



ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

Inspiring independent learners with Jesus by our side

St. Bede's Catholic Primary School Religious Education Policy

At the heart of all the Religious Education we provide in this school is the intention to make our school "a living and caring community of faith, an extension of home and an integral part of the Catholic Community" (Cardinal Hume).

1 AIM

We at St Bede's believe that each child is unique and the recognition of this individuality, together with a concern for the total development of the whole child is at the heart of our educational philosophy. Religious Education occupies a central place in the life of our school.

We aim to meet each child on his/her faith journey and in the light and power of the Gospel accompanying each one on his/her way towards becoming a full and complete human being. Our philosophy therefore is rooted in Gospel values.

Moreover, we aim to allow Religious Education to permeate through the whole curriculum, stimulating spiritual growth and development alongside academic, physical and social progress.

2 OBJECTIVES

To achieve our aim, we: -

- provide a welcoming atmosphere where personal relationships flourish and where each person has the opportunity to explore his/her own capabilities and potential in the knowledge that he/she has the support and encouragement of a caring community rooted in mutual trust and openness
- recognise the importance of interaction between home, Parish and School in fostering true Christian attitude and helping to develop in each child a deeper understanding of Gospel values
- extend a warm welcome to clergy, Governors and other visitors for formal and informal visits

- invite parishioners and parents to attend Masses celebrated in school, eg Holydays; feast days
- encourage staff and pupils to be involved in the various activities in the life of the Parish eg celebrations of Sacraments of Forgiveness and Eucharist, Altar Servers
- recognise the importance of prayer, worship and liturgy in the development of faith of each person in our school community
- encourage all pupils and staff to contribute appropriate skills and talents in a spirit of offering and sharing, whilst being sensitive to the personal, social and religious needs and abilities of everyone
- address all pupils in our school regardless of diversity of religious background and commitment
- spread the Gospel through the ethos, pastoral care and the general curriculum developed in our school
- recognise that there are differences in the stages and levels of faith experienced by individual members of our school community
- live out the Gospel in the form of celebration, liturgy, prayer and social interaction, to help to nurture and develop an already existing faith and lead pupils to participate more fully in the life of the Church
- are involved in initiatives to further improve liaison with the various departments in St Nicholas Catholic High School

7 SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Preparation for the First Sacraments is organised from within the parish by parents and catechists for the children in Year 3. Support and encouragement is always available from the school for both the children and their parents.

The staff and other pupils of the school assist in the celebration of both the sacraments and in a Thanksgiving Mass at the end of the programme as appropriate.

8 COMMUNITY LINKS

8.1 PARISH

Invitations are extended to our Parish family to join with us in various celebrations throughout the year e.g. Mass on Holydays, Christmas, Easter.

8.2 DIOCESAN LINKS

The children and their families respond generously to annual Diocesan appeals such as the Good Shepherd Appeal.

8.2 THE WIDER CHURCH

We encourage a generous and spontaneous response to appeals for aid whether it be in the form of prayer or practical help e.g.: -

- gift parcels/shoe boxes for the underprivileged
- prayers for peace
- collections for victims of disasters
- supporting the Fair Trade movement
- Autumn harvest and Lenten collection for local foodbank

8.4 THE LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD

We encourage inter-action with other local organisations and schools e.g. Churches Together, sporting and musical activities, INSET. Whenever possible we respond to requests from local charities and appeals to improve our local environment e.g. requests from Friends of Owley Wood, the Woodland Trust, the Weaverham Trust etc.

9. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CURRICULUM

At St. Bede's Catholic Primary School, we believe that the teaching of Religious Education is of paramount importance to guide and support the child within a Catholic environment, in line with the mission statement of our school. All pupils receive 10% curriculum RE indicated on timetables providing adequate opportunities to learn about the faith of the church, as part of a full education, within a Catholic environment. In addition, there are daily opportunities for collective worship, which is outlined in the Collective Worship Policy.

The development of the pupils' social, cultural, moral and spiritual understanding is supported through the implementation of whole school policies for inclusion of special educational needs and the provision for equal opportunities. Careful curriculum planning, assessment and evaluation ensures the RE curriculum is delivered fully to all pupils according to their age and ability. Pupils explore the fullness of the Christian message and enrich their experiences through the realities of the presence of God.

9.1 Programme of Study

It is our policy to follow *'The Way, the Truth and the Life'* scheme, directed by Shrewsbury Diocese, which fully supports our belief in the importance of the child, family, school, church and community in line with our Mission Statement.

'For all children religious education is a proper subject in its own right in the school's curriculum. It is a rigorous academic discipline, and as such it is to be taught, developed and resourced with the same commitment as any other subject. For those already engaged in the journey of faith, religious education will be catechesis, and for some children religious education will be evangelisation, the first opportunity to hear the good news of the gospel.'

(RECD, p10)

“The Way, The Truth and The Life” is an annual cycle of topics which are particular to each year group; two topics are studied each term, each topic lasting approximately six weeks.

RE lessons constitute 10% of curriculum time in all key stages. Time is also given to class, departmental and whole school liturgies and collective worship.

Through ‘The Way, The Truth and The Life’ children will:

- Explore the religious dimensions about life, dignity and purpose within the Catholic Tradition.
- Begin with and reflect on their own experiences
- Make links with other faith traditions
- Gain knowledge of the Old and New Testament as the Word of God.
- Be helped to recognise their own vocation as members of a joyful Christian community.

Central to the programme are three basic human questions and the three Christian beliefs that are the Church’s response in faith. These questions are developed through nine themes which have strong links from the ‘Catechism of the Catholic Church’ and the ‘Religious Education Curriculum Directory.’

Each theme is explored through four topics with four distinctive starting points. Therefore, the same theme can be explored through a different topic for different age groups. The content of the scheme is so structured that there is cohesion and progression in what children do and learn. For each level there are clearly stated learning outcomes, achievable learning objectives and a variety of experiences and activities for each of the learning objectives.

Other faiths are taught in line with the thinking of the Church. Using the RE IDEAS Resource (RE Today Service) pupils from Reception upwards address the beliefs of world religions through a common theme. Two weeks across the year are set aside for the learning about and learning from religions and beliefs.

2-year cycle

Year 1	Autumn: Fairness and Justice	Summer: Journey
Year 2	Autumn: Community	Summer: Sacred Art

9.2 Planning

Long-term planning: St. Bede’s school follow the whole school approach to the implementation of the scheme over a yearly cycle.

Medium-term planning: A planner is provided for each teacher, which indicates themes, topics, dates, learning intentions and learning outcomes for each term.

Short-term planning: Each topic planner requires the teacher to indicate activities and resources necessary to achieve specific learning objectives.

9.3 Assessment

The assessment of standards is carried out using the criteria set out in the Levels of Attainment booklet agreed by the Bishops' Conference.

Attainment Targets and Strands

Attainment Target 1 (AT1) is **learning ABOUT Religion**.

AT1i beliefs, teachings and sources

AT1ii celebration and ritual

AT1iii social and moral practices and way of life

Attainment Target 2 (AT2) is **learning FROM Religion**.

AT2i engagement with own and others' beliefs and values

AT2ii engagement with questions of meaning and purpose

Marking is approached positively and constructively so that it affirms and celebrates success and encourages future learning.

The RE subject leader will monitor the teaching of RE within the school monitoring programme.

Assessment of curriculum RE takes into consideration the following statements:

- ◆ it is a judgement of achievement not about grading a child
- ◆ it focuses on the unique contribution of the subject to pupil development
- ◆ it is integrated into the whole education process –planning, teaching strategies and learning.

Thus the positive outcomes of such assessment will:

- ◆ enable pupils to reflect on their achievements
- ◆ help pupils to take their next step in learning
- ◆ enable teachers to monitor progress
- ◆ enable teachers to communicate effectively with interest about pupils' achievements
- ◆ enable teachers to monitor the effectiveness of their own work.

Formal Assessment

Baseline assessments for Reception pupils take place during the first half term in autumn. At the start of each year topics to be formally assessed are highlighted and shared with the teaching staff.

Tracking

Each term the data collected from the assessments is inserted into the e-tracking grids (Otrack) and ongoing pupil performance is monitored. This data is compared with achievements in English – reading and writing and compared to national attainment in English.

9.4 Monitoring / Evaluation

Curriculum RE is monitored by the Head teacher and the RE co-ordinator in line with the school monitoring policy and school improvement plan. Observations of teaching, scrutiny

of planning, evaluations and pupils work, and pupil voice informs future planning, resource issues and professional development.

10. Resources

Resources are purchased in line with the annual budget allocation and these are recorded by the RE co-ordinator. Most resources are stored centrally (hall, staff room) whilst others are distributed and displayed around the school.

Policy reviewed by staff: Autumn 2018

Agreed by Governors: October 2018

Appendices

Appendix 1

Reference/Reading List

- The Way, the Truth and the Life Scheme – introduction
- The Catechism of the Catholic Church
- Curriculum Directory
- What are we to teach? (CES)
- Documents of Vatican II
- Broad Areas of Attainment (NBRIA)
- Levels of Attainment in Religious Education (NBRIA)
- Assessment, Recording and Reporting in Religious Education (NBRIA 1998)
- Levels of Attainment in Religious Education in Catholic Schools and Colleges (Bishop's Conference Department for Catholic Education and Formation)
- The General Directory for Catechists
- The Catholic School in the Third Millennium
- Religious Education in Catholic Schools (Bishops' Conference, Low Week 2000)
- Universe
- Catholic Herald
- Other publications and magazines that are subscribed to by St. Bede's
- Music
- Websites
- RE Today Subscription (website)
- Leeds Diocesan Website (Access planning materials)
- YOUCAT for Kids
- YOUCAT for Youth

Appendix 2

Long term plan of WTL

Appendix 3 (updated annually)

10% RE teaching