



“Hand in hand, we listen to God’s call, we learn from God’s word and we share God’s love through service.”

Religious Education Policy



St. Augustine's Catholic Primary School

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Mission.

'Hand in hand, we listen to God's call, we learn from God's word, and we share God's love through service.'

Introduction.

At St. Augustine's Catholic Primary School, we believe that Religious Education forms the foundation of all that we say and do. Within Religious Education as a subject, and through our day to day school life, we promote a deeper knowledge, a growing appreciation and understanding of the Catholic faith. We strive to support all those within our school community to be inspired by the Gospel word, and help everyone on their journey of faith.

Aims of Religious Education

1. To nurture each person of our school community on their journey of faith.
2. To promote knowledge and understanding of Catholic faith and life.
3. To develop religiously literate young people.
4. To develop children's awareness of the religious commitment in every day life, including the Church's community.
5. To promote dignity and freedom of every person, as created in the image and likeness of God, by making children aware of other denominations and faiths.
6. To experience feelings of wonder and awe to the natural world.
7. To foster appropriate attitudes, respect and care for others, and think about the meaning and purpose of life.
8. To inspire every aspect of school life.
9. To encourage the children to be Disciples of Christ and live out the Gospel values.
10. To develop moral and ethical convictions by asking questions, examining and reflecting.

How we meet these aims

These aims are met through day to day school and parish life. Within the school day, there is focus and attention on these elements of the curriculum:

- Scheme of work
- Sacramental Education
- Prayer
- Collective Worship

Legal Right

Parents have a legal right to withdraw their child from R.E and Collective Worship.

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Scheme of Work

- Entitlement and Provision
- Religious Education is a core subject within St. Augustine's Catholic Primary School. It is at the heart of our whole Curriculum and therefore embodies our daily lives. Religious Education, as a subject, is allocated 10% of the Curriculum time as required by the Bishops' Conference. It is taught as a discrete subject from EYFS - Year 6, but will naturally form part of other curriculum areas within our School. During special times of the Liturgical year (such as Holy Week), R.E will be blocked into larger chunks to allow children to be fully immersed in, and reflective of the time, supporting them in their faithful journey.

- Religious Education Programme of Study

Each teacher is responsible for the planning and delivery of the Religious Programme of work, through the implementation of the Diocesan Strategy 'Learning and Growing as the People of God'. This strategy was created from the RES Curriculum Directory. Adherence to the guidance set out in the strategy, along with the Catechism, directory, and ethos inspired within the school, helps to ensure continuity and progression throughout the school.

1. Revelation: teaching about God's self-revelation
2. Church: about the Communion of life in Christ
3. Celebration: about living the Christian Mystery in worship and prayer
4. Life in Christ: about the search for holiness and truth

- Other Areas of Study

In addition to the Programme of Study, children at St. Augustine's have reflective times throughout the year where they learn upon the Mission of our school. These mission days and times support children in understanding their own mission and vocation in life.

As St. Augustine is our school Patron, we also share and learn about him, especially in celebration of his feast day on May 26th.

Furthermore, the Catholic Pupil Profile plays a vital role in our day to day life. Children learn about the virtues and values that bring us together with Jesus. Each half term, children reflect upon two of these virtues. During RE lessons and Collective worship, these virtues are embraced and acknowledged by children and staff.

- Other Faiths and Religions

Other denominations and faiths are taught throughout the year, at key events and festivals within the faith's calendar. Each year group focuses on a certain aspect of the faith to ensure progress, a growing respect for other religions and to develop a more spiritual understanding of the diverse culture and faith within our world. Visits to other places of worship are put in place to support children in their understanding, as well as external key speakers who will attend and talk to the children.

- The Catholic Curriculum

In addition to our study of Religious Education, there is a constant cross-curricular link with other subjects. Our Catholic Social teaching, SMVSC, is actively incorporated into our curriculum. The programme of 'Peacemakers Educating for Peace: Learning for Peace' is a shared resource that links the SMVSC curriculum and enables children to have opportunities to share during circle times and activities.

Sacramental Education

- Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion

Children are prepared for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Eucharist in Year 3.

The Diocesan 'Learning and Growing as People of God' programme strategy is followed in preparation.

Preparation for the Sacraments are accompanied with four meetings for parents, led by our Parish priest, Fr. Tom. In addition to this, Masses throughout the year inspire and encourage a community link with the Parish of St. Augustine's. During preparations for the Sacraments, parents are a vital part of the teaching and are asked to take part alongside their children.

- Sacrament of Confirmation

Children are prepared for the Sacrament of Confirmation in Year 6.

The Diocesan 'Learning and Growing as People of God' programme strategy is followed in preparation.

Parents and children are invited to attend a series of meetings, and parents are encouraged to work with their children. Children preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation are also asked to attend Confirmation Club. This is an after school club that is run by the R.E leader at St. Augustine's, and where the children join together with those at Christ the King School to learn more about this special commitment. Throughout the preparation, great emphasis is placed on the children being responsible for the undertaking and commitment. We encourage children to come to know the Holy Spirit better and relate to Him as is present in their lives and the Church's life.

Retreat days are organised for both Year 3 and Year 6 to help enrich their Sacramental Preparation. This is often led within our Holy Cross MAC Secondary School, Cardinal Newman. Additional retreat days are organised within school to support our children on their spiritual journey.

Where children attend Mass as part of their preparations, they are each given a gift to help them embrace and reflect on the Sacrament they are preparing to receive and their journey of their faith.

These include, Bibles, Rosary beads and prayer books.

Planning

Long Term Plan

The Long term plan is created by the RE leader each year in line with the Diocesan expectations, and receiving of the Sacraments. The Long term plan is shared with all staff and feedback is given throughout the year to ensure that the curriculum is following this structure.

(Please see the Long Term Plans Nursery-Year 6)

Short Term Planning

Short term planning is completed in extensive detail and incorporates the Medium Term Planning. Planning is completed on the Diocesan STP proforma with additional details of the Age Related standards to monitor throughout the year. Planning is kept within the school's shared area online. The RE leader monitors planning at a variety of points throughout the year to ensure progression, teaching and learning. Additional, moderation with the RE leader as well as within and across year groups takes place. This monitoring and moderation between year groups supports / teachers in developing their planning and ensuring Age Related standards are taught.

SEND and Equal Opportunities

We believe in equal opportunities for all children in our school. We are all made in the image and likeness of God.

We provide an RE curriculum where planning is supportive of all children. Through differentiated work, support and questioning throughout our RE lessons, provision is inclusive and ensures all children are supported on their journey of faith.

(Please see SEND Policy for more details)

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

Marking and Assessment for learning:

Marking follows the school's Feedback Policy. Marking promotes an R.E focus, ensuring children have understood the objective taught. Secretarial and presentation elements may be highlighted, and spelling will be primarily focused on RE specific vocabulary. Next steps are given on at least two lessons per unit to support children's depth of understanding within RE. These often relate to the Age Related standards statements.

Use of Unit markers for each unit of study helps focus attention on the teaching and learning, as well as teaching children the key vocabulary for each unit. These unit markers also provide evidence of assessment for each unit of study.

End of Unit Assessment:

Monitoring and Assessment Focus is given by the Diocese on a four year rolling programme—Liturgical Year, Scripture, Sacraments and Living as Christians . The RE Leader shares the assessment focus before the start of the academic year. Each class teacher is responsible for the assessment of the children. Assessment takes place three times a year according to the assessment schedule. Teachers assess using the Diocesan strategy and upload their assessments onto the Diocesan excel spreadsheet. The data is kept on the school's shared area online. Books are collected and monitored throughout the year by the RE Leader and SLT. Progress is also monitored through Pupil Progress Meetings.

Age Related Standards:

As a national assessment, the use of Age Related Standards are identified. These standards are used for planning, teaching and learning. In order to gain an insight into the children's learning within RE, three children are selected per class and are followed and monitored throughout their years at school. This is to monitor the development of the children's understanding and knowledge reaching the Age Related Standards for each phase. Children are assessed for all units of study against the Age Related standards and are monitored by the RE leader at a variety of times throughout the year.

Reporting to Parents:

Teachers discuss children's work and progress during parent consultations in Autumn and Spring. During these two terms, report cards are provided to parents regarding the children's effort and attainment within RE. Annual reports are completed and sent out in the summer term.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring of RE is completed by the RE leader and SLT at a variety of points throughout the year. Monitoring includes (but is not limited to):

Planning scrutiny - Especially across share units of study (e.g Advent, Holy Week)

Book Trawls - with specific focus (e.g. differentiation, writing, Greater Depth, questioning)

Assessment - After each unit of Assessment, and includes analysis of data.

Age Related Standards

Actions of the monitoring take place after each monitoring. This is given to staff with appropriate resources, CPD and next steps. This is then further monitored later in the year. The monitoring schedule is available on the School's Yearly Plan and is also kept with findings, actions and intended impact by the RE leader and SLT.

Further evaluation is taken at the end of the year to be implemented in the next academic year.

Evidence from monitoring and evaluation are shared with SLT and during governors meetings.

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Resources and Displays

- Resources

Resources can be found on the diocesan website for teachers and staff. These are shared resources from the Diocese advisors as well as shared resources from Catholic schools across our diocese.

Shared resources across our MAC schools for different units of study are also available. These have been provided by teachers across the MAC.

Use of the CAFOD primary resources, Father Hudson, as well as Bible gateway provide our teachers with credible sources to use within our RE curriculum.

- Displays

Displays are used within classrooms and in communal areas to support and focus the teaching and learning of our RE curriculum and Liturgical year. In both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 halls, year groups take it in turns to provide displays showing their work and highlighting what they have been learning. In classrooms, the use of the Sacred Prayer Space and board space provide children with key words, images and Scripture to support their learning.

Role of the RE Leader

Please see the job description of the RE Leader at St. Augustine's for more information regarding the role and responsibilities.

Health and Safety

Throughout our RE curriculum, Prayer and Collective Worship, and Catholic Life, assessments take place to ensure that children are safe in their environments. Please see individual risk assessments for more information.

Catholic Life and Giving to Others

At St. Augustine's we aim to bring about an awareness of the needs of others. The children involve themselves in a lot of fundraising throughout the year for a variety of charities. This is particularly the case during Lent. This is led by the School Council to ensure consistency, dedication and specific needs. Children in EYFS, KS1 and KS2 are all involved in raising money through a variety of different activities including; cake sales, races, pyjama days, non school uniform days, hot chocolate selling, and much more. The school also take part in helping families in need resource their homes, and providing food to these families and food banks. The reminder and emphasis on giving to others is shown by annual assemblies given to the children by different charities who we raise money for. The great spirit of generosity combined with good will have formed a part of our school and community.

We aim that our school ethos is one that fosters and nurtures giving which is emphasised through this and also the power of prayer.

Parents and the Community

School, Parish and home work together in all aspects of the faith journey of the children. Special times during the Liturgical year are celebrated within the school and at church. Parents are welcomed and encouraged to join these. These include:

- Prayer bags: throughout the year, prayer bags are given to the children to take home and create their own prayer service. Children are encouraged to write up and reflect on their family prayer service in a special book which is then passed on to the next child. These prayer bags are given at different times during the Liturgical Year.
- Stations of the Cross: parents are encouraged to attend Friday's Stations of the Cross in church.
- Advent and Easter Mornings: At the start of both Advent and Easter, the school opens and welcomes the parents to take part in special mornings dedicated to the Season. Children and their families join together in prayer services, art activities, scripture readings and much more.
- KS2 Carol Service
- KS1 Christmas Nativity
- Masses for the Sacraments: Y3 and Y6 families are invited to the preparation Masses, creating a wonderful link between School, Parish and Home.
- School Masses and Sunday Masses: Parents and families are welcomed to Mass on Wednesday for their children's Mass, and also St. Augustine's Sunday Mass at 10.30am, where the children are often involved.
- Lenten Reflection
- Assisting in fundraising events and charity events
- Attending Parent Consultation evenings and Sacramental preparation meetings

Governors

Fr Chris is currently our RE Link governor. He works along side the Head teacher, SLT and RE leader to ensure consistency and a dedicated approach to the school's community on their journey of faith.

Review Policy

December 2023