



Our Lady of Lourdes  
Catholic Primary School

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

### MISSION STATEMENT

Our Parish School of Our Lady of Lourdes  
welcomes everyone in the community,  
to share with us the joys of our Catholic Faith.  
We worship, learn and play together in the love of Jesus,  
helping one another to become the people  
God has created us to be.

### Commitment to equality:

We are committed to providing a positive working environment which is free from prejudice and unlawful discrimination and any form of harassment, bullying or victimisation. We have developed a number of key policies to ensure that the principles of Catholic Social Teaching in relation to human dignity and dignity in work become embedded into every aspect of school life and these policies are reviewed regularly in this regard.

## Aims and Objectives

The Catholic vision of Education promotes the dignity and freedom of every person as created in the image and likeness of God. This vision inspires and encourages the beliefs and values that are lived out in the daily life of the Catholic school. Within this vision, Religious Education is very much a journey of formation involving every member of the school community, together with a pupil's family and parish community.

At Our Lady of Lourdes Religious Education is a subject in its own right in the school's curriculum. It is a rigorous academic discipline, and as such it is to be taught, developed and resourced with the same commitment as any other core subject. For those not already engaged in the journey of faith Religious Education may be the first opportunity to hear the good news of the gospel.

### Aims

At Our Lady of Lourdes we aim to develop:

- The knowledge and understanding of Catholic faith and life; the mystery of God and of Jesus Christ, of the Church, and of the central beliefs that Catholics hold.
- The knowledge and understanding of the response of faith to the ultimate questions about human life, its origin and purpose;
- 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 skills required to engage in examination of and reflection upon Religious belief and practice.
- The formation of responsible and committed Catholic citizens encouraging our children, as they grow towards the highest standards in academic achievement, social responsibility and personal development.
- An awareness and understanding of other faiths and the multi-faith society in which we live.
- To involve parents in the spiritual development of their child.

### Objectives

The objectives of curriculum Religious Education at Our Lady of Lourdes are:

- To encourage the children to develop a personal understanding of God and His importance in their lives.
- To encourage study, investigation and reflection by the pupils.
- To develop the following skills:
  - ✓ Ability to listen;
  - ✓ To think critically, spiritually, ethically and theologically;
  - ✓ To acquire knowledge and organise it effectively;
  - ✓ To make informed judgements;

- To foster the following attitudes:
  - ✓ Respect for truth;
  - ✓ Respect for self;
  - ✓ Respect for others;
  - ✓ Awareness of the spiritual;
  - ✓ Moral responsibility;
  - ✓ Religious commitment in everyday life;
  - ✓ The challenge of living in a multicultural, multi-faith society.

The outcomes of Religious Education are religiously literate young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills - appropriate to their age and capacity - to think spiritually, ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of Religious commitment in everyday life. [From the Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools]

### **Content**

The content of our Religious Education comes from the Curriculum Directory, provided by the Bishops Conference of England and Wales. To help with planning and ensuring the Curriculum Directory is accessible to the children, we use a range of planning tools including the Margaret Carswell scheme of work, CAFOD and any other relevant materials. The Margaret Carswell materials have been used as a starting point to planning and teachers collaborate to adapt and supplement these resources, according to the needs of the children in their class.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

The responsibility for leading RE across the school is the collective responsibility of the RE Subject Leader who is supported by the headteacher.

#### **All staff who teach RE will**

- be prepared to witness to what they teach
- understand that they share in the teaching office of the Church exercised in the person of the local bishop and enshrined in the trust deed of the school
- fulfil their professional responsibilities regarding all that develops and enhances the life of the Catholic school;
- have high expectations of all their pupils;
- take care continually to deepen their own knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith

#### **The headteacher will:**

- Appoint staff suitable and qualified to teach Religious Education
- Provide appropriate resources and opportunities for training
- Ensure that 10% of the curriculum is devoted to Religious Education;
- Oversee the Catholic Life of the School

**The R.E. Subject Leader is responsible for:**

- Monitoring the standards of the children's work and the quality of the teaching in Religious Education;
- Supporting colleagues in the teaching of Religious Education;
- Reviewing samples of work and visiting classes to observe teaching in the subject;
- Being informed about current developments in the subject;
- Providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in the school;
- Updating the R.E. development plan and policy;
- Encouraging the use of appropriate practice;
- Consulting with staff at all levels and ensuring that information is communicated to them;
- Leading staff in INSET;
- Maintaining and updating resources;
- Promoting the use of outside resources and opportunities
- Continue to develop systems of best practice in assessment
- Promoting the use of outside resources and opportunities;
  
- Advising on, and leading Assemblies; Collective Acts of Worship and Liturgies.
- Planning and coordinating whole school, Key Stage and year group Masses.
- Planning and coordinating the Sacrament of Reconciliation in Advent and Lent.
- Co-ordinating the Pupil Chaplains group and supporting the charitable activities within the school.

**The Governors will:**

- Nominate an RE Governor to support and encourage the teaching of RE.
- Scrutinise reports on RE and the Catholic life of the school at GB meetings.

**Monitoring:**

The level of teaching and learning in RE will be monitored through:

- Book checks;
- Monitoring of plans;
- Regular lesson observations/learning walks
- Work moderation and review of standards
- Pupils and staff questionnaires
- RE Advisor visits

## Curriculum Time allocation

Religious education at Our Lady of Lourdes is at the centre of the daily life of the school. In line with the Bishops' Conference recommendations, a minimum ten per cent of teaching time is allocated to RE each week, this does **not** include Collective Worship. Other subject areas, such as drama, art and literacy, complement the RE curriculum.

RE is brought into other areas of the curriculum wherever possible. RE is effectively brought into other areas of the curriculum such as Music, Art, school trips and specialist days. Furthermore, teachers will provide, where appropriate, opportunities for pupils to apply and develop their computing skills through RE.

## Programme of Study

Our Religious Education programme is based on the Bishops' Curriculum Directory and addresses the four areas of study - Revelation, Church, Celebration and Life in Christ.

Our Lady of Lourdes uses Margaret Carswell's In God's Love resource, CAFOD and other relevant materials. Teachers are encouraged and supported to extend these plans to ensure that the RE curriculum that is delivered gives children the scope to attain the higher standards for each key stage. The RE co-ordinator ensures that the planning is reflective of the CES age Related Standard Framework which is used for assessment. The RE co-ordinator supports the teachers to extend their planning to reflect the events of the liturgical year and Catholic Social Teaching themes.

Each half term covers a new theme which links with the liturgical year. As well as this, time is spent on significant events throughout the year such as Harvest, Remembrance and the Rosary during October and May as well as an Other Faith focus 3 times a year. Information on the RE theme is shared with parents in the termly letter, explaining what each child will be covering over the course of the unit of work. Big questions form a focus for learning throughout the topic which challenge the pupils to discuss further and question beliefs and attitudes to life today.

### Other faiths

Other faiths form part of Religious education, both formally and informally. Each year group undertakes three units of study from the 'Come and See' programme on other faiths throughout the year, one of which is Judaism, one is Islam and the third alternates between Hinduism and Sikhism. This allows children to develop their knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other faiths of the world as well as exploring similarities and differences between and within religion and reflecting on the benefits and challenges of living in a multi-faith and diverse society. Visits and trips to explore the faith and practice of the wider local community are encouraged in the Primary school.

## **RHE**

RHE supports the RE curriculum and is taught in addition to the time given to RE. Pupils study topics such as the rights and responsibilities of individuals; the study of democracy and the parliamentary process and bullying. Circle time gives pupils the opportunity to discuss and understand human feelings and emotions and their likely impact in relation to themselves and others.

We subscribe to Ten Ten which has provided the basis for our revised RSE (Relationships and Sex Education) scheme which was implemented following a consultation period with our parents. This change saw RSE become a more integral part of the curriculum alongside our delivery of PSHE rather than a two-week unit delivered in the summer.

### **Learning Environment**

The high standard of Religious Education in our school will be reflected in the work displayed in every classroom and corridor displays. The work on display should indicate the topic and themes currently being covered by the class and may feature children's own work. Classroom displays are updated regularly. RE displays also include big questions, religious vocabulary and the CST focus for the half term and the colours follow the liturgical year.

Each classroom has a prayer table which is covered in a cloth to match the liturgical season. It also has a statue and bible. It may feature other objects relevant to the liturgical season or topic being taught.

### **Teaching and Learning**

At Our Lady of Lourdes we use a variety of teaching and learning styles across our curriculum provision. High standards and expectations in our English lessons translate and enable our children to make good progress in their Religious Education.

There are children of different abilities in all classes at Our Lady of Lourdes. We recognise this fact and provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by careful differentiation in planning and teaching which suitably challenges the ability of each child. We achieve this through a range of strategies. In some lessons this may be through the organisation of pupils, different tasks for different groups whilst in other lessons all pupils may work from the same starting point before moving on to develop their own ideas. Where possible, we use teaching assistants to support pupils and enable work to be matched to individuals.

RE books should be treated as the most special books the children use. They feature a picture of their class saint on the front cover. Pupils are encouraged to take pride in their RE work. The RE books contain a wide variety of evidence of the

learning activities that take place which celebrates the diversity of teaching within RE such as art, drama and extended pieces of writing. Each class has an RE Floor Book in which further evidence of activities are recorded, this is often whole class activities. RE Homework is also given each half term to extend the pupils' religious knowledge and understanding. This may be a standalone piece or longer project work.

### **Assessment**

Age related standards are used for assessment with lessons planned to ensure that the skills needed to reach each key stage are covered over the course of the year. These standards are used within moderation where all of the children's work is used to assess whether the standard is achieved. Class teachers will assess children's progress and attainment during each lesson and use this to inform future planning. Within lessons, verbal feedback is given with opportunities for the children to respond to this as stated within the marking policy.

Pupils are assessed against the standards half termly at the end of each unit with the data inputted onto the school data system. The children will be assessed as having reaching Working Towards the expected standard (WTS), Working at the expected standard (EXS) or working beyond the expected standard (GDS). At the end of each unit, the children also have an opportunity to show their new understanding through the completion of their topic sheet stating what they have learned.

Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to parents verbally in the Autumn and Spring Parent Consultation meetings and in a written report at the end of the academic year.

### **Monitoring and Review**

Monitoring of teaching and learning with RE is the joint responsibility of the RE Coordinator and the Headteacher and is completed through monitoring medium term planning, lesson observation, and work scrutiny across the phases and throughout the school. Our attached adviser, who makes regular visits and reports back to the Headteacher, supports the school in this. The Headteacher regularly reports to the Governors on the religious life of the school.

### **Policy Review**

The policy will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed by Governors and the Headteacher/RE Leader and updated every two years.