

St Edward's Catholic Primary School



RE Policy

Presented to Governors: February 2022

Adopted by Governors: February 2022

Review date: February 2025

Our Mission Statement

St Edward's Catholic Primary School is a school where we strive to give all children the best possible education within an environment where everyone is valued and respected as part of God's family. Our Catholic ethos is enriched through prayer, worship and shared Gospel values which all play an important part in our school life. As a school we will do all we can to love and serve each other, and God, through our work and our play.

“Let all you do be done in love” 1 Cor 16:14

Our Aims

- To create a safe, secure and stimulating learning environment.
- To create an inclusive community where all members are valued, share a commitment towards the pursuit of high standards and understand their role in achieving them.
- To develop a supportive and challenging environment, where expectations in achievement and personal relationships are high.
- To deliver a balanced and broad curriculum, where children can achieve, enjoy and develop self-esteem.
- To develop children's skills, knowledge and confidence, enabling them to make a positive contribution to society.
- To achieve a dynamic interaction between home, school, parish and the wider community to ensure the needs of all members of the school family are met.

Religious Education at St Edward's

Intent

As a Catholic school and we are committed to the Catholic Faith and promote the Gospel Values ensuring they are at the heart of all we say and do. We recognise and value every individual as special and unique in the image and likeness of God.

Religious Education at St Edward's respects and promotes each child's intrinsic capacity for wonder, awe, reverence and spirituality. Our Religious Education curriculum leads our children to aspire not to have more, but to be more and to “Be the best they can be”. By helping them to live this faith, we hope to encourage our children to develop a better relationship with God and others around them. Central to our ethos are the opportunities for prayer and worship which lie at the heart of our faith.

We will endeavour to promote and encourage these at every level, together with the skills and attitudes necessary to live out the Christian message in the modern world.

Children are taught about God's love; they learn about their Christian responsibilities; children are provided with experiences of church, Catholic and Christian traditions, as well as being taught to be respectful and understanding of people and traditions from other faith backgrounds. Through Religious Education our children learn about their unique place within the home, school and parish community. We recognise that everyone at St Edward's children, staff and parents are on their own faith journey.

Through our teaching we aim to:

- present an engagingly and comprehensive content which is the basis of knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith
- enable pupils to continually deepen their religious and theological understanding and be able to communicate this effectively
- 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
- raise pupils' awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities in order to respect and understand them
- develop their critical thinking so that they can relate their Catholic faith to daily life
- enable pupils to relate the knowledge gained through Religious Education to their understanding of other subjects in the curriculum
- bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture.

Implementation

Teaching and Learning

RE is a core subject at St Edward's. It is delivered through the Come and See Religious Education programme (supported by TenTen and Journey in Love). This programme is followed throughout the school from Reception to Year 6. In conjunction with these teaching we also encouraged links with home, the Parish Church, the local community and other subject areas, especially PSHE. We believe that all aspects of RE should be woven into the fabric of school life. The purpose of Religious Education at St Edward's is to nurture the Catholic Faith, and its teachings, in our children. This programme provides opportunities for celebration, prayer and reflection in implicit and explicit ways. Children are provided with the language of religious experience; a 'systematic presentation of Christian events, messages and way of life' in ways appropriate to the age and stage of development of the child; and appropriate materials about other faiths. Links are made with the children's own experience and with universal experience. It raises questions and provide material for reflection by the children on their own experiences.

Over four years we will cover the following themes: Britain (Topic A), Europe (Topic B), Africa (Topic C) and Asia and South America (Topic D). During those topics we will explore a range of saints who are important to communities within these different continents. We hope that the exploration of these various saints will inspire the children in their work and allow them to follow and deepen their faith further.

In each lesson, you will see the four areas of learning displayed, encouraging children to be conscientious learners.

<p><u>Skills</u></p> <p>Each lesson identifies the key skills from the national curriculum that will develop children’s knowledge and understanding of what they need to be able to do in order to achieve in art. Children recognise the skills required to support their learning which are identified through the “footsteps” on their learning journey within each subject of the curriculum.</p>	<p><u>Learning Behaviours</u></p> <p>Each lesson identifies the key learning behaviours to guide the development of pupils’ social and emotional competencies, to support their learning. These are identified as the 5R’s:</p> <p><u>Resilient</u>: organisation, perseverance, focus.</p> <p><u>Reflective</u>: belonging, self-awareness, value, understanding feelings.</p> <p><u>Recognise</u>: knowledge of feelings, control impulses and express curiosity, manage feelings.</p> <p><u>Respect</u>: Equality, compassion, kindness</p> <p><u>Responsible</u>: Group work, responsibility, communication, Honesty, problem solve, takes risks.</p>
<p><u>Vocabulary</u></p> <p>Each lesson identifies key subject specific vocabulary as the acquisition of vocabulary is the basis for the development of all other skills. Starting with Early Language Development in EYFS, we continue to ensure children’s understanding of new vocabulary is supported throughout the school and across the whole curriculum.</p>	<p><u>Metacognition</u></p> <p>Also known as “Thinking Skills”.</p> <p>Each lesson identifies a key question that encourages children to be aware of their higher-order thinking skills. The children understand how they learn best and develop their ability to use strategies taught to them to progress their own learning and problem solving abilities. Through guidance from teachers and peers, they will be able to become independent, adaptive learners who can reflect upon their progress over time.</p>

Cross Curricular links

Alongside discrete lessons, there are a number of opportunities for RE across our curriculum for example exploring religious artwork or artefacts from history. Children are encouraged to explore and explain their understanding using varied mediums – written recounts, drama, IT and art.

Parental and Community links

Parent and community support is important to develop a well-rounded curriculum. Each year we celebrate many liturgical events either in school with parents, in church with parishioners

or even within our wider community. Celebrations such as May Procession, Carols by Candlelight, Nativity and Easter celebrations are planned annually.

Impact

Each unit of work is planned to develop the children's skills and build knowledge of key religious figures. Through the development of these skills, children's knowledge and talents in the subject and will develop year on year. Teachers will assess the children's work throughout a unit against the national curriculum objectives. Peer and self-assessment, as well as verbal feedback, will provide children will advise and support throughout their unit to develop their work.

Entitlement

RE is regarded as the heart of the curriculum enriching and informing all areas of learning. RE must always deepen pupils understanding of Catholic belief and contribute to their education in the Catholic faith.

At St Edward's Religious Education is taught for 10% of curriculum time in all classes. EYFS and KS1 – 2 hours a week KS2 – 2½ hours a week. All teachers are responsible for developing the RE of the pupils in their class. The RE Subject Leader, Chaplain and Trust Leaders are always willing to support all teachers, whether Catholic or non-Catholic, with their planning and in preparing lessons.

RE lends itself to all areas of the curriculum and will be linked to other curriculum subjects.

Planning, assessment, recording and reporting

All staff complete the medium term RE planning sheets -The RE Subject Leader is always available to support new members of staff with their planning.

Pupil's work is recorded in a variety of ways e.g. pictorial, written, wall displays and photographic evidence.

Work is marked according to the school marking policy. It is marked sensitively and positively. Often oral feedback is given to children when their work is being corrected – especially in KS1 or when the children are taking part in verbal presentations, class discussions and debates.

Teachers assess pupil's knowledge, understanding and appreciation of Catholic belief and practice appropriate to their age and development, their knowledge of scripture, understanding of God's message and their moral development and attitudes.

Children complete a 'Big Question' at the beginning and end of every Come and See unit of work and this help inform teacher assessment.

A record of achievement for each pupil is updated termly by each class teacher on Insight, in line with other subject areas.

Pupil's progress is reported to parents informally during parent's evenings and formally at the end of the year in pupil's annual reports.

Staff and responsibilities

We aim to demonstrate our own faith and commitment as a staff, in partnership with our governors, priests and parents. The RE Subject Leader is available to staff to offer advice and support if requested. The RE Subject Leader attends appropriate courses that are provided by the diocese and then provides up-to-date information to staff. The RE Subject Leader meet with other Subject Leaders within the OLICAT Trust. It is the responsibility of the Head Teacher and RE subject leader to monitor and evaluate teaching and learning and provide appropriate training.

Monitoring and Reviewing

As part of the school's monitoring programme:

- Lesson observations and Learning Walks are undertaken by the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and RE subject lead (where appropriate).
- Book scrutinies and Pupil Voice interviews are completed by the RE subject lead.
- A report is completed following each of these levels of monitoring and distributed to all staff, HT, and DHT.
- The RE subject lead and HT creates an annual action plan which highlights priorities for the academic year.

Budget

Each year the RE Subject leader has a budget for the purchasing of resources relevant to the Come and See programme.

At St Edward's Catholic Primary School Religious Education is a core subject of the curriculum. All future development, in the light of our Mission Statement, will be aimed at continuing to create an environment where the gospel values of prayer, honesty, holiness, justice, love and forgiveness are seen to be at work within our school.

Sacramental Preparation

The children are well prepared for the Holy Sacraments of reconciliation, communion and confirmation in a coordinated programme which is delivered by experienced trained teachers. This is supported by members of the parish and aims to parental involvement.

Inclusion and Equality

All children regardless of their ability and individual needs are taught Religious Education. Learning opportunities are provided that enable all pupils to make good progress. Staff work hard to meet the needs of the pupils with Special Educational Needs and those with learning English as an additional language. Work is differentiated where necessary and classroom assistants are used to support the work of individuals or groups of pupils.

Withdrawal from Religious Education Lessons & / Or Worship

This school will recognise the legal right of a parent to have their child withdrawn from Religious Education lessons and also acts of Worship. However, out of Christian Mission, it would be expected of the Head Teacher to have some dialogue with the parents of such a child to ensure they understand what they wish to withdraw from and inform them of its importance and centrality in a Catholic School helping to inform their decision – including why they have chosen a Catholic School to send their child to. Any children withdrawn will have alternative learning provided.