



## **ST TERESA'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY**

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

At St Teresa's Roman Catholic Primary School;

We grow together with Jesus, as we live our lives according to Gospel values.

We grow together as a community in respect, friendship and responsibility.

We grow together in understanding as we encourage each child to achieve their true potential.

We grow together in God's love.



***I am the vine, you are the branches' (John 15:5)***

## INTENT

At St Teresa's Primary School, the Catholic faith underpins every aspect of the curriculum and is at the centre of our learning. Children are actively encouraged to 'Build God's Kingdom'.

Our Catholic faith underpins every aspect of the curriculum and is at the centre of our learning. Children are provided with a stimulating Catholic environment where children are encouraged to grow and develop to ensure that children know how to follow the example and teachings of Jesus.

Curriculum RE is 'the core' of the core curriculum at St. Teresa's. Religious Education is planned, taught, assessed and monitored with the same rigour as other core curriculum subjects as its own established subject, but it also runs deep within the whole ethos and culture school.

Aims and objectives of curriculum RE:

- To foster a love of God through knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Faith from scripture to doctrine.
- To encourage the development of a personal relationship with God.
- To create a happy and caring environment which fosters the intellectual, emotional, physical and spiritual development of each child.
- To help our children be aware of and respect other faiths.
- To promote British values through the curriculum
- To encourage children to study, investigate and reflect.
- To develop children's higher order thinking skills
- To give children the opportunity to ask big questions and wonder about the world
- To develop respect for truth and for the view of others.

## RATIONALE

The aim of our School's RE policy is to develop and foster within all of our children, love, knowledge and understanding of their faith and to recognise and know the love of God.

This reflects our school's Mission Statement. All that happens in our school; the curriculum, the relationships, the pastoral care and behaviour, has the potential to speak about God's loving care for each individual. We aim to ensure that God is at the centre of the learning process and is the ultimate goal of the curriculum.

Our Mission Statement and our aims underpin the School's ethos and are realised through the day to day life of our school.

Within the distinctive nature of Catholic Education, spiritual and moral development are intimately connected with, though not identical to, religious education, catechesis, collective worship, private prayer and liturgies. However they are also promoted through all subjects of the curriculum and throughout the general life and work of the school.

(Spiritual and Moral Development across the Curriculum. CES)

### CURRICULUM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**The Aims of Religious Education as stated in the RE Curriculum Directory are:**

- *To present engagingly a comprehensive content which is the basis of knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith;*
- *To enable pupils continually to deepen their religious and theological understanding and be able to communicate this effectively;*
- *To present an authentic vision of the Church's moral and social teaching so that pupils can make a critique of the underlying trends in contemporary culture and society;*
- *To raise pupils' awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities in order to respect and understand them;*
- *To develop the critical faculties of pupils so that they can relate their Catholic faith to daily life;*
- *To stimulate pupils' imagination and provoke a desire for personal meaning as revealed in the truth of the Catholic faith;*
- *To enable pupils to relate the knowledge gained through Religious Education to their understanding of other subjects in the curriculum;*
- *To bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture.<sup>5</sup>*

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - CURRICULUM TIME ALLOCATION

10% of curriculum time is allocated to Religious Education. This does not include Collective Worship.

### PROGRAMME OF STUDY

The primary Religious Education scheme which is used at St. Teresa's to fulfil the above aims and to address the four areas of study outlined in the Religious Education Curriculum Directory, 2012 - Revelation, Church, Celebration and Life in Christ is 'Come and See'. This is a programme that has been developed to respond to the needs of children today, as they progress upon their faith journey, enabling them to grow in their religious literacy. At the heart of the programme is the mystery of God's self-revelation of love through Jesus Christ. Come and See gives all children the opportunity to explore the mystery of faith through scripture and tradition. The programme supports and enables the faith experience of all children because it starts with their real life experience and leads them to reflect upon and consider the Christian message in all its richness in that experience. Other resources recommended by the diocese are also used to enhance learning

and ensure all areas of the RECD is covered including 'The Way, the Truth and the Life', 'Caritas in Action' and Ten:Ten's "Life to the Full".

### EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

We endeavour to give children equal access to all areas of education regardless of gender, race or disability. Whenever appropriate we present positive images of all cultures.

### INCLUSION

All pupils in our school, irrespective of ability, faith and background will have appropriate differentiated access to the Religious Education programme.

We will provide an inclusive curriculum which will meet the needs of all pupils, where the teaching and learning, achievements, attitudes and well being of every learner matters. We recognise the fact that all classes in our school have children of widely differing abilities, and so we provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child. We achieve this in a variety of ways, for example, by:

- Setting common tasks which are open-ended and can have a variety of responses
- Using a variety of visual, auditory and kinaesthetic learning styles
- Setting tasks of increasing difficulty (we do not expect all children to complete all tasks)
- Adopting a mastery approach across the whole curriculum
- Using classroom assistants to support the work of the individuals or groups of children.
- Challenge and support given through feedback

### SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Appropriate assistance will be provided in a variety of ways including

- Using a range of learning styles
- Using pupil's ideas and motivations as a starting point for learning
- Adjusting the demand of the task as appropriate for the child and offering extra support so children can access activities.

### OTHER RELIGIONS AND BELIEFS

Catholics are called to be committed to respecting people of other faiths and to recognise that God is at work in them. In the multi-faith society of today, RE should introduce children to the background and beliefs of people of other faiths so that prejudice and misunderstanding can be overcome from an early age. In the autumn term and summer term one week is given to the exploration of our other faith which is Judaism, and another World Religion. We follow the recommended approach and teaching material for other faiths provided in 'Come and See', using other resources and visitors to supplement this. Alongside this, other festivals and celebrations from different religions are explored in each class throughout the year as well as visitors speaking in assemblies.

### LINKS TO OTHER AREAS OF THE CURRICULUM

The aims of the RE curriculum should also be actively promoted creatively through other areas of the curriculum. This should not only be in our approach but specifically introducing religious aspects into lessons. This is built into half termly planning and in all lessons, where possible, children should be encouraged to 'Build God's Kingdom'.

### TEACHING and LEARNING

We base our teaching and learning styles in RE on the key principle that outstanding and good teaching in RE allows children both to learn about religious traditions and to reflect on what the religious ideas and concepts mean to them. Our teaching enables children to extend their own sense of values and promotes their spiritual growth and development. We encourage children to think about their own views and values in relation to the themes and topics studied in the RE curriculum.

Our teaching and learning styles in RE enable children to build on their own experiences and extend their knowledge and understanding of religious traditions. We use their experiences throughout the liturgical year, celebrations and Masses such as Easter, Advent, St Teresa's Feast Day, Epiphany etc. to develop their religious thinking. We regularly visit our Parish church and participate in collective celebration events.

### ASSESSMENT, MONITORING, RECORDING AND REPORTING

- RE books are marked according to the school's Marking Policy. Where possible feedback is given with the marking focus relating directly to the learning objective. It should highlight the strengths and the next steps in their learning journey.
- All marking provides opportunities for the teachers to assess where the children are at and to inform their future planning.
- Assessment is continual throughout the year and might be as a result of a piece of work, a conversation, a reflection at a liturgy, answers to 'Big questions' or SMSC responses to all areas of the curriculum.
- Check in and Check out activities at the beginning and end of each topic to monitor progress as suggested by the Primary Advisor of Salford Diocese
- Formal assessment of standards is carried out according to the CES Interim Standards as advised by Salford Diocese
- Each teacher keeps a class record of assessed work and records of pupils' progress to monitor
- An in-house moderation meeting is held every term.
- Examples from the school assessment books are moderated with our Family cluster of schools annually.
- Monitoring of teaching and learning is carried out half termly. Lesson observations, learning walks and book scrutinies are carried out by the SLT and relevant subject coordinators each half term on the monitoring cycle.

- Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to parents/carers in a written report at the end of each academic year.
- Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to Governors annually.

### WHOLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

At St Teresa's RC Primary School we encourage parents to be involved by attending:

- Class Celebration Masses where Parents are invited to stay for refreshments.
- Weekly Good News assemblies
- Open morning in the spring term
- Parent's Evenings in the Autumn, Spring and Summer terms.
- Sacramental Programme meetings and celebrations.
- Prayer sponsors from the Parish pray for the children involved in the Sacramental Programme.
- Parent Reading volunteers.
- PTA
- Curriculum evenings.

We encourage Parishioners to attend our Class Celebrations and we work alongside the SVP when we distribute the Harvest gifts. Our website provides information for the Parish community and we work closely with our Parish Priest to be involved in Parish Celebrations. Our Sacramental Programme and other Liturgies is led by Catechists from the Parish alongside School Staff, Parents and members of our Gift Team.

### MANAGEMENT OF THE SUBJECT

Mrs S Fairhurst is the Co-ordinator/Subject Leader and has responsibility for managing and supporting the delivery of and training in Religious Education. She is assisted by Mrs S Burgess, the Headteacher.

### POLICY MONITORING AND REVIEW

*The governors agreed this policy in September 2019 and it will be reviewed in partnership with staff, parents / carers and students again in September 2021 unless there are changes in National or Local Guidance.*

Signed: .....Mrs S Fairhurst

Signed: .....Father Clarke

Signed: .....Mrs M Rogers

Signed:..... Mrs S Burgess

Coordinator

RE Governors

Chair of Governors

Headteacher

September 2022

