

Sacred Heart Hindsford R.C. Primary School

Religious Education Policy



Policy written by B. Ditchfield –

RE Leader

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Accepted by Governors:

J. M. Dermott

signed (chair)

signed (Head)

(Draft until ratified)

Shared with staff: date: October 2019

Mission Statement:

By living out our Catholic faith

TOGETHER

we ENCOURAGE

and ACHIEVE.

I have called you by name.

The Aims of Religious Education

In our Catholic school, Religious Education underpins learning and the life we have together. It is what gives our school its distinct nature. Although touching all aspects of school life and the curriculum. RE is also taught as a subject and is given 10% of overall timetable. Although in our role as educators, we do not presume a faith commitment, as a Catholic School our Religious Education is rooted in the traditions of the Catholic Church and the teachings of Jesus in the Gospel.

The aims of Religious Education at Sacred Heart are:

- To promote every child's innate capacity for the spiritual
- To achieve knowledge and understanding of the teachings of Jesus, 'The church' and 'Christianity'
- To understand how a community of people can share beliefs and that shared 'faith' affects who they are and the way they live
- To understand that not all communities share the same beliefs
- To understand the importance of ritual, worship and celebration to religious communities.
- For children to develop a moral awareness and a sense of right and wrong, good and evil in the world around them

Objectives

We achieve these aims:

- with a systematic presentation of Christianity, its message and the way of life it promotes, appropriate to age and stage of development
- by engaging children in activities that get them wondering and asking 'Why?' activities that capture the spiritual imagination
- by providing opportunities for reflection, prayer and celebration
- by providing children with the language or religious experience, through story, symbol, ritual etc...
- by providing children with the opportunity to explore and form beliefs and values
- by developing an awareness of community; Including religious communities and how they relate to others and the world around them. Allowing children to experience being part of a church community.

The Religious Education Programme

To fulfil our aims and objectives we use the 'Come and See' programme of Religious Education recommended by the Archdiocese of Liverpool.

Overview and Content

'Come and See' is developed through three themes based on the constitution of the second Vatican Council: Church, Sacrament and Christian Living.

Each theme can be explored through seven different topics; a distinct topic for each year group. Pupils study the same themes but through different topics as they progress through the school, at the level of deepening understanding.

The Process

The process of delivering 'Come and See' has three stages: Explore, Reveal, Respond, which enable pupils to develop knowledge, understanding, skills and attitude. The process encompasses a variety of teaching and learning styles, which enable the needs of individual pupils to be met.

The process: the word who is life- this is our subject

Search- Explore

The introduction to the programme where children's life experience is explored, the questions it raises are wondered at, shared, investigated and their significance reflected on.

Revelation- Reveal

This is the heart of the programme where knowledge and understanding of the catholic faith is revealed through the Word, in scripture, Tradition, doctrine, prayer, rites and Christian living.

Response- Respond

This is where the learning is assimilated, celebrated and responded to in daily life.

The Approach

Working through process for any given topic takes four weeks. 'Respond' is the heart of the process for all topics.

'Explore' - week one

'Reveal' – Weeks two and three

'Respond' - week four

Three themes, three topics are studied by each class, nine in total for the school year.

Planning

Long term planning

RE is taught as a distinct subject within the timetable, usually in blocks of 30mins of 45mins, totalling approximately 2 1/2 hours per week [10% of timetable]. This time refer to RE subject lessons only and does not include assemblies, collective worship or hymn singing.

Two separate weeks of 'other faith' study are also included in the long term plan [Y1 to Y6 only]. In Autumn Term, we have a Judaism week. In spring or Summer Term [whichever is the longest], another faith is studied eg. Hinduism.

Medium Term Planning

The Co-ordinator provides an overview of topics and dates to be covered at the start of each term. A celebration calendar, matching topics as well as other dates in the liturgical calendar is also devised [see display in staff room].

To help medium term planning and to root class topics in the shared theme, 'Come and See' is reflected upon.

CAFOD materials are used regularly thought the year and with various topics to ensure that there is a 'global dimension' to our planning.

In line with school policy, teachers ensure that there is a display/ focus area for each topic which contains the topic title and key words. Children are encouraged to contribute to display eg. Photographs, artefacts from home. The RE display provided a stimulus and a 'focus' for a topic and is also a space to celebrate children's work.

Short Term Planning

A planning format is used for the short term planning. This is the stage at which the teacher decided on activities, the context to which they are being done eg. Individual, group and the resources needed.

The range of activities will be wide and various and, in line with other whole school development, there is likely to be a good amount of speaking and listening and key skills tasks. We are trying to be creative!

Assessment

Assessment is focused by the overall aims and objectives of Religious Education Standards. In 'Come and See' it is related to the concepts, skills and attitudes to be developed through the exploration of the themes and learning standards for each topic. Assessment establishes what pupils know, understand and can do. It does not assess faith or practice of faith. Assessment in Come and See emphasises a wide range of achievement.

Informal Assessment- is the day to day assessment of learning we do. It may happen during interaction with the class or group or as a result of marking pupils works. Assessment for learning allows teachers and pupils to know what extent learning has taken place what to do next.

SELF Assessment - pupils complete a self-assessment task at the end of each topic called 'What I Now Know'.

Formal Assessment- in line with Archdiocesan Policy, formal assessment takes place once per term, following the cycle provided by the Archdiocese to ensure all themes are covered. Pupils are formally assessed against attainment targets. Activities are designed around 'driver words' so that an accurate teacher assessment can be made.

A portfolio of samples from each class at a cross section of ability is kept by the RE co-ordinator. All entries in the portfolio are first levelled by the class teacher and then moderated by another or by the RE co-ordinator.

Recording

Children record most of their work in an RE book or on paper for display. It is not expected that the outcome of all RE activities is written. It is our intention to engage in a much wider variety of activities, as part of a 'creative' curriculum.

Written comments in RE books is in line with the school's marking system.

All pupils build up a portfolio of 'What I now Know' self-assessment sheets during the year, completed end of topic.

Each class keeps a floor book by ways of remembering and celebrating topics. Portfolios may include samples of work, photographs etc...

Other memories are captured using technology.

The above documents are also used for monitoring and evaluation.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

All the teaching staff have their own 'Come and See log ins'.

Staff can attend the Archdiocese topic days on a rolling programme. Staff new to the school are given priority as part of their induction.

RE forms part of the annual CPD calendar with a minimum of one RE staff meeting per term.

The RE co-ordinator attends Archdiocese meetings regularly.

A record of RE professional development is kept.

The RE co-ordinator gives ongoing support and advice and keeps staff up to date with RE or Archdiocese initiatives.

Staff Induction

An induction tutor is identified [BD or IMcD]. The deputy Head teacher supports the induction of staff other than NQT's, including supply teachers.

Communication

The co-ordinator communicates with staff to keep them up to date with 'Come and See' topics.

The co-ordinator will provide planners, timetables and calendars. Regular RE 'Reminders are displayed on the notice board. A weekly and daily news board keeps staff informed of events and celebrations etc... RE matters feature in the staff meeting agenda where there is need for 'feedback' of professional development has been planned.

Consultation is planned and carried out when review is necessary eg the mission statement [A staff/ Governor half day was dedicated to review, followed by leadership team meeting, discussions with pupils and written response from volunteer parents].

Staff

A list of those staff teaching RE is included is available and updated annually for the CES census. It identifies their year group, qualifications, teachers status and any responsibility.

RE Within the Curriculum

As a catholic School, RE underpins the whole curriculum and gives us our 'distinctive nature'. Our vision and aims reflect what we aspire to achieve through the curriculum we provide for our children. Principles 'Learning and Teaching Policy' apply to all subjects whether taught distinctly or in a more cross curricular way.

There are often quite close links between RE and PHSCE curriculum. ICT is also as much part of RE as it is any other subject!

Other Relevant policies/ guidelines include in this handbook are:

Policy for Prayer and Liturgy
Policy for Spiritual Development
Policy for Moral Development
RSE Policy

'With You Always'

Sacred Heart Primary School and the parish work together, to prepare children and families for Sacramental celebration.

Resources

There is a 'Come and See' file for all teachers, including on line access. Some other resourced are kept in classrooms eg. A copy of 'God's Story', 'Church's story' including the PDF format CD, book of children's prayer, articles for focus area eg. Candle.

Other Resources are stored centrally accessible to staff and distributed when needed by the co-ordinator:

Reference Materials

John Burland music resources

Other faith topic books

Prayer books

Assembly/ celebration ideas

Liturgies for children

Posters

CAFOD materials.

Updated: September 2023

Next review: September 2024- This will be updated in line with the new RED document and the new mission statement within school.