

RE Policy



St. Richard's Catholic Primary School

'To use our gifts from God to help others and bring joy and peace to our world. We will do this by using our Gospel Values of Love, Honesty, Hope, Kindness, Forgiveness and respect.'

Review - September 2027

Introduction

RE education at St. Richards Catholic Primary School follows directly from our Mission Statement: *"To use our gifts from God to help others and to bring joy and peace to our world." And we will do this by using our Gospel values of: Love, Honesty, Hope, Kindness, Forgiveness and Respect.*

Our Gospel values are reflected in our Behaviour Policy and our Anti Bullying Policy, therefore making our spiritual values prominent in the teaching of all moral teaching.

We take a holistic approach to RE education that includes teaching, learning and regular opportunities for prayer including mass. We aim to make the school a community of Faith, with the message and spirit of the Gospel permeating all aspects of school life.

Through teaching, worship and praise, we aim to nurture a living and personal faith, built upon shared Catholic values. Parents play a key role and are encouraged to pray with their children as well as take part in services at school and in the Parish.

Aims of Religious Education

St Richard's School acknowledges that Religious Education is a lifelong process and recognises that the primary years are significant in the lasting impact they have upon our children.

The aims of religious education in St Richard's Catholic Primary School will include the following:

- To create a safe, secure and stimulating learning environment.
- To deepen knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith through prayer and the Gospels.
- Helping to foster pupil's awareness that our Christian faith is not just a subject for learning, but a complete way of life.
- To promote the spiritual and moral development of the children.
- To lead the children to a living and active faith by helping them to become aware of God's presence in their lives, to listen to Him and to respond to His invitation to enter into a personal relationship with Him through prayer.
- To give the children the experience of a Christian, caring and inclusive community where all members are valued and loved.
- To involve parents/carers in the spiritual development of their children.

Parents send their children to St. Richard's because they want their children to experience a faith community and therefore the school recognises the importance of providing this shared mission with the whole community.

The Religious Education Programme

To fulfil our aims, we use the 'Come and See' programme for the teaching of Religious Education. In accordance with the guidelines from the Bishops' Conference the children at St Richard's receive 10% of the teaching week dedicated to RE. It integrates the Catechism of the Catholic Church, our Catholic standards of attainment as well as the Religious Education Curriculum Directory.

Children explore the mystery of Faith through scripture and tradition. Links are made explicitly in planning documents to the resources, and plans are adapted to meet the needs of the students in school, using a selection of ritual objects, books, videos and posters etc. Lessons are very well resourced with both interactive stimuli, as well as a variety of artefacts and cross-curricular links. There are three topics taught each term and three world faith units across the year.

Our RE programme provides many opportunities for celebrating and praying joyfully through music, song and in quiet times of reflection. This takes place in class, assemblies and whole school celebrations.

Our RE programme is appropriate to the age and developmental needs of each child. A whole school approach is taken with the overall themes as set out below:

- Domestic church - Family
- Baptism/Confirmation - Belonging
- Advent/Christmas - Loving
- Local church - Community
- Eucharist - Relating
- Lent/Easter - Giving
- Pentecost - Serving
- Reconciliation - Inter-relating
- Universal Church - World

Each Year Group then has its own title and focus within this theme. The class teacher ensures differentiation according to each child's ability and with the support of the differentiated tasks suggested in Come and See. This is evident in planning and evaluation. For all children, the programme raises questions and provides material for reflecting on their own experiences. It helps the children to explore the beliefs, values and way of life of the Catholic tradition and, where appropriate, of other faith traditions.

The content of each RE topic is so structured that there is cohesion and progression in what the children do and learn. In order to allow pupils to work according to their different abilities, for each level there are:

- Clearly stated Learning Intentions
- Achievable learning outcomes
- A selection of experiences and activities for each of the learning intentions

As with other subjects, RE is addressed through our Medium term planning which the class teacher then uses to inform the short-term planning. The RE subject leader ensures that the staff have access to the 'Come and See' website and any other resources needed.

Assessment, Feedback and Record Keeping

Teachers have the responsibility for maintaining records on the children in their class.

Marking and feedback to pupils is in line with the school's feedback policy. Marking should be focused on the RE objective, but high levels of literacy are also be maintained and encouraged.

Detailed assessment is carried throughout each topic, through pupils work and pupil voice. Judgements are then moderated at school, Deanery and Diocesan level. The remainder of the class are benchmarked against the focus children. Teachers record the children's attainment for each individual unit and for both At1 and AT2. The subject leader then analyses attainment and progress at whole class and group level. This information is then used to inform action planning. RE is reported formally to parents in the annual school reports.

Monitoring

The procedures for monitoring, reviewing and evaluating the teaching of 'Come and See' and the monitoring of teaching are as follows:

- Monitoring of pupil work in RE
- Monitoring of planning
- Observations and feedback

All monitoring is planned to ensure a rigorous system of evaluation and improvement is in place. The RE Governor is invited to monitor RE books, planning, lessons, assemblies and collective worship in school.

Home, School and Parish links

We recognise the importance of parents as the child's first teacher and their role in faith development. Parents and staff do everything possible to work in close partnership with each other. There are many opportunities for parents, carers and families to engage in school life. St Richard's School seeks, in partnership with parents and the wider parish, to develop and nurture the Catholic faith of our children. We strive to bring pupils into a fuller understanding and knowledge of the Roman Catholic tradition. Here at St. Richard's we serve the Parishes of 'St. Pauls', Dover and 'Our Lady of Dover', Dover.

Mass is celebrated on many occasions throughout the school year. This includes Holy Days of Obligation such as the feasts of All Saints, Epiphany, Ascension, St. Peter and St. Paul and the Assumption. We also celebrate mass on other days including Harvest Festival, Ash Wednesday and at Deanery days.

Children are prepared for Holy Communion and First reconciliation at The Good Shepherd parish churches of St Pauls and Our Lady of Dover.

A Designated Foundation Governor for RE, makes regular visits to the school and meets with the Academy Principal, staff, RE Lead and pupils.

A parish priest makes weekly visits to the school to say mass and or attend assemblies.

Great importance is attached to the Headteacher's assembly every Monday (which is based on the liturgical year and Gospel readings each week) and Friday (which is based on Catholic Social Teaching and the Gospel Values).

This policy will be reviewed every two years by staff and governors.

The right of withdrawal from Religious Education

Parents are permitted, by law, to request that their child is withdrawn from receiving all or part of religious education. This request should be made in writing to the Headteacher.