

RE Policy

MISSION STATEMENT

As the pupils, parents, staff and governors of St Patrick's school:

OUR MISSION IS TO FOLLOW THE LOVING EXAMPLE SHOWN BY JESUS CHRIST

- We believe Religious Education is central to the educative mission of the Church.
- Aware that evangelisation and catechesis are happening in our school for some pupils, we are clear that the specific contribution Religious Education makes to the Catholic Life of the school is primarily educational and will be planned, taught, assessed and monitored with the same rigour as other curriculum subjects.
- We understand Religious Education to be the systematic study of the teaching of the Church and the mystery of Christ.

'At the heart of Catholic education lies the Christian vision of the human person. This vision is expressed and explored in religious education. Therefore religious education is never simply one subject among many, but the foundation of the entire educational process. The beliefs and values studied in Catholic religious education inspire and draw together every aspect of the life of a Catholic school..... All pupils have the right to receive an overall education which will enable them, in the light of the faith of the Church, to engage with the deepest questions of life and find reasons for the hope which is within them. Religious Education is, then, the core subject in a Catholic school.' (Statement on Religious Education in Catholic Schools – Bishops' Conference 2000)

'Religious Education...is a rigorous academic discipline, and as such it is to be taught, developed and resourced with the same commitment as any other subject.'
(Curriculum Directory. p10)

' The outcome of Religious Education is religiously literate young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills – appropriate to their age and capacity – to think spiritually, ethically and theologically, who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.' (Curriculum Directory p10)

AIMS

In serving the Catholic Christian communities on the eastern side of Southampton, we aim to make our Mission Statement alive by:

- Working in partnership with parents / carers and parish communities to provide a happy and secure Christian environment in which the children will develop spiritually, intellectually, socially, physically and emotionally through promoting:
 - knowledge and understanding of Catholic faith and life
 - knowledge and understanding of the response of faith to the ultimate questions
 - about human life, its origin and purpose
 - the skills required to engage in examination of and reflection upon religious belief
 - and practice within the context of a genuine spirit of justice, care and reconciliation

- an awareness of, and respect for, other faith traditions.

Curriculum time allocation:

In line with Bishops' Conference recommendations, 10% of curriculum time is allocated to Religious Education. This is in addition to Collective Worship.

Programme of Study:

The 'God Matters' programme is used as recommended by the Diocese, the theological content and principles of which are linked to the National Curriculum Directory.

Process

'God Matters' is structured in a way which promotes engagement with the RE content and ensures that progress is made through a clear approach characterised by the 3E's: Engage, Explore, Express.

Engage activities seek to identify an answer to the question: "What is the story?" Explore activities are designed both to answer the 'what' and the 'why' questions and to enable pupils to organise their thinking. Express activities are organised in a way which allows pupils to express their understanding of particular concepts and Scripture passages, using approaches from other curriculum areas.

The exploration of an aspect of Judaism, Islam, Hinduism and Sikhism is integral to the teaching of each unit in 'God Matters'.

'Teaching in Religious Educationshould help people be attentive to the meaning of their experiences, illumined by the light of the Gospel, so that they may respond to God more fully. Experience can also make the Christian message more intelligible.' (Curriculum Directory p11)

Methodology

A variety of teaching and learning strategies will be used from across the curriculum adapted appropriately to the needs and learning styles of pupils.

Assessment, Monitoring, Recording and Reporting

- Assessment of standards is carried out according to the Diocesan guidelines, incorporating the National Levels of Attainment in R.E. agreed by Bishops' Conference.
- Assessment for learning is ongoing. Professional judgements based on our knowledge of our pupils without the need for formal assessment. Assessing what they know and have understood is done:
 - through questioning of individuals or groups

- through gathering of evidence from the full range of work produced by pupils in the normal everyday teaching and learning process
 - staff records based on observations
 - witness statements from other people e.g. TAs
 - pupils' written work
 - discussions, proposals and conclusions
 - comments or commentaries from pupils
 - artwork / artefacts created by pupils
 - evaluation of dance/drama/movement
 - photographs, video and audio tapes
 - assessment tasks or activities
 - records of pupils' responses in class
 - concept maps
- Monitoring of teaching and learning in RE will follow the school's policy for all core subjects and will include lesson observations, work scrutiny, pupil conferencing.
 - Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to parents/carers in a written report at the end of each academic year.

Management of the subject.

The RE Manager has responsibility for leading, managing and supporting the delivery of and training in Religious Education.

Policy review.

This policy will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed by the RE Manager and RE Governor and updated every 2 years.

April 2015