



CHRIST the KING

CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL and NURSERY
with THE ARK, a SPECIALIST RESOURCE



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"Loving, learning, growing together as Christ's family"

Religious Education Policy

School Ethos

Religious Education (RE) is a subject that underpins the rest of the curriculum.

The staff of Christ the King believe that the moral, spiritual and personal growth of the children in our care is a fundamental part of their development.

It is our mission to equip our children with these key life skills: to be aware, appreciate and understand how to live according to the teaching of the Catholic Church and to develop an awareness and respect for other people's beliefs. These principles are reflected in our school's mission statement:

"Loving, learning, growing together as Christ's family"

Aims

The aims and objectives are underpinned by the school's mission statement. This encapsulates our will to:

- Welcome and care for everyone and each other, promoting strong links between home, school, parish and community.
- Learn about God through the teachings of Jesus in the Gospels and recognise His presence in and around us.
- Celebrate God's love through daily prayer and worship.
- Develop the children's understanding of the structure and teaching of the Catholic Church and their place within it.
- To value and respect the uniqueness of each individual on their own journey of faith and learning and to meet that person wherever they might be on that journey.
- Stretch our learning and talents and to appreciate qualities in other people.
- Respect each other and the beliefs, traditions, values and cultures of others.

- Develop a positive attitude towards living in a society of diverse religions and cultures.

Curriculum Entitlement

All children will have equal opportunities within RE lessons. Children with other faiths, cultures or backgrounds will be recognised, respected and welcomed into the school. Individual children will be at different stages in their knowledge and faith development and this will be planned for by the teacher. Teachers will also be aware of the importance of mixed sex groupings. As the child's individual development is important, recognition will be made of the more able child. Teachers will plan for these children as with any other, and differentiate tasks or objectives as appropriate. Children with SEND or EAL will also be fully supported and offered one to one assistance where this is possible or necessary.

Curriculum Planning

The teaching of RE is based on the *God Matters* syllabus, which is recommended by the Portsmouth Diocese. All values and beliefs will fully support and where appropriate, be integrated into all other curricular activities, particularly in PHSE. The planning and delivery of RE will be achieved by:

- First discussing the overall learning outcomes of topics in staff meetings. This will secure staff knowledge at an adult level and ensure concepts are being delivered correctly. *God Matters* planning will be made available to staff alongside the Supplementary Guidance.
- Whole school themes based on the Church, Sacraments and Christian Living.
- Marking dates in the Liturgical year of the Church and discussing with the children why other dates are not celebrated, e.g. Pagan Festivals
- Recognising and reflecting on the differences in the children's spiritual and moral development and using this to inform planning.
- Collective worship (community, school and class), prayer, celebration, liturgy, assemblies and mass (see separate policy).

RE is largely delivered through class lessons. These lessons will involve use of scripture, drama, role play, discussion, prayer, reflection and celebration. Activities may be individual, group or whole class based. Progression of learning may or may not be recorded formally, depending on the context, age and ability of the pupils.

The parish priest is expected to visit the school on a regular basis. Part of this role will include reinforcing themes of *God Matters* and special days in the Liturgical year. He will celebrate regular masses and class worship sessions.

The school will support charities, particularly those highlighted by the Bishop i.e. CAFOD. Background information on these charities will be taught in lessons.

Formal teaching time is allocated for RE- 10% of curriculum time.

Leadership and Support

The RE Leader is responsible for monitoring the teaching, learning and assessment of RE as specified in the diocesan Validation Review Document 2014. Monitoring will include staff observation of RE teaching, book and planning scrutiny. The Leader will provide support for all the staff and liaise closely with the Headteacher, parish and diocese. S/He will attend training courses, Diocesan meetings and other INSET sessions to keep abreast of current changes and issues concerning RE. The Leader will keep staff informed of such matters.

The Leader will work with the parish priest to develop masses and liturgies. S/He will also be partially responsible (along with the Head, governors and teaching staff) for the undertaking of the school's Self Review program.

Curriculum Resources

The RE Leader is responsible for auditing, monitoring and updating a bank of resources within budgetary restraints. These resources will largely consist of books, artifacts, posters, videos and people from other faith traditions. Children in KS2 should be able to access bibles and will be provided with a class set. Additional resources from charities may be used to enrich the teaching of RE. Visits from the local clergy will take place over the course of the year. Resources will include artefacts and books concerned with other faiths. Artefacts will also be provided for class prayer corners.

All teachers will have access to the appropriate section of the *God Matters* syllabus and the Supplementary Guidance.

Assessment and Recording

The very nature of RE, dictates that it is not always easy to assess children's development in certain areas of the subject. Assessment of spirituality or a child's relationship with God cannot and should not be formalised. Assessment of religious facts and the understanding of gospel messages, as well as awareness as to how these affect us in the modern world, can be assessed more formally.

Teachers are expected to constantly assess their children's development in RE by observing children, conversing with them and marking their written work. Teachers will use the assessment materials provided by the diocese in conjunction with the *God Matters* syllabus and the supplementary Guidance. They will be required to provide an assessment level for every child in their class at the end of each term. Assessment draws on a range of evidence of what pupils know, understand and can do within the RE curriculum. Summative assessment is linked to the age related standards in RE.

This policy recognises that the school represents but one integral part of the three-fold partnership that is responsible for the education and faith development of the children. Parents are the children's first teachers and primary role models. The local church and community are responsible for nurturing our children, encouraging positivity and hope within their lives. Our school aims to bridge the gap between home and the wider community, by teaching our children through positive example and use of the gospel message. The formal and informal support of our Parish priest and community members is therefore, endorsed as an essential part of the children's education.

Links to other Policies

- Collective worship
- Expectations of Classroom Practice Manual

Date of last review: March 2022