

# THE HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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## Religious Education Policy

Date: September 2024



**OFSTED July 2019**

'Pupils feel safe in school and believe that the adults take good care of them. The quality of teaching, learning and assessment in the school is strong.'



**Catholic Schools Inspection February 2023**

'The visitor is left in no doubt that this is a loving Catholic school that prides itself on a genuine, warm welcome.'

'Staff provide the highest level of pastoral care; there is a deep commitment to the most vulnerable.'

'Prayer is central to life in Holy Family.'

***At The Holy Family School we are committed to Safeguarding Children***

***'As a family we live, love, learn and celebrate with Jesus.'***

***At The Holy Family School, we believe that Religious Education is an education for life. We strive to live out explicitly the Catholic ethos and mission of our school. Working and growing together we aim to provide the best education for all our pupils in all areas of the curriculum. Religious Education is the foundation upon which all other areas of the curriculum are built; it underpins the philosophy of everything we teach. Each member of staff has a responsibility for fostering Religious Education, encouraging children to value themselves as individuals and recognise their worth.***

### **Aims**

We work closely with our parents and parish, together with them and our pupils we aim to create in The Holy Family School a community of love where Gospel values are witnessed to and where all we do is based on the teachings of Christ. We aim to nurture and nourish the seed of Faith sown at Baptism, assisting parents in this responsibility. We encourage each pupil's unique and individual growth and development, as they progress along their life journey.

Our aims and objectives for Religious Education are based on the Come and See scheme and the key document for Catholic Education the RE Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools.

The Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools, guides us to promote the following:

- 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.

### **Objectives**

The objectives of curriculum Religious Education in a Catholic school according to this document are:

- To develop knowledge and understanding of the mystery of God and of Jesus Christ, of the Church and of the central beliefs which Catholics hold.
- 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.
- To encourage study, investigation and reflection by the pupils.
- To develop 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, moral responsibility, of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life and especially the challenge of living in a multicultural, multi-faith society.

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The purpose of Religious Education in our school is to help our pupils to grow in knowledge and understanding of their faith. Explore the religious dimensions of questions about life, dignity and purpose within the Catholic tradition. We promote the spiritual and moral development of each individual within our care. Links are made with the pupil's own experience in the local church, community, wider world and also with the experience of other faith traditions so that pupils;

- explore the Gospel values of the Catholic Faith;
- recognise the presence of Christ in everyone, to acknowledge the contribution each person can make to our community;
- value and respect each other in all situations;
- extend the school community into the wider areas of home and parish, through the school, home and parish partnership;
- experience a worshipping community through:
  - **Prayer** - to help children to explore a variety of methods of both private and communal prayer.
  - **Liturgy** - to provide the opportunity for celebration of the Mass in the church and other forms of liturgical experience.
  - **Assemblies** - to meet together as a Catholic school community in regular act of worship.
- Develop their spiritual, moral and intellectual qualities to become responsible citizens.

### **Intent**

At The Holy Family Catholic School our mission statement, 'As a family we live, love, learn and celebrate with Jesus' embodies all that we are about and we strive to keep this mission at the core of everything we do. Whether it is learning or playing, we aim to create a family like environment whereby our pupils have the capacity to flourish and achieve their full potential. We value our pupils for who they are rather than what they can do and they are given every opportunity for educational development to the highest level. Success is celebrated for every pupil and all pupils are given the opportunities to succeed. Within our RE curriculum, we support and develop our pupil's knowledge of Religion Education, so that they are able to learn from and about Religion.

The Come and See scheme that we use as a basis for RE teaching, builds upon and secures previous learning, ensuring that key facts and vocabulary are secured. We nurture in our pupils a desire for knowledge and understanding of the world around them. Through RE, pupils develop their knowledge of world faiths and an awareness of the beliefs, value and traditions of other faiths. As such we encourage our pupils to ask questions about the world and to reflect upon their own beliefs, values and experiences. We are immensely proud of our young pupils as they grow and develop to become confident, caring young adults who are able to articulate and formulate ideas.

### **Teaching strategies and learning outcomes**

Religious Education is central to the daily life of our school and all pupils receive their statutory entitlement of 10% curriculum teaching time. Through the Come and See scheme of work we provide

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for differing abilities and individual strengths through the use of a variety of activities and materials, including illustrations and Scripture, interactive PowerPoints and videos. This provides a cohesive approach and opportunities for whole school collective worship as well as displays which are relevant to the liturgical year and also reflect pupil's own work and ideas.

We aim to provide learning experiences, which accommodate a variety of learning and teaching styles. Teaching and learning in RE is creative and cross-curricular incorporating drama, singing, music, art and other areas of the curriculum.

At The Holy Family School, we follow a whole school approach, exploring a single theme through the same Come and See topics. The Catechism of the Catholic Church addresses the search for meaning in life. God's initiative in Revelation who comes to meet us and our response of faith. (cf. CCC26) This pattern guides the structure of the programme and informs the process of each topic, opened up through; Explore, Reveal and Respond.

### **Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation**

It is the responsibility of the head teacher and RE subject leader to review this policy on a regular basis. The Head teacher will report to the Governors in the Head teacher's report on issues relating to this policy.

Careful consideration has been given to planning, monitoring and evaluating the RE Curriculum so that we may our pupils on in their learning and ensure progression and continuity throughout the whole school using the Come and See program. All planning is continually monitored and evaluated by the Head teacher and RE Co-ordinator within the school monitoring cycle. Children are encouraged to explore their faith through taking part in creative activities such as responding to scripture through drama and art. Other Faith are taught as World View weeks throughout the course of the school year these include Judaism and Islam.

### **Assessment and Reporting**

RE learning is marked in line with other core subjects and in accordance to our Feedback and Marking Policy (please see separate policy.) In line with the requirements of the Diocese of Westminster RE is assessed using the Age-Related Standards. These are descriptions of what pupils at different ages are expected to be able to achieve by the end of that age-related phase. They are prescriptive, not diagnostic. By themselves, they are not ways of measuring achievement, but rather a description of what is expected of almost all pupils by the time they reach the end of a particular age phase. Each year group has these standards broken down into year groups rather than phases. In school moderation of work is carried out termly. Opportunities for working with the Diocese and other schools to standardise work are taken wherever possible.

Three children of different abilities from each class will be chosen as a benchmark to assess each standard which has been achieved, in school moderation takes place termly. The school engages with Diocesan moderation of standards each year. Progress and achievement in Religious Education is

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reported to parents/carers in a written report at the end of each academic year and discussed at parent consultations.

### **Religious Education in the Wider Community.**

1. Our school serves the children from three parishes: The Holy Family (Welwyn Garden City), St Bonaventure's (Welwyn Garden City) and St Thomas More (Knebworth). We hold our KS2 Carol Service in The Holy Family Church. We celebrate a school Mass on at least one Sunday in the school year at The Holy Family Church and our wider Holy Family community are invited to attend Mass in school. We also hold whole school and class assemblies, year group and class collective worship.
2. We continue to support by prayer and action, agencies such as CAFOD, our local foodbank, Helping Herts Homeless and others as far as we reasonably can.
3. We involve parents, governors, clergy and other members of the community in all areas of the religious life of the school, in particular the sacramental preparation programmes in Year 3 for Reconciliation and Eucharist.
4. We will liaise, and work closely with other Catholic schools, in order to maintain continuity and progression.
5. The RE Subject leader attends regular diocesan and deanery meetings.
6. The RE Subject leader and staff attend relevant training provided by the diocese.
7. Diocesan religious education links for the Head teacher, teachers and Governors for training are be maintained.

### **Resources**

Teachers have a copy of:

- The 'Come and See' website for their appropriate year group
- Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools

### **Staffing and Responsibilities**

The particular duties of the subject leader will be:

- To develop and implement the Policy and Scheme of Work for Religious Education.
- To assist the Head teacher in ensuring that the school meets the requirements of the Religious Education programme throughout the school.

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- To keep abreast of developments in the Religious Education curriculum and inform staff.
- To attend appropriate courses led by the Diocese in order to enhance professional development and contribute towards the promotion of Religious Education throughout the school.
- To advise and support colleagues with the planning and teaching of Religious Education.
- To monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of teaching and learning throughout the school and plan improvements by contributing to the School Development Plan and CSED.
- To ensure future provision for assessing Religious Education and assist the Head teacher in it's planning and monitoring as appropriate.
- To keep an ongoing audit of resources and update/replace stock as necessary.
- To order new resources using the Religious Education budget.
- To keep a subject leader file detailing information about courses attended, monitoring, classroom observations made and a subject leader's budget statement.
- To establish links and liaise with the Diocesan Religious Education Advisors.
- To assist the Head teacher in the development of the liturgical prayer life of the school community.

#### **Senior Management Responsibility**

- To attend Senior Management meetings at both deanery and Diocesan level.
- To be part of the consultation and decision-making process.
- To take responsibility for any reasonable tasks delegated by the Head teacher.
- To meet with the Head teacher to ensure consistency in curriculum delivery through strategic planning within the School Development Plan.

#### **Each class teacher will:**

- Prepare, plan and deliver the Religious Education curriculum, allocating time for each learning outcome to be achieved. 10% of the timetable is allocated to RE. This does not include collective worship.

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- Select appropriate activities for the whole class or groups of children, providing opportunities for prayer and worship.
- Create an area within the classroom for a prayer table and stimulating/ interesting Religious Education displays.
- Prepare class Masses and introduce children to the liturgical feasts and seasons of the Church year.
- Help to develop the children's knowledge of God and their relationship with him through their friendship with Jesus, scripture, prayer, reflection and meditation.

*This policy statement is due to be reviewed in September 2025*

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