

*St Thomas More
Catholic Primary School*

Religious Education Policy

Adopted by Governing Body: May 2022

Review: May 2024

“Try to be like Jesus in all that I think, do and say”

Introduction

In the light of our mission statement RE is taught here at St Thomas More Catholic Primary School because we aim to put it at the heart of the curriculum so that it becomes the starting point of all other experiences. Together with the parents and the parish of St Edward Parish we work in partnership towards educating our pupils within a Catholic context.

We wish our school to be a community of faith, in which each member participates, fully aware that all our work and aspirations derive from Jesus Christ.

We believe that the ethos of our school is of prime importance, as our children are sensitive to and learn from the atmosphere and attitudes within the school. Our aim is to permeate all aspects of education in our school with Gospel values, creating a Catholic Christian community, where all education goals are rooted in Christ and in his Gospel. We are reflecting God's purpose in our undertakings.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the St Luke Academies Trust Expectations in the Teaching and Learning of Religious Education

Religious Education at St Thomas More Catholic Primary School

RE provides an opportunity to foster in our children a reverence and love for God, an understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to help them identify themselves as Christians in the Catholic Church, developing traditions of our Catholic faith.

We aim to promote:

- Knowledge and understanding of Catholic faith and life.*
- Knowledge and love of Christ within the Sacraments.*
- The skills needed to engage in examination or reflection upon religious belief and practice.*
- The needs of all our children knowing that some of them will be from committed Catholic homes while others will not.*
- The celebration of RE for our pupils through shared assemblies and liturgies.*
- A spiritual dimension to the lives of the pupils and the liturgical year is reflected in the life and activities of the school.*
- Positive attitudes towards people of other faiths and other religious traditions in relation to God.*

Aims and objectives

- 1. To present engagingly a comprehensive content which is the basis of knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith;*
- 2. To enable pupils continually to deepen their religious and theological understanding and be able to communicate this effectively;*
- 3. 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;*
- 4. To raise pupils' awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities in order to respect and understand them;*
- 5. To develop the critical faculties of pupils so that they can relate their Catholic faith to daily life;*
- 6. To stimulate pupils' imagination and provoke a desire for personal meaning as revealed in the truth of the Catholic faith;*
- 7. To enable pupils to relate the knowledge gained through Religious Education to their understanding of other subjects in the curriculum;*
- 8. To bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture.*

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.

The "Come and See" programme incorporates pupils learning about other faiths. Visits from speakers representing other Christian denominations and other faith groups will be encouraged in order to strengthen links with the wider community. The children take part in two diversity weeks a year, which enable them to develop their understanding and knowledge of the world around them.

To fulfil our aims and objectives of educating all our children in religion we use the religious programme "Come and See". We use a whole school approach that explores the same topic at the same time, though of course at the appropriate level of the year group.

RE is to help develop a knowledge and understanding of the concept of the Catholic faith and foster reverence, awe and wonder.

Religious Education gives shape and is linked to the whole curriculum; every part of it is ultimately related to God. We teach to further children's faith development not only through lessons and activities relating to a formal programme, but through prayer and worship and most importantly by examples.

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 and the Chaplaincy Team will support all teachers with planning and in preparing lessons.

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

Sacraments

The Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion are taught in Year 3. These Sacraments are taught by a team of Catechists. The children are taught a scheme which has been developed by the school in conjunction with the Parish Key Catechist. The Scheme works with the children's understanding and is based in the reality of the children's knowledge and faith. The scheme uses a range of text from the Bible.

The Sacrament of Confirmation is taught in Year 6. The children are taught a scheme which has been developed by the school in conjunction with the Parish Key Catechist. The Scheme works with the children's understanding and is based in the reality of the children's knowledge and faith. The scheme uses a range of texts from the Bible

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 feedback 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. Next steps are recorded at the end of the unit to summarise what learning pupils will take from the unit into their own life.

Staff use Insight to continually assess children's progress and level them.

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 meets termly with other Subject Leaders within OLICAT. It is the responsibility of the Head Teacher and RE subject leader to monitor and evaluate teaching and learning and provide appropriate training.

Budget

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

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