



St Dunstan's Catholic School

Religious Education (RE) Policy

CRC Article 29 (Goals of Education)

Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures and the environment.

"As we grow with God, we learn from each other."

Our Policy

This policy incorporates the aims and values of our school mission statement that is rooted in our belief that every child is unique and made in the image of Christ. This is reflected in the desire, commitment and aspirations of our school staff to address and overcome any socio-economic factors – or any other external factor – which may hinder pupil progress and attainment and ultimately affect their life chances.

RE in our school is not solely taught as a curriculum area but as a way of life, promoting the gospel values, giving praise and reverence to God. It is an opportunity for everyone to develop their own personal faith through word and action, to enter into a communion with God, made possible, through the divine work of Jesus his Son and the witness of the Holy Spirit. This is achieved through liturgy, collective worship, assemblies, lessons – including curriculum content and roles and responsibilities throughout the school, which deepen our Catholic life and highlight our belief that Christ is the centre of all that we do.

Pope Francis on Prayer: 'Let us keep the flame of Faith alive through prayer and the Sacraments: let us make sure we do not forget God. Prayer, humility and charity towards all are essential in the Christian life: they are the way to holiness.'

Our Mission Statement "As we grow with God, we learn from each other."

We live our school's mission throughout school life: through prayer personal reflection and sharing faith experiences of others.

We strive to develop opportunities where each child's own spiritual self is respected and enhance reverence, wonder and awe in God's presence and self-exploration. It includes the deepening of knowledge and understanding of key theological ideas and their application to life. Through 'Learning and Growing as the People of God', we aim to develop our children's religious growth. Throughout the teaching and learning of RE we aim to develop independent thinking and the ability to express our own Faith experiences.

RE is a way of life and part of this journey in faith is taken as members of our school communities. We work closely together with home, our Parish Priest and Parish communities, so that we can present the Christian event, message and response to mission. Through our school mission and our children's experience of belonging to a caring community, we aim to offer our children a strong sense of self-worth and an awareness of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life. Respect for God. Respect for other people. Respect for other people's property. Respect for ourselves.



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Aims

- To nurture our children and staff in the Catholic faith.
- Ensure children feel cared for and care for each other so that everyone who enters our community feels welcome to engage in examination of and reflection upon their own life stance, to deepen their personal faith commitment and to respect that of others.
- Develop the children's knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith and where appropriate, other religious traditions, by following the Gospel Values and providing opportunities for prayer, worship and spiritual growth.
- To provide a living example of Gospel values in our relationships with one another.
- To provide a high quality education where each child develops to their full potential and acquires the knowledge, skills and personal qualities to become responsible, respectful and faith-filled members of society.
- To enable staff and children to communicate with God through prayer and scripture.
- To help staff and children to explore and express their sense of awe and wonder at the world God has created.
- To promote the Sacramental life of Christian families and to encourage parents to take an active part in the preparation of their children for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation.

How We Meet Our Stated Aims

Scheme of work

RE is allocated 10% of Curriculum time as required by the Bishops' Conference. Prayer, Assemblies, Christmas Plays, PHSE and Hymn Practice are not to be included. However, Mass may be considered the equivalent of half-an-hour of RE, but only once in any week. (Communicating Christ).

In Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), it is recommended that RE is taught as a discrete subject and not subsumed into the rest of the curriculum.

RE will be taught in all year groups twice a week in a one hour session. During Holy week RE lessons will be blocked and each event during Holy week will be allocated a day for celebration and worship. Holy Week work can be moved, if the term dates prevent being in school during Holy Week.

RE Programme

The Religious Education Programme 'Learning and Growing as the People of God' devised by the Archdiocese of Birmingham.

The aim of this programme is to explore the religious dimension of questions about life, dignity and purpose within the Catholic faith. Links are made with the pupil's own experiences and faith journey. It will help the pupils to explore the beliefs, values and way of life of the Catholic tradition and where appropriate of other faith traditions. The strategy is divided into four key areas:

- The Liturgical Year.
- Scripture – both Old and New Testament.
- The Sacraments.
- Living as Christians, including prayer. (How we carry out Christ's mission).



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In addition to the strategy, all year groups will learn about the school's six house Saints, Saint Dunstan and all of the important feast days and celebrations.

Learning and Teaching

The long term planning is contained within the Programme of Study for each year group. There can be some flexibility depending upon whether a specific group of pupils are preparing to receive the Sacraments.

Medium term planning is the responsibility of the class teacher and is done on a unit-by-unit basis. Units can be found on the staff shared area in the RE Folder. Medium term plans should be highlighted and annotated as the unit is taught, these will be saved on the staff shared area in the RE folder.

Short term planning is recorded on a separate RE planning sheet, which is based upon Diocesan recommendations. The planning proforma provides opportunities for SMVSC, prayer and collective worship. Short term planning should be completed weekly and uploaded to the planning folder in the staff shared area.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting.

Teachers are expected to mark children's work after every lesson and feedback to the children during the following lesson. This is in line with the school's marking policy, this policy can be found in the staff shared area in the policy folder.

As part of the Learning and Growing as the People of God programme, there is a four year cycle for assessment. The Clustergroup sets the assessment focus each year based on the Liturgical Season, Sacraments, Scripture and Living as Christians. The assessment of individual children is the responsibility of the class teacher. The information for the assessment focus is collated by the RE lead, pupil progress meetings will be held with class teachers to discuss how to improve attainment and progress. Three children from each year group will be tracked (one working towards, one expected and one greater depth) against the Diocesan attainment targets. For EYFS 2 (Reception) and KS1 there are two attainment targets:

AT1 - Knowledge and Understanding (Learning About)

Skills Areas

- Developing knowledge and Understanding.
- Religious and Specialist Vocabulary.

AT2 – Engagement and Response (Learning From)

Skills Areas

- Meaning and Purpose.
- Beliefs and Values.

For Lower and Upper KS2 there are three attainment targets:

AT1 - Knowledge and Understanding (Learning About)

Skills Areas

- Developing Knowledge and Understanding.
- Making Links and Connections.
- Religious and Specialist Vocabulary.



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AT2 – Engagement and Response (Learning From)

Skills Areas

- Meaning and Purpose.
- Beliefs and Values.

AT3 – Analysis and Evaluation.

Skills Areas.

- Use of Sources as Evidence.
- Construct Arguments.
- Express a Preference.

The assessment master copies can be found in the staff shared area in the RE folder. Teachers will be given two weeks after the completion of the unit to save their assessments in this folder.

Teachers discuss children's work and progress with parents during Parent's evening, held in the autumn and spring term. Annual end of year reports will include RE; teachers should use the assessment sheets to inform consultations and reports.

Sacramental Education

Preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist take place in Year 3. In addition to the strategy, which is followed by all pupils, the school provides extra resources and sessions for the children to enable parents to take an active part in their child's preparation for these sacraments.

Parents are invited to attend a series of meetings and workshops throughout the year with the class teacher, school leaders and the Parish Priest to help them to support their children at home.

Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation takes place in Year 6. The school uses the Diocesan Strategy, which is followed by all pupils. The children and their parents are invited to attend a meeting at the start of the preparation.

Enrolment Masses are held for both the children who are going to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation the Eucharist and the children who are receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Prayer and Collective Worship

- A Gospel assembly takes place every Monday; this is planned and delivered by a member of SLT.
- Hymn Practice takes place every Thursday; music is chosen by the class leading Mass.
- Child /Teacher led class collective worship takes place every Wednesday. If the collective worship is teacher led, class teachers will be responsible for planning it. If the collective worship is child led, they will use the planning board provided to create their collective worship.
- Mass will take place every Friday; classes will take it in turns to plan Mass.
- An assembly is held every Friday for the classes not at Mass, this is led by the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher.

Important feast days will be celebrated with either a Mass or collective worship. The Spiritual Life team will plan these, unless otherwise stated.



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Celebrations and special times within the churches year will be planned and celebrated, such as the Rosary in October and a May Procession at the beginning of May. The Spiritual Life team will plan these, unless otherwise stated.

Every class should have a prayer area. The maintenance of this is the responsibility of the class teacher, teaching assistant and children.

RSHE

Relationships Education is now compulsory in all Primary schools in England and Health Education is compulsory in all state-funded schools. 'Life to the Full' programme of study will be followed. Please see separate policy for more information.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities.

All children have equal access to the RE curriculum, regardless of religion, gender, culture or special educational needs. Full participation in all aspects of RE is expected. As a Catholic school, Jesus Christ remains central to every aspect of school life. All pupils are educated in the beliefs and devotional practices of the Catholic Church.

Parents and carers are advised that, in desiring a Catholic education for their child, it is expected that all pupils will participate in RE lessons. Although we do not anticipate there being an instance where a parent exercises their legal right to withdraw their child from RE and Collective Worship, we recognise that if this does occur, we are responsible for putting provision in place for that child. This, however, is strongly discouraged.

Ratified September 2021.

To be reviewed September 2023.