

# **Saint John Fisher Catholic Primary School**



## **R.E Policy**

**“To live, love and learn and learn in our caring community.”**

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### **R.E Policy**

Whilst as Catholics we believe that Religious Education is not one subject among many but the foundation of the entire educational process. This policy deals specifically with RE as a curriculum subject. The Catholic Life of the School is covered by a policy specific to that name.

#### **The Religious Education Curriculum**

We acknowledge that our provision of Religious education is based on the fact that at baptism the child's parents made a promise to be the first teachers of the faith to the child. We firmly believe that our Religious Education Programme is complementary to the catechesis which takes place in the home and Parish. The school cannot substitute for the home nor the Parish, but it can offer the children a positive and enriching experience and the exciting challenge of being Christian and Catholic in today's world.

#### **Our aims are:**

- 1. To provide at least 10% of teaching time to be set aside for the Religious Education of all pupils as required by the Bishops Conference.**
- 2. To plan creative and stimulating lessons based on the Birmingham Diocese Curriculum directory which is inclusive for all.**
- 3. To impart religious knowledge and understanding of:**
  - Beliefs, teachings and sources.
  - Celebration and ritual.
  - Social and moral practices and way of life.

**4. Teach children to learn from religion by reflection on meaning by:**

- Engagement with own and other's beliefs and values.
- Engagement with questions of meaning and purpose.

**5. Develop the spiritual life of the pupil by**

- Providing a Sacramental programme which is inclusive and in accordance with the rites of the Catholic Church.
- Teaching and providing opportunities for Holy Mass and other Christian celebrations.
- Providing times for prayer and teaching different mediums of prayer.

**6. To help children grow in their faith by providing opportunities through celebration, prayer, learning and reflection.**

**7. To bring about the realization of who we are, who we ought to be and the actions we ought to perform. (Moral Education)**

**8. To lead children to respect themselves and all others because we are all made in the image and likeness of God and know that everyone is redeemed through Christ Jesus.**

**9. To ensure the living out of the Gospel values which are linked in with the Commandments of Christ and his Church.**

**10. To teach children that their ministry in life is one mirrored by Christ – King, Priest and Prophet.**

- King- they have been given a special role in life to use and develop their talents to use for the Glory of God and his people.
- Priest- to live Holy and prayerful lives according to God's Law.
- Prophet- to be witnesses to the Gospel and proclaim it to all.

## **Planning and Assessment**

At St. John Fisher Catholic Primary School we follow the Diocesan Curriculum strategy for Religious Education 'Learning and Growing as the People of God' from Reception to Year 6.

### **Long term planning**

The Curriculum units are arranged by the class teachers in consultation with the RE subject leader and the Head teacher to take into account the seasons of the Church Year and the timing of the sacraments.

### **Medium term Planning**

Each Year group currently uses the Medium Term plans contained within the strategy as their overview.

### **Short term Planning**

Teachers plan lessons for each unit of work. (Number of weeks may vary depending on the amount of time allocated to particular units)

## **Assessment**

At St John Fisher school we believe assessment is central to ensure good quality teaching and learning to take place. We are always looking for new ways to make assessment effective, productive and beneficial to all involved in the process. The day to day assessment strategies used mirror the good practice used across the curriculum e.g

Learning objective and related success criteria

Effective questioning

Self/Peer assessment opportunities.

Effective feedback- Providing a next step for learning or an area to improve.

Highlighters are used to indicate good standards = Green

Orange highlighter indicates where a child can improve further.

The summative assessment process in RE is now following the National developments being made with APP and staff have started to look at a range of work produced by a pupil, along with their knowledge of that child through observations, to assign a level against the attainment target level descriptors.

Diocesan Assessment Focuses are used to assess pupils. Samples of work for More Able, Average and Less able are gathered in order to demonstrate how well pupils are attaining RE. The Assessment Focus sheets are completed for each child in each class at the end of every assessed unit.

### **Sacramental Programme:**

We provide support for all pupils who are preparing to receive the Holy Sacraments. Liaising with Senior Management and the Subject leader, teachers are able to provide a good programme of preparation for each sacrament looking at the matter and form of each. Parents are also required to take an active and leading role in preparing their child for the Sacraments through participation in enrolment masses, aiding the completion of homework. We provide support and information evenings for Year 3 and year 6. In the year groups that do not prepare for a sacrament we endeavour through the curriculum to keep the sacrament alive by continuing to offer opportunities which aid the children's understanding of the sacraments. During Advent and Lent we provide time where every child in Key Stage 2 has the opportunity for reconciliation. The opportunity to receive Holy Communion is regular e.g. First Friday masses, year group masses, Holy Days of Obligation and Special occasions e.g. St John Fisher saints day etc.

### **Family life and health education Provision**

The current programme is delivered using the All That I Am scheme in conjunction with the school nursing team.

### **Inclusion and Special Needs.**

The teaching of RE falls into line with the Inclusion policy.

## **Multi-Faith / Multi-Cultural Aspects**

Religious Education should introduce children to the background and beliefs of people of other faiths so that prejudice and misunderstanding can be overcome from an early age - we endeavour to seize each opportunity as it arises to ensure tolerance, respect and understanding between all the cultures and traditions represented not just in the school or its immediate environment but in the world as a whole. We promote this through the fact that we are all created in the likeness of God and through the teachings of Christ.

At present, elements of other faiths can be seen in our curriculum plans. For example, Diwali is taught in Y4 during a topic on India; Reception children study the Chinese New Year; aspects of Judaism are taught in Year 5 when studying the Passover feast; Year 4 in the unit on Abraham we talk about him as being revered by the three major faiths- Christianity, Islam and Judaism.

We encourage all children of different faiths, cultures and no faith to take part in the religious life of St. John Fisher. It is part of our mission to spread the light and love of Christ to all. We have different times in the year we celebrate other cultures:

European day of languages

Chinese New Year Celebration

Diwali

In line with diocesan guidance (2007) we have this year introduced the teaching of the other major religions during International week and visited Indian temples and mosques.

## **The role of the RE subject leader and SMT is to:**

- monitor and evaluate provision for RE within the school
- monitor and evaluate standards and achievement of RE within the school
- monitor planning, teaching and assessment of RE
- monitoring and reviewing the Sacramental Programme.
- monitoring and evaluating the provision for family life education.

### **The RE subject leader has a responsibility to:**

- provide curriculum leadership across the school
- manage the financial resources made available for the support of RE
- be informed about appropriate resources for the effective teaching of RE
- keep up to date with local and national developments in RE and to share good practice with colleagues (and pupils) in our school. This is done through regular attendance at RE Network meetings- cluster meetings
- provide support and advice to teachers.
- provide insets to all staff.
- provide support for NQT's and Non-Catholic teachers in the teaching of RE
- liaise with senior managers and the head teacher
- liaise with governors including the link governor
- liaise with outside speakers and agencies, e.g. Parish Priest, Parish members, Diocese advisor
- actively promote effective RE within the school and its community and to keep the profile of RE high within the school.
- set personal key tasks for subject completion.

### **Educational visits and residential visits.**

Educational visits are encouraged to enrich the religious education curriculum. The Y5 attend a residential retreat to Alton Castle every year and Year 6 visit St Chad's cathedral.

### **Resources:**

There is a budget which is set for RE at the start of the new tax year. It is used to buy new resources and to help with the sacramental programme.

Each class has access to bibles which are suitable to the teachings of the Catholic Church.

**Signed:**

**Date: September 2017**