



St. Chad's Catholic Primary School RE Policy

School Mission Statement:

“At St Chad’s we grow in the light of Christ, to share his love and reflect the gospel values”

1) Aims and Objectives of Religious Education

- To provide staff and children with the knowledge, understanding and awareness of the Catholic faith and its beliefs
- To enable staff and children to communicate with God through prayer and scripture
- To enable staff and children to develop their spirituality
- To help staff and children to explore and express their sense of awe and wonder at the world God has created
- To create an awareness, amongst staff and children, of the faith and traditions of other religious communities in order to respect and understand them
- To help staff and children grow in awareness of themselves and to develop positive attitude to their own emotions, life, and learning
- To enable staff and children to grow in their awareness of others and to develop relationships in a secure and supportive environment
- To promote the sacramental life of Christian families and to encourage parents to take an active part in the preparation of their children for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation

2) How we meet our stated aims

In order to be able to achieve the stated aims, the following is undertaken:

a) Scheme of work

- i) RE is allocated 10% of Curriculum time as required by the Bishops' Conference. This does not include Prayer, assemblies, hymn practice, Christmas plays, circle time or PSHE and citizenship lessons, but attendance at mass may be considered as the equivalent of half-an-hour of RE, but only once in any week. There will be two lessons of RE per week, and as appropriate over special feasts such as Holy Week.

- ii) Learning and Growing as the People of God is the programme of study that is used throughout the school. It is the strategy prepared by the Archdiocese of Birmingham. It provides the core of spiritual and doctrinal teaching of the Catholic Church as proclaimed in The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaching and learning methods are appropriate to the child's age and level of maturity. Giving the correct emphasis to the main aspects of RE ensures depth and balance within the Strategy. By following The Strategy from Reception through to Year 6, continuity and progression (which are intrinsic elements of the programme) are ensured.

iii) **Planning, Assessment, Recording and Reporting**

The Long Term Planning is contained within the Programme of Study for each year group. The RE Department provides a long term plan in accordance with school term dates and the RE Co-ordinator allocates each unit to specific dates throughout the year.

Medium Term Planning is the responsibility of the class teacher and is done on a unit by unit basis.

Short Term Planning is recorded on a separate RE planning sheet, which is loaded onto the school system every week.

Teachers will assess the units according to the units set out through the diocese guidelines. Assessments will then be recorded in conjunction with a pupil profile for one child per class to create a portfolio of work to show different levels. Parents will be informed of progress in the end of year report.

iv) How we teach Religious Education

Religious Education is taught to the whole class. The class teacher, in his/her planning will decide the most appropriate approach for the lesson. The work may be differentiated according to ability of the children and to the nature of the task being undertaken. The children may be offered opportunities to work individually, with partners or as part of a group.

Religious Education seeks to develop social and emotional skills as well as those of knowledge and understanding. It also seeks to develop a range of skills which can be used in other areas of the curriculum such as skills in thinking, investigating, interpreting, communicating and evaluating.

v) Links with other curriculum areas

The ethos of the school allows for the messages of Christ to be at the centre of all that happens in this school. Whilst RE lessons are discrete lessons, a variety of other curriculum areas may support the topics studied in order to enhance the learning. Such areas may be art, music and ICT as examples. However, we emphasise

that when RE is taught through different curricula areas, the focus must remain on RE.

vi) Multicultural Education

The RE Strategy contains information about other faiths in various year groups. The class teachers use this information and if appropriate may call upon the experience of the children in the class who practise this faith to give further explanation of how they practise their faith. Annual Interfaith trips are also organised for KS2 classes: Y3- Hinduism, Y4- Judaism, Y5- Islam and Y6- Sikhism. The school aims is to: acknowledge, respect and learn about other faiths

vii) Resources – See Appendix A

b) Sacramental Education

- i) The Strategy outlines specific preparation for the sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation. It also ensures that all of the sacraments are introduced and studied throughout the relevant age groups.
- ii) Sacramental preparation is delivered through the Strategy, but is supplemented by a Reconciliation programme for Holy Communion. We encourage parents to become an integral part of the preparation by holding parental meetings and a Mass of Commitment for all the Sacraments to be received.

c) Prayer and Collective Worship

Prayer is an essential part of collective worship. Children are encouraged to participate in Thursday morning assemblies, Wednesday Masses, Masses on Holy Days of Obligation, Celebrations at St. Chad's Cathedral (our parish church) and Masses for special occasions such as St Patrick's Day. This may include reading, drama, mime, bringing the Offertory, welcoming, distributing hymn books, dance, and the use of instruments, singing and altar serving.

2) Legal Right

Although we do not anticipate there being an instance where a parent exercises their legal right to withdraw their child from RE and Collective Worship, we recognise that if this does occur, we are responsible for putting provision in place for that child. (Do we want this in here???)

3) Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

All pupils at St. Chad's are treated equally as individuals, regardless of race, gender or religious background. Children with Special Educational Needs, (whether children with learning difficulties or exceptionally gifted and talented) will be presented with tasks to suit their ability. Differentiation for these children may be in the amount of support and attention offered by the teacher/teaching assistant, or in the simpler or more extended activities.

As a Catholic VA school we are legally allowed to operate an unequal admission policy and priority is given to Catholic children.

4) Links with parents and the Community

Every effort is made to ensure the vital links between home, school and parish community are established and sustained. The parents are invited to attend meetings with the Parish Priest, Head teacher, class teacher and RE Co-ordinator. For all three sacraments it is seen as vital that the parents attend both the Commitment Masses and meetings with their child.

Throughout the school year, parents are invited to attend masses and class assemblies. They are asked to support the nurturing of the Faith of their children by encouraging prayers at home and by attending weekly Sunday Mass and by listening to and talking with their child about the faith using the Wednesday Word. Members of the local community are invited to speak to the children about matters of faith, and the charity work undertaken by the children is seen as an important part of our work in school.

5) The Role of the Religious Education Co-ordinator

The Religious Education Co-ordinator will be responsible for:

- Working with senior leaders on monitoring teaching and learning, planning and standards through lesson observations and work scrutinises according to school practice.
- Organising and maintaining the school portfolio of pupils' work.
- Organising in-house moderation of standards meetings.
- Self-evaluation to identify strengths and areas for development.
- Ensuring the curriculum offered is appropriate, suitable and relevant to pupils' needs and interests.
- Attending appropriate training and keeping up to date with current thinking, policy and developments and feeding back to staff.
- Organising and leading in-house staff training and development.

- Identifying training needs of staff to ensure their suitability to teach effective Religious Education.
- Supporting and advising colleagues in the delivery of Religious Education.
- Liaising with the Headteacher, Governors, parents, the *Office for Education & Schools* on matters relating to Religious Education.
- Auditing, managing and developing resources within a given budget.

6) Health and Safety

As with all areas of the curriculum it is important that Health and Safety matters are taken into account when organising lessons and visits; (lighting of candles, food safety if tasting foods, etc.) Visits should be organised by the class teacher and then authorised by the Educational Visits Co-ordinator. The RE co-ordinator will assist in the residential visit to Alton Castle as required.

Policy Reviewed: Autumn 2013

Policy to be reviewed: Autumn 2016

Signed:

Date: