

OUR LADY & ST. OSWALD'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY
SCHOOL



RE Policy January 2025

Vision - 'Through Christ we Inspire and Flourish'

Introduction

Religious Education (RE) is the heart of all we do as Catholic schools and this permeates through every aspect of the curriculum and school life. We aim to provide the very best Catholic education for our pupils. Our Lady's and St Oswald is a learning community underpinned by a Catholic ethos based upon Gospel values. We aim to celebrate the uniqueness of every child, enabling each to reach his or her potential spiritually, morally, academically and socially.

Mission: Working together in an inclusive environment, we promote independent thinkers, who respond positively to challenges in an evolving world.

Pursuing continuous improvement; we nurture a love of learning, prioritise **faith**, health and wellbeing, and appreciate the diversity in life.

Core Values: Respect, Honesty & Understanding

Aims:

- To promote the Catholic ethos of the school through prayer, reflection, forgiveness, reconciliation, celebration and liturgy.
- To present a comprehensive content which engages pupils and is the basis of knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith. To fulfil our aims and objectives we use the 'The Vine and The Branches' programme of Religious Education recommended by the Diocesan RE Advisory Service. The aim of this programme is to explore the religious dimension of questions about life, dignity and purpose within the Catholic tradition. Central to the Vine and the Branches programme are three basic human questions and the three Christian beliefs that are the Church's response in faith:

Where do I come from? Life < > Creation

Who am I? Dignity < > Incarnation

Why am I here? Purpose < > Redemption

- To encourage and develop links with family, Parish and diocese and to provide a framework for Sacramental preparation that is mindful of the needs of all.
- 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 so that pupils can make a critique of the underlying trends in contemporary culture and society;
- To raise pupils' awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities in order to respect and understand them;
- To develop the critical faculties of pupils so that they can relate their Catholic faith to daily life;

- To stimulate pupils' imagination and provoke a desire for personal meaning as revealed in the truth of the Catholic faith;
- To enable pupils to relate the knowledge gained through Religious Education to their understanding of other subjects in the curriculum;
- To bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture.
- To provide a framework for teaching Relationship, Health and Sex Education that takes into account the needs of the child, the family and the Church. We use '10:10 Life to the Full' plus.

1. Legislation and guidance – National Curriculum – INTENT

Religious Education is a core subject in our school, alongside English, Maths and Science, and therefore we devote 10% of our curriculum time to its delivery. It is the heart of all we do as Catholic schools and permeate Catholic Schools through every aspect of the curriculum and school life. We aim to provide the very best Catholic education for our pupils. Our Lady & St Oswald's is a learning community underpinned by a Catholic ethos based upon Gospel values. We aim to celebrate the uniqueness of every child, enabling each to reach his or her potential spiritually, morally, academically and socially.

We STRIVE to achieve this aim through the everyday routine /general and prayer life of the school, as well as Religious Education and to achieve high standards and encourage pupils to make the most of the opportunities we offer them. We adhere to the Curriculum Directory guidelines and learning outcomes. This provides a cohesive approach and opportunities for whole school assemblies and celebrations as well as displays which are relevant to every child. The core of our curriculum is based on the 'Vine and The Branches' scheme of work. These themes are developed with greater depth and breadth each year as the child progresses through the school and will form the core of our Religious Education studies.

In the daily living out of our Catholic faith, we aim to ensure that religious education and spiritual development will be threaded through every aspect of the curriculum, so that it is explicit and implicit within the taught curriculum. Rooted in prayer and lived out in the daily life of the school, the children are supported, through the curriculum, to grow in faith and deepen their relationships with God and each other.

2. Roles and responsibilities – IMPLEMENTATION

Our curriculum is shaped by our school vision, to STRIVE to be the best we can be for the Glory of God.

We ensure that a minimum of 10% of Curriculum time is allocated for RE teaching across all key stages. The requirements of the RE curriculum are met through the scheme 'The Vine and The Branches' which in turn meets the requirements of the Religious Education Curriculum Directory set out by the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales. The scheme provides the basis for teaching the doctrines of the Catholic Church. We ensure that this programme of study is enriched with a variety of activities that include drama, history, geography, art and computing.

We recognise that the school has a special part to play in supporting parents who strive to develop a lasting faith commitment within their child. Together we guide them to a meaningful relationship with God, with Jesus, the Word of God, and with the Holy Spirit, who guides our every action.

In school, we do this in three main ways:

- by creating an atmosphere which pervades the whole life of the school, where the unique value of each person is recognised and respected. The most powerful agent in this process is the example of Christian behaviour and attitudes shown by all members of staff through their actions and words, and in the relationships they foster.
- by creating a structured liturgy appropriate to the age and ability of the children. In partnership with our parish priest, opportunities are created for prayer and worship closely matching the liturgical calendar. School Masses, assemblies and services are all important elements in our liturgy.
- by delivering a planned programme of Religious Education.

The children explore the religious dimensions of questions about life, dignity and purpose within the Catholic tradition. Links are made with the pupils' own experiences and with the other faith traditions.

Curriculum Overview

Key Stage & Year Group	Cycle	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Reception	A & B	R1 -God's World	R3-Getting to know Jesus	R5-New Life
		R2-God's Family	R4-Sorrow and Joy	R6-Our Church family
All Year groups	A	Branch 1 Creation and Covenant	Branch 3 Galilee to Jerusalem	Branch 5 To the Ends of the Earth
		Branch 2 Prophecy and Promise	Branch 4 Desert to Garden	Branch 6 Dialogue and Encounter

Years 1- 6 use the RED level descriptors from the Bishops' conference to assess the attainment of the children and their progress is tracked on a termly basis using the expected end of age-phase outcomes set out in the RED. Teachers also highlight 'statements' which reflect the children's learning across a unit on the front cover. The Foundation Stage use the assessment profile to assess.

Children are assessed on their individual, group and oral work through each topic. This enables both class teachers and the subject leader to monitor coverage and identify progress made throughout the pupils' time at school.

Religious Education is the responsibility of the R.E. lead and the Headteacher with support from the teachers. Their role is to monitor and assess the Religious Education curriculum and Catholic prayer and worship throughout the school to ensure continuity and progression. They also ensure that the aims and learning outcomes in the Curriculum Directory are identified and fulfilled. A link governor has specific responsibility for Religious Education and liaises closely with the staff of the school to fulfil their monitoring duties.

The Religious Education Co-ordinator will be responsible for:

- Working with senior leaders and monitoring teaching and learning, planning and standards through lesson observations and work scrutinies according to school practice.
- Organising in-house moderation of standards meetings.
- Self-evaluation to identify strengths and areas for development.
- Ensuring the curriculum offered is appropriate, suitable and relevant to pupils' needs and interests.
- Attend appropriate training and keeping up to date with current thinking, policy and developments and feeding back to staff.
- Organising and leading in-house staff training and development.
- Identifying training needs of staff to ensure their suitability to teach effective Religious Education.
- Supporting and advising colleagues in the delivery of Religious Education.
- Liaising with the Headteacher, Governors, parents, the Education Service on matters relating to Religious Education.
- Auditing, managing and developing resources within a given budget.

Teachers

- Have a clear understanding of the requirements for Religious Education in their year group and Key stage and reinforce them wherever possible.
- Plan, teach and assess Religious Education in accordance with the school's schemes of work - The Vine and the Branches.
- Handle Religious Education topics sensitively and confidentially where appropriate
- Seek advice whenever they are unsure in what they are delivering

Governors

Governors are responsible for:

- Ensuring that the Religious Education policy is in keeping with the Catholic teaching advocated by the Diocese and is implemented by the school
- Ensuring that the policy is available to parents
- Ensuring that the programme and the resources are suitably monitored and evaluated

Planning

All teachers are expected to look at the content of a lesson and plan appropriate creative activities, which reflect the learning intentions. These can where relevant link with global issues and cross-curricular links especially with Citizenship and Geography. At least 10% of curriculum time is given for RE and RE in Our Lady's is considered a core subject.

All teachers will give due consideration to the following points when planning for Religious Education:

- Prior learning
- Sharing objectives
- Children's ideas
- Artefacts and resources
- Learning styles and pace
- Use of ICT
- Christ at the centre of the lesson
- Use of prayer – pupil led/pupil input,
- Different methods of prayer and
- Reflection, traditional
- Music – pupil choice, children singing
- Challenge and differentiation
- Collaboration between staff and pupils

Children will contribute to the planning where applicable, including the planning of assemblies, Collective Worship (refer to the Prayer and Liturgy Policy) and celebrations. Links will also be made with the children's own experience. This may include experience of other world faiths. **Wherever possible, opportunities will be planned to:**

- Make links with the Parish including working with the priest
 - Visit museums and galleries
 - Work with artists, authors and performers
 - Develop openness towards music and dance of other cultures
 - Appreciate the natural world through Art and Literature
 - Recognise the contribution made by other cultures to Art, Mathematics, Science and technology.
- The cultural activities and traditions of others will be planned for the whole school, and linked with The Vine and The Branches scheme of work for RE.

World Faiths

We aim for our children to accept that we are part of a world religious family within which national, racial and cultural differences should never introduce division. We want our children to understand, appreciate and gain from other religious traditions by approaching and learning in a spirit of openness and humility.

Our aims are:

- To understand that we are all children of God
- To look at, learn about and understand other faiths and cultures
- To develop a knowledge and appreciation of the skills in music and art of other faiths and communities
- We will portray Britain as a multi-faith society and endeavour to present a contemporary picture. With this in mind, we will also consider teaching about World Faiths when this is most relevant during the academic year, for example – during a

festival or significant time of year for particular religions. This will be in addition to the The Vine and The Branches programme.

- Through our teaching about world faiths, we hope that our children will recognise that we can learn a lot about ourselves and our Catholic Faith by developing our understanding of all religious traditions. Our key message will be of respect.

Cultures

As well as learning about world faiths, we want our children to appreciate their own cultural traditions. In our culturally rich society, we value contributions from pupils and adults from all cultural backgrounds. We promote a positive ethos for bi-lingual children in our school and we encourage our children to participate in cultural activities and traditions by:

- Exploring times and cultures different from our own
- Welcoming visitors from other cultures to our school
- Making use of our local community in our studies
- Making use of resources available to us
- Visiting places of cultural or historical significance, tradition or perspective
- Children and staff will use all aspects of the curriculum - Literacy, History, Geography,
- PHSE, Art, Music, Dance, Drama - to participate in, and to appreciate, their own and other cultural traditions.

Resources

Apart from year group The Vine and the Branches program (resources accessed on-line via the website) and individual class artefacts, RE resources are stored centrally. If you are unsure of what resources to use or what resources are available, please contact the Senior Leadership Team.

These resources include the following:

- Bibles and religious story books
- Prayer books
- Teacher Information Books
- Posters and display material
- Support for whole school masses.

We have a collection of resources for prayer trails as well as items such as rosary beads, crosses and prayers. Hymn books and music for collective worship are stored in the Hall.

4. Inclusion - IMPLEMENTATION

We believe that all children should have the opportunity to be included in Religious Education and support those children with Special Educational Needs.

5. Monitoring and Assessment arrangements – IMPACT

By the time children leave the children will:

- Live out the Gospel values and virtues such as love, peace, courage, honesty, forgiveness and justice.
- Have a deeper appreciation of their faith and fulfil their God-given talents.
- Have respect for themselves and others.
- Be well prepared for the next stage of their education as confident and enthusiastic learners
- Produce good quality work which they are proud of.
- Achieve consistently well in all areas of Religious Education and make good progress.
- Be happy, well-rounded individuals who have developed a deep-rooted relationship with God and understanding of their Catholic faith.
- Be ambassadors for Christ who are ready to go out into the world and proclaim the values of the Gospel confidently, building the Kingdom of God through compassion, justice, love and forgiveness in their relationship with others.
- Understand that they are part of the family of God and know how they can play their part in this Global family united by Christ.

We hope that as children leave to further their education and learning that they continue to access fundamental skills including:

- Having thought about their own spiritual development.
- Being trusted when interacting and working with others.
- Increased resilience to continue trying and improving through a process of self-reflection.
- An inquisitive nature to ask questions to explore their own beliefs.
- Being valued both individually and as part of a team.
- A sense of exceptional achievement.

Assessment Practice

Assessment establishes what children know and understand and can do. It does not assess faith or the practice of faith. We use age related Attainment to measure pupil's understanding and progression, using the targets: Learning about Religion, and Learning from Religion.

Assessments are based on observations, artwork, discussion notes, photos and as well as written work. The children's book are the primary source of evidence. Every other term, one unit of work will be formally assessed following guidance from the Shrewsbury Diocese.

Moderation of the children's work will happen during staff meeting. The RE lead and SMT will monitor planning, teaching and assessment on a regular basis.

RE is included on the children's annual reports and is also discussed with parents at termly parents' evenings. Children's attainment is also recorded in the Whole School data drop help centrally on the server.

Chaplaincy Team

Pupils are encouraged to join the Chaplaincy Team in KS2. This team supports the religious life of the school through various activities from distributing order of service leaflets at Mass, helping younger pupils to access prayers and write their own in the prayer corner on a rota basis. This is open to all pupils, regardless of faith.

The Chaplaincy team have lead the school in the Prayer Trails, demonstrating the activities and supporting the younger pupils.

Altar Servers

All key stage 2 pupils are given the opportunity to train as altar servers in order to assist at school mass, regardless of faith. Many of our children take up this challenge and regularly support the Parish weekend masses. Training is given at church for those children.

Holy Communion Preparation

This is currently held at school with the support of the Parish Priest. Children from Our Lady's are joined by children that attend non-Catholic schools in the Parish. Instruction for Reconciliation and Holy Communion begins in the Spring Term.

Links to other policies:

- RHSE
- Behaviour
- Equality
- Prayer and Liturgy
- PHSE