

St George's Catholic School



Religious Education Policy

Our Mission Statement:

To provide a broad and balanced curriculum based in a Catholic Christian setting where we are led by the Spirit of Christ. We believe that, "Children and young people should be helped to develop harmoniously their physical, moral and intellectual qualities."

Policy and Practice

Implementation and Review of Policy:

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years by the Head teacher, RE Co-ordinator, the Governing Body and Staff.

Last Reviewed: Autumn 2023

Next Review date: Autumn 2025

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY (RE)

Aims:

- To engage in a systematic study of the mystery of God, of the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, the teachings of the church, the central beliefs that Catholics hold, the basis for them and the relationship between faith and life;
- To enable pupils continually to deepen their religious and theological understanding and be able to communicate this effectively;
- To present an authentic vision of the Church's moral and social teaching to provide pupils with a sure guide for living and the tools to critically engage with contemporary culture and society;
- To give pupils an understanding of the religions and worldviews present in the world today and the skills to engage in respectful and fruitful dialogue with those whose worldviews differ from their own;
- To develop the critical faculties of pupils so to bring clarity to the relationships between faith and life, and between faith and culture;
- To stimulate pupils' imagination and provoke a desire for personal meaning as revealed in the true Catholic faith;
- To enable pupils to relate the knowledge gained through religious education to their understanding of other subjects in the curriculum.

pg 6 The Religious Education Directory 2023

Objectives:

- To create a school community where Christian values inform every aspect of school life and promote respect and understanding of other faiths.
- To develop awareness, appreciation and the understanding of Catholic beliefs and provide children with experiences of scripture, liturgy and real life context.
- RE is for all. It is a collaborative activity that respects and promotes the child's innate capacity for wonder, awe, reverence and imagination.
- Every child is supported to express and foster appropriate attitudes; respect for truth; respect for views of others; awareness of the spiritual, of moral, responsibility, of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life and especially the challenge of living in a multicultural, multi-faith society.

Guidelines:

- 10% of teaching time is to be given to RE (in line with the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales).
- The scheme of work provided by the Clifton Diocese will be taught throughout the school. The topics for the year are fixed and represent a whole school approach, although EYFS and Year 3 will now follow new planning linked to the new Religious Education Directory (RED). However, the Diocese may request that changes are made to the order of the units in order to accommodate special events or celebrations.
- The School will follow the Liturgical year, alongside the Diocese planning, with emphasis on Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost.

- The children will be encouraged to see themselves as part of a wider community of God's World. They will be encouraged to consider others through outreach activities, which will range from those organised annually, those which arise from the children's own ideas, world events and Diocesan initiatives.

Delivery of the RE Curriculum:

- At St George's, we use the Clifton Diocese scheme of work, supplemented by Come and See for our work on other Faiths. EYFS and Year 3 are using planning from the Diocese that follows the new RED. Other year groups will start using planning that follows this document in future academic years.
- All topics link to the liturgical seasons and two other faiths are studied throughout the school (EYFS and Year 3 will look at other faiths in the Summer Term). Progression is built into the scheme, which encourages learning through encouragement, exploration and experience.
- All pupils partake in all RE teaching and learning activities in the school. Any parents/carers with concerns about their child's participation are invited to discuss this with the Headteacher.

Staff Development:

- Staff are offered opportunities to develop their own confidence and expertise through training with Clifton Diocese. In-Service training may also be held and training during staff meetings will take place.
- The RE lead will monitor teaching and assessment and support staff in developing their own practice.

Role of the RE Lead:

- Formulate and maintain the RE and Prayer and Liturgy policy
- Ensure that there is a development plan for Prayer and Liturgy which may at times form part of the School development plan.
- Ensure that Prayer and Liturgy is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils.
- Organise themes and rotas for Celebrations of the Word, and to ensure that staff have the resources they require.
- Inform newly appointed colleagues of the policy and support them in its implementation.
- Assist the governors and Head Teacher in carrying out their legal responsibilities in regard to Celebrations of the Word and RE.
- Maintain and develop effective procedures and documentation.
- Observe RE lessons and Celebrations of the Word.
- Lead and organise staff training.
- Attend in-service courses and report back to staff.
- Keep up to date with Diocesan developments/initiatives.
- Monitor standards in RE through work scrutinies.
- Engage pupils in discussion through pupil conferencing.
- Evaluate existing resources.
- Budget efficiently.
- Liaise, moderate and share expertise with the Dunstan Partnership

Monitoring and Assessment:

- Religious Education will be monitored through pupil conferencing, book looks and moderation, and lesson observations.
- Feedback will be given to staff and they will be supported by the RE lead to ensure actions are being completed and moved forward.
- Age related learning objectives provide success criteria to assess children's performance and progress at the end of each term.
- Assessment against AT1, AT2 and AT3 is carried out termly and recorded. This is then analysed by the RE coordinator and used to inform future planning and provision.

Recording of Learning:

- Learning will be recorded in a variety of ways. Pupils will have an RE book to record their learning. EYFS and Key Stage 1 will have floor books to record class discussions and other tasks not suitable for individual books. Photos may be taken and annotated to record children's understanding of the learning that has taken place.