



St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School

## Religious Education Policy

Adopted by the Governing Body: May 2021

Next review: May 2023

As the pupils, parents, staff and governors of St. Patrick's School  
**Our Mission is to Follow the Loving Example shown by Jesus Christ**

## **Philosophy**

Religious Education is the "core of the core curriculum" in a Catholic school ([Pope St John Paul II](#)). It is to be taught, developed and resourced with the same commitment as any other subject.

*'In the life of faith of the Catholic school, religious education plays a central and vital part. 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.'*  
(Bishop's Conference of England and Wales – Statement on Religious Education in Catholic Schools 2000)

*"Religious Education is concerned not only with intellectual knowledge but also includes emotional and affective learning. It is in the mystery of the Word made flesh that the mystery of what it is to be human truly becomes clear. Without religious education, pupils would be deprived of an essential element of their formation and personal development, which helps them attain a vital harmony between faith and culture."* ([Religious Education curriculum Directory](#) p4).

## **Aims and Objectives**

We aim to live out our Mission Statement 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:

- a knowledge and understanding of Catholic faith and life
- a knowledge and understanding of our response to the mystery of life, its dignity and its purpose as directed by our faith
- the development of a personal relationship with God
- a familiarity with religious language, symbols and styles of worship and prayer
- opportunities whereby children can experience and explore their spiritual nature
- an appreciation of the faith tradition of others

Our objectives in teaching Religious Education are:

- to develop awareness and appreciation of Catholic belief, understanding of its impact on personal and social behaviour and of the vital relationship between faith and life, life and faith

- the development of the appropriate skills, for example, the ability to listen, to think critically, spiritually, ethically and theologically, to acquire knowledge and organise it effectively, to make informed judgements
- To foster appropriate attitudes: for example, respect for truth; respect for the 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

### **Religious Education Teaching**

As a Catholic school, the teaching of Religious Education at St Patrick's is based on the Diocesan Programme of Study, God Matters. Materials provided by the Diocese are the main resources used to support the delivery of Religious Education. Our teaching incorporates children's experiences, personal feelings, questions and responses to life. The children's studies are supplemented with work linked to the events that take place during the liturgical year. Teachers are expected and supported to plan and teach lessons that are interesting, motivating and challenging through the use of thinking skills, creative tasks and a question-rich curriculum. Teachers are encouraged to use a range of ICT to support this, including Power Point presentations, visual media, and a variety of relevant websites.

The Religious Education programme provides the opportunity to deepen and enrich the children's understanding and living of the Catholic Faith. It also provides an opportunity to share, celebrate, pray and reflect.

Currently, a yearly cycle of themes linked to the liturgical year is used to ensure continuity, coverage and progression of and within the programme of study.

Although we teach Religious Education as a separate subject, it can and should be explored throughout other areas of the curriculum. Religious Education should inspire and unify every aspect of school life and gives shape to the whole curriculum.

*"Religious Education is unique and cannot be seen in isolation. It is not one subject among many but the foundation of the entire education process... it stamps the Catholic school in every aspect of its operation with its distinctive Catholic character."* (Bishop's Conference of England and Wales, 1988)

Through the Diocesan materials the children are taught about other faiths and cultures. This fosters an openness of attitude and relationships with believers of other faiths. R.E. lessons should provide children with this knowledge of the background and beliefs of others so that they recognise that God is at work in them too.

### **Recording, Reporting And Assessing**

All year groups use books to record their Religious Education work, although it is recognised and encouraged that not all responses to lessons need or should take a written format.

Assessing what the children know and understand is done:

- through questioning of individual 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 and observations
- pupils' written work
- discussions, proposals and conclusions
- artwork
- comments or commentaries by pupils
- evaluation of dance, drama or movement
- photographs and videos
- records of pupils' responses in class
- concept maps

Formal written reporting to parents takes place once a year in line with school policy. Information on the themes and topics to be covered is included in curriculum overviews that are published on the school website. When assessing pupil's work, it is the RE content that is assessed.

### **R.E. Coverage**

#### **Autumn Term**

Mission Statement

Creation

Rosary

Prayers, Saints and Feasts

Advent

#### **Spring Term**

Christmas

Revelation

Lent

Holy Week

#### **Summer Term**

Easter

Pentecost and Mission

Sacraments

#### **Other Faiths**

As part of the God Matters curriculum, we also teach about Islam, Judaism, Sikhism and Hinduism.