



Religious Education Policy

Our Mission Statement

*Following the example of Jesus, together we learn, love
and respect one another to be the best we can be.*

Amended by: Anita Britnell

Date for review: (Summer 2020)

Signed Chair of Governors

Date

Religious Education Policy

St Michael and St John is proud to be a Roman Catholic School where every person is helped to do their best to succeed in a place of love, peace and safety, following the teachings of Jesus. In our school family, we are keen learners and teachers.

Our Mission

Following the example of Jesus, together we learn, love

and respect one another to be the best we can be.

Statement

Our Mission Aims

It is the mission of the school to bring this into being. Thus at St Michael & St. John's:

Learn... We encourage our children to achieve their true potential and to take full advantage of all opportunities offered to equip them for their spiritual and educational journey.

Love... We believe that each child is a unique creation belonging to God and made in His image. We want our children to recognise this, as they develop their self-esteem and build relationships.

Respect... We support our children in appreciating their individual talents and in valuing the gifts given to others. We encourage the children to recognise that they are all equally valued within school and the wider community.

Implementing the Aims

In order to provide a comprehensive and systematic study of Christianity we follow Come and See as the core schemes of RE, supplemented with other resources such as Caritas in Action as appropriate.

RE Within the Curriculum

At St Michael and St John 's School, we are aware of the opportunity for cross-curricular links with RE themes of; *Revelation, Church, Celebration, Life in Christ* and the *Bible* as laid out by the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales. As a school we will promote an integrated view of RE within the curriculum. Wherever possible the spiritual life of the children will be enriched by art, music, drama, written work, literature and worship. We are fortunate to be next door to our church and have strong links with church and parish.

Our children also learn about other faiths within a 'Faith Week' in the Spring Term and may visit other places of worship as part of their understanding of our diverse faiths within society.

The RE themes mentioned above are covered in the RE scheme Come and See. There are nine topics during the year and are organised so each year groups will cover the same topic over a four week period at their own level. We are continuing to build a supply of recommended teacher's books and resources.

The RE themes will be portrayed throughout the school during class liturgies and whole school and parent assemblies.

Through the parish priest, Monsignor John Corcoran, the children and their families will be encouraged to appreciate, understand and participate in the liturgical cycle and the sacramental life of the church.

Transition across Stages

At St Michael and St John's School we have transition days at the end of the summer term to introduce each year group to the next class and its teachers. These usually involve activities that explore the children's worries and feelings about moving on.

At the start of each new school year, the Year 4 class support the new Foundation class. This is called **Farmer and Seed**. Year 4 support Foundation when going to church, paired reading and they have also done a topic together in the Summer Term

The children in Year 6 who are about to move onto St Augustine work with ex-pupils from Year 10 in an after school sessions called **Cross-Roads**. They also prepare and take part in a special leavers mass on a Sunday in July at St Michael and St John's Church. The children symbolically move over to the benches in church with staff members from the high school, St Augustine's.

Special Educational Needs

Within the teaching of RE as in all curriculum areas, teachers have the flexibility to respond to the needs and ability of all pupils, including those with identified special needs.

Equal Opportunities

All children have equal opportunity and access to the teaching and learning of Religion.

Spiritual and Moral

In general to encourage each individual's self esteem, to make each one aware of their own unique-ness whilst, at the same time, being aware of the needs of others. To promote a growth towards wholeness, to live and grow within the community responsive to God and respectful of those whose opinions may not necessarily agree with our own.

To bring this about by providing witness and learning experiences whilst taking into account the interests, needs and abilities of each child or group of children.

To encourage

- Positive self esteem, an awareness of the value and worth of each individual.
- To provide the opportunity to develop talents and skills and use them for their own self-fulfilment and for the benefit of all.
- To encourage a willingness to serve within the community.
- To accept responsibility.
- Gradually to encourage the ability to reflect, choose and form judgements.
- To develop moral awareness.
- Whilst having personal convictions to be ever open to dialogue with others and to be respectful of differing opinions though not necessarily being in agreement with them.
- To become aware of the position of the Church in the modern world.
- To show concern for peace and justice for all.
- To develop a sense that they themselves have an ever-increasing duty to inform, encourage and enlighten others.

G.I.F.T. Team – Growing in Faith Together

The GIFT Team is a group of Year 5 & 6 pupils who have applied for the position. The GIFT Team carry out many faith and charitable activities during the year. In school we have different roles for the GIFT Team.

- The GIFT Team - leads worship during The Rosary and Stations of the Cross.
- Bible Buddies - Looking at the Word of God.
- The Caritas Ambassadors - promoting and delivering social action projects within the school, parish and community.

- The GIFT Team have been running for a few years now and have performed some very moving *choreographed prayers* or stick dances at school and Diocesan Masses. The children practice at lunchtimes under the supervision of Mrs Clarkson and Mrs Webb.

The Bible Buddies run a lunchtime Bible Story and linked activity for the Infants. This has been very popular with the younger children.

The Caritas Ambassadors have raised the profile of various school charities and initiatives such as collecting for the local Clitheroe Food Bank and St Joseph's Penney during Lent.

Caritas Ambassadors

In January 2017, seven children from Year 5 and Year 6 were trained and commissioned at the Cathedral at the Salford Diocese to lead CARITAS initiatives in school.

Bible Buddies

We have a team of children who run a dinner time Bible story activities club for the Key Stage One children during Autumn and Spring Terms.

Teaching Environment and Support

It is the teacher's role to be both a witness to the children and to organise their learning environment. We will help the children respect staff, other adults and their peers in order that they may develop into mature young people with moral values.

Older children play a major part in helping around school, by acting as monitors, prefects, play leaders, sports councillors, Eco Warriors and Playground buddies. They are an immense help to the teachers and they are frequently told of their responsibility as role models to the younger children.

The school's Behaviour Management Structure is promoted throughout the school day. Thoughtful behaviour, kindness, helpfulness, good manners and effort with work are rewarded with praise and 'DOJO' points. The children are in one of four "houses". Each week DOJO points are collected and counted and at a special assembly children who have gained the most house points receive a special reward. A weekly whole-school Celebration Assembly is also held.

The children also receive acknowledgement for their success in achieving their individual targets, which is celebrated within class and often rewarded with stickers. Children are also sent to show good work and effort to the head teacher or other staff and their classes.

During Friday Celebration assemblies the children are presented with awards and certificates which they are encouraged to bring into school. These may have been earned for out of school activities. All effort by the children is acknowledged.

For children who are struggling to manage appropriate classroom or school behaviour, parents may be informed in line with the school's behaviour management policy. Parents are encouraged to visit school if they have concerns about their child. Appointments can be made initially through the class teacher or if required with the Headteacher.

Parish/ Home/ School Links

We promote strong and close links between home, school and parish in order to provide a spiritual, loving and caring background for our children.

The school supports fund-raising events in the parish such as HCPT and St Vincent De Paul. The children also support other fund-raising events such as CAFOD and Caritas.

The Sacramental Programme also provides links between school and parish.

In Year Three the children of the Sacramental programme write to Prayer Friends. These are older people in the parish who are sometimes house bound. Friendships have formed over the years. The Prayer Friends write to and pray for the children. After Holy Communion we have a Prayer Friends Tea Party in school. The St Vincent De Paul Society brings the Prayer Friends to school for this.

Some of the joint celebrations that regularly take place are:

- New School Year Mass (September)
- Whole School Advent Mass
- Ash Wednesday – Whole School Mass.
- Service of Reconciliation (Lent)
- First Holy Communion
- Year Six Leavers Mass (July)
- Weld Day Mass- joint with St Mary’s Sabden and Thorneholme.

Prayer and Worship

The children are drawn into the worshipping life of the school from the very beginning of their school life. Assemblies for the whole school are held on Monday mornings and Friday afternoon (celebration). Tuesday is whole school hymn practice. Wednesday afternoon is KS1 Assembly and the theme is linked to the Monday’s Assembly. KS2 Assembly is on Thursday afternoon, this is also linked to Monday’s Assembly. When either Keystage is not in assembly there is classroom worship time in class..

Within the class situation, the children are taught to say appropriate prayers including before lunch and at the end of the afternoon session. A list of prayers normally said is included in the Prayer and Worship Policy. Children have opportunities for writing their own prayers and sharing these with others. Each class contains a worship area.

During Whole School Masses, the children plan the Mass and take part in the Readings, Responsorial Psalm, Offertory Procession and Bidding Prayers. Older children may serve at the Mass. The school choir leads the singing at services held at St Michael and St John’s Church, particularly Sacramental programme services and masses.

Each term there are children’s masses which are held in church starting at 9.15am. A Key Stage two class and a Key Stage one class usually go together. The older class taking charge of the readings and the younger children take part in the Offertory

Each October, The Holy Rosary is said in the morning 8:45am. This is led by volunteers from Year 4, 5 and 6 or the Pupil Chaplains .During Lent we have the Stations of the Cross. This is also led by volunteers from Year 4, 5 and 6 or the Pupil Chaplains.

Curriculum Planning

We use ***Come and See*** as the basis of our planning from Foundation to Year 6. Year 1 - Year 6. Come and See is divided into nine topics that the school teaches at the same time. Each topic has six focuses and a classroom worship which is taught in four weeks. Our teaching and learning is also supported by the use of Bibles and online resources.

World Religions

During the Spring Term, the children will be taught about other world religions: Islam, Hinduism, Judaism and Sikhism. This is delivered during a ‘Faith Week’ in which each class learns about a world religion. We have visitors, and some classes have visited The Mount, Mosque on Lowergate and the Hindu Mandir in Preston.

As a school we are also using the services of ‘Building Bridges’ Burnley. **Building Bridges** is an interfaith network that organises visits and visitors from different faith backgrounds to go into schools and educate about different cultures and faiths across the North-West

Monitoring and Evaluation

- The R.E. co-ordinator is responsible for the carrying out of lesson observations and work scrutinies to monitor standards within the subject. It is the co-ordinators responsibility to feedback to teachers both orally and in writing.

Assessment and Feedback

.Formal and informal feedback will be given to pupils. Through:

- The marking of pupils' work (see Marking and Feedback policy). This feedback maybe related to spiritual development but mainly to the learning intention and outcomes specified in the lesson plan.
- Regular termly assessments which are carried out by all teachers, for their pupils, for the unit taught. These assessments are built into planning and not seen as a 'bolt on' at the end of a unit. St Michael and St John's school follows the guidance of the RECD resourced by Come and See. This information is forwarded to the R.E. Co-ordinator who collates the information and monitors standards across the school to ensure standards are maintained and of a high level.
- As from September 2019, RE assessment is no longer using levels. Catholic Education is now using Age Related Expectations. The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales are reviewing the content of this assessment and will not be finalised until 2020. Presently we are using a skill based assessment that covers two years
- Parents will receive a written report at the end of the academic year that contains a teacher comment on the child's progression within RE for that academic year.

Role of the Subject Leader

- Monitoring of standards across the whole school.
- Collating and monitoring of assessment data.
- Support staff in the implementation of curriculum R.E.
- Managing subject budget.
- Purchase and management of resources including visits and visitors.
- Organisation of CPD for staff (Inset, courses or in house training via staff meetings).
- Writing of action plans to inform School Improvement Plan.
- Attend cluster meetings and feedback to staff.
- Reporting to Governors through interim monitoring reports, attendance at Curriculum Committee Meetings and/ or meeting 1:1 with the Link Governor for RE.

Role of the Governing Body and the Head Teacher

- To inform parents about the Religious Education and Collective Worship policies, and to ensure that they are aware of their rights and responsibilities; including their right to withdraw a child from Curriculum R.E. However the Governing Body and Head teacher also have a responsibility to make parents aware of the Catholic Ethos of the school; the mission statements and values which underpin the ethos of St Michael and St John's school and which are an integral part of school life.
- There is a nominated Governor with responsibility for R.E. who is informed of changes to and standards within the subject.

St Michael and St John's R.C. Primary School

At St Michael and St John's world religions are taught over a 4 year cycle. Where possible we have visited other places of Worship.

World Religions Timetable

Key Stage 2

Year 3 Hinduism – Hindu Temple at Preston

Year 4 Judaism- Jewish Synagogue/

Year 5 Islam- (new) The Mount – Mosque- Lowergate, Clitheroe

Year 6 Buddhism- Visiting speaker

KS1

Faith Week to learn about other faiths.