievement to pupils, teachers and parents; and to inform future planning. A whole school marking scheme is in place and is used in RE books (see assessment and marking policy).

### **Prayer and Worship**

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school names and celebrates God's presence in our lives. It is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer and worship takes many forms and is practised several times during our school day. Through prayer and worship, we aim to:

- Contemplate something of the mystery of God
- Reflect on spiritual and moral values
- To explore our own beliefs
- To respond to and celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To reinforce prayers which are part of Catholic tradition
- To take time out to 'wonder at', 'come to terms with' and 'give worth to'.

The content and delivery of collective worship in St. Catherine's progresses throughout the year groups. As children grow older and develop in their faith, they become increasingly more involved in planning and leading collective worship in different forms. Children partake in planning and leading collective worship for their peers as well as evaluating each others' practice in order to continue to grow in their active involvement in worship.

Our Special Mention Worship offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. It plays an important part in promoting the Catholic ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements recognised. We welcome

governors' attendance and that of our Parish Priest at our worships and celebrations at any time. Listening to and reflecting on the Gospel is an important part of our weekly Special Mention Worship and this is either directed by our child-led GIFT team or a senior member of staff.

Children also engage in different worship gatherings throughout the week. Teacher-led worship will be based on the liturgical calendar, feast days, etc. and class-led worships are led by individual classes and are based upon the curriculum topic, the church calendar or a community / national / global topic with faith links. Parents, carers and families are invited to attend.

### **Structure of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship will often follow the pattern, or the variation of the pattern, as detailed below:

- Gather Together - how we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet/reflective music, lighted candles, statues, sign of the cross, focus and examination of conscience etc);
- The Word of God - A reading from the scriptures (or another suitable source), breaking the word, time to reflect on this and prayers to fit into the theme);
- Action /Response - A ritual movement that everyone can join in with that fits with the theme (gestures such as shaking hands, holding hands, lighting a candle, prayers, responses to prayers etc);
- Mission / Go forth - The sending out from the celebration, giving children something to hold onto from the experience of the para liturgy that they can take into their daily lives.

Collective Worship is recorded in a class Collective Worship book which contains plans and photographs from class collective worships.

### **Celebration of the Eucharist/Mass**

The children in Key Stage 2 celebrate at least one Mass per half term as part of the parish community. Year 6 also celebrate a Leavers' Mass to celebrate their time at St Catherine's. Year 3 Masses follow the Sacramental Programme timetable of preparation. The SLT are responsible for timetabling these and liaising with the Parish Priest, with support from the R.E Coordinator. Sufficient time should be taken to prepare the children for the Mass, both in terms of practice and understanding. Whole school Masses occur six times an academic year and also Holy Days of Obligation that fall on weekdays.

### **Annual Celebrations**

The seasons of Advent and Lent are times of preparation for Christmas and Easter and need to be given their own importance. Prayer and worship at this time reflect the season. During Advent, special Advent worships are planned and the children use the Advent Wreath as a focal point. Para liturgies, reflections and prayers are planned to celebrate the events of Holy Week.

Twice a year, during the months of Mary (October and May), children lead their peers, school staff, families and parishioners in prayer through the praying of the Rosary.

The feast of St Catherine of Siena falls on April 29<sup>th</sup>. Our Patronal Feast Day is marked in school with parish links also.

### **Student Leadership**

Our GIFT (Growing In Faith Together) team and our Caritas Ambassadors are two key leadership groups within our school. This allows a child-led approach to faith and community, including charity work, and keeps our faith at the heart of all we do.

These leadership positions are prestigious roles in our student leadership community and are key role models that show our core values and are looked up to by other children in the school.

However, taking a leading role in the religious life of the school is not restricted to these groups, as shown by the participation of many children in the Rosary, for example.

### **Cross-curricular links**

As Religious Education is an integral part of school life, RE is incorporated into other curriculum areas. RE is also made cross-curricular through a number of themed enrichment weeks throughout the school year.

### **Other Faiths**

Two-three times an academic year, the school celebrates other faith weeks. Classes are to follow the prescribed faith allocation and programme as set out in 'Come and See'. This also forms part of whole school celebrations for other faiths when year groups study the same faith at the same time.

### **Parental Role**

Parents and carers understand on entry of their child, that they are expected to support the Catholic ethos of the school. All children attend worship and take part in RE lessons, and they are all assessed equally.

We recognise that parents are the first educators of their children.

*"By their example in the home and in their participation in the Mass and other sacraments, the foundations of life-long faith and discipleship in their children are laid down."*

Statement from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales (May 2000)

We support parents in developing children's faith. We work alongside them, assisting them on their faith journey and supporting them as they work with their children. Due to their key role, we regularly invite parents to join us for collective worship and school masses.

### **Community**

At St. Catherine's, we are fortunate to share our site with St. Catherine's Church. Families and children are actively involved in Sunday Masses. The parish takes a lead in Sacramental preparation and celebration which is supported by the school.

The children will also visit the parish church to examine it in more detail regarding its symbolism when applicable to fit in with the various aspects of 'Come and See'.

Children learn about certain Sacraments at different times in accordance with the 'Come and See' programme. First Holy Communion, though wholly parish based, is supported in school with all teaching staff invited to attend the actual ceremony.

The Parish Priest visits the school weekly to strengthen the link with parish, to enrich the children's understanding, and to engage the children through discussing questions.

The Parish Priest also comes into school throughout the year to lead forgiveness services for KS2 children, after they have made their Sacrament of Forgiveness.

We aim to develop in the children concern and charity towards others in the community. We do this by involving the children in charity fundraising throughout the year. We raise funds to support the work of a wide range of charity including: CAFOD, Caritas, Francis House, St. Joseph's Penny.

### **Resources**

Each class has its own R.E box that is to remain with the class. The box contains items for worship areas as well as resources for prayer, worship and teaching. Teachers should inform the coordinator should they require further items. There is also an R.E resource area located in the staff room which offers guidance for teachers and further resources, as well as an area for further resources outside our KS1 Library.

### **The role of the R.E. coordinator.**

The subject leader has responsibility for leading, managing and supporting the delivery of and training in Religious Education with support from the Headteacher.

The coordinator leads staff in developing their teaching of R.E. and prayer and worship in a number of ways, including:

- Their own good practice
- Offering advice and support to colleagues
- Leading staff meetings and INSET in RE and prayer and worship
- Auditing and ordering resources for RE
- Being responsible for the processes of self-evaluation in RE (monitoring pupils' work, planning, teaching and learning)
- Reporting the outcomes of self-evaluation to the Headteacher and members of the Senior Leadership Team
- Writing, actioning and evaluating an annual action plan for RE