



St Martin de Porres Primary School

Religious Education Policy November 2020

Our School Mission Statement

“Working together in the light of the Lord”

At St Martin’s our Mission Statement underpins all that we do. We acknowledge that we are all called to be witnesses of the Lord and our Mission Statement reflects our belief in the importance of partnership between home, school and parish. This relationship enables us to achieve a family atmosphere providing a secure, happy environment with Christ at the centre. By endeavouring to live the Gospel so that it influences everything that happens throughout the school day, we aim to:

- value every member of the school community and develop the potential of each individual;
- create an educational environment in which we are encouraged to enjoy our work whilst aspiring to the highest standards of achievement and behaviour;
- give children the experience of being part of, and active members in, a Catholic community which celebrates through word and deed the unique, God-given nature of each individual;
- support parents and parishes in developing the children’s knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith;
- develop a caring community which recognizes that each member is equally deserving of respect, tolerance, understanding and opportunity regardless of ability, gender, race, age or creed.

Mission Statement Logo:



Implementing the Mission Statement

Our belief in the uniqueness and worth of every member of our school community needs to be reflected and experienced in the quality of relationships: “Love one another as I have loved you.”

The greatest influence on children is not what they are told to do, but what they see happening – our faith in action! Our aims, therefore, will be achieved, first through example and then through committed teaching. In practice, this should result in all members of the school community showing:

- 1 CARE:**
 - for all things, God given and man made;
 - for others, as we would like to be cared for ourselves;
 - for our school building, gardens and equipment;
 - for ourselves and how we look;
 - for our work and how we present it.

- 2 COURTESY:**
 - to all people at all times, with a smile!
 - to each other and around the school;
 - to parents and visitors, a welcoming smile and, “May I help you?”

- 3 CONCERN:**
 - that each classroom will be a welcoming place;
 - that our school is a fair and happy place for everyone in our school community;
 - for those who need our help in our community and the wider world.

In 1988, when writing about the vocation and mission of lay people, Pope John Paul II stressed how our faith cannot be separated from our daily life:

“There cannot be two parallel lives in our existence: on the one hand the so-called spiritual life, with its values and demands, and on the other, the so-called secular life, that is life in a family, at work, in social relationships, in the responsibilities of public life and culture. Every area of our lives, as different as they are, enters into the plan of God, who desires that these very areas be the places where the love of Christ is revealed.”

Everything we do in school should reflect the Gospel values. We must ensure that what is taught in the RE lesson and proclaimed in worship is practised day-to-day as we are ‘Working together in the light of the Lord.’

Aims

- To work together to create a community in which the Catholic ethos of the school is fostered at all times.
- To introduce the children to the teachings of Jesus and to develop their knowledge and understanding of the mystery of God and Jesus Christ; of the Church and of the central beliefs which Catholics hold.
- To encourage study, investigation and reflection.
- To nurture and nourish the seed of our faith planted in each child, as he or she progresses along their journey of life.
- To establish high expectations in all curriculum areas and a commitment to setting and meeting challenging and realistic targets in which all pupils in our school meet their full academic potential
- To encourage each child to grow in self esteem, stay healthy and to foster a positive attitude to life.
- To foster and develop in all pupils a respect for truth and a mutual regard, understanding and respect for others.
- To encourage children to respect the cultures and religious beliefs of others.
- To provide a caring, secure and stimulating environment in which each child can grow in a community which daily celebrates the gospel values in practice.

Objectives

- To lead children to explore the Gospel values of the Catholic faith.
- To promote the spiritual and moral development of each individual within our care.
- To value each other in all situations – both children and adults, and with adults presenting a positive role model in working harmoniously together at all times.
- To extend the school community into the wider world through school, home, and parish links.

- To be aware of the differing needs of each individual child in their own Faith journey.
- To encourage participation in liturgical celebrations.

Teaching

To fulfil our aims and objectives we use the ‘Come and See’ programme of religious education, set by the Diocese of Northampton. The aim of this programme is to explore the religious dimensions of questions about life, dignity and purpose within the Catholic tradition. Links are made with the children’s own experience in the local church and community and with the universal experience. Links are also made with other faith traditions. The programme, therefore, is both objective and subjective.

Ten percent of the weekly timetable is set aside for RE and our aim is to teach through:

- direct instruction
- encouraging reflection and prayer
- discussion and questioning
- music, drama, role-play and creative activities
- making books, artefacts and using ICT
- links to other curriculum subjects
- reinforcement of the children’s knowledge and understanding of the sacraments covered in the ‘Come and See’ programme
- by example, and allowing our beliefs and values to govern our relationship with others
- participation in the prayer life of the school and taking part in collective worship in class, year groups or whole school worship

Presentation

The children will present their work in a variety of ways:

- through written work and discussion
- using pictures, painting and displays
- visual presentations including power points, role play, drama and class assemblies
- celebration and liturgy
- *through work uploaded onto Remote Learning Platform when isolating or in the case of a bubble staying at home due to a positive case of COVID-19*

Planning

- As with other subjects Religious Education is planned by staff working together in year groups.
- The aim is to provide opportunities for pupils to demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and skills.
- Other aspects of RE e.g. prayers, assemblies, visits, links to other curriculum subjects etc. are identified in the planning.
- Planning and examples of the children’s work is monitored by the SLT once a term. Reception to Year 6 planning and examples of work is also monitored by the Subject Leadership Team.

Assessment

- Staff use nationally agreed standards to assess pupils' work. They draw on a wide range of evidence including observations, written work, discussions and responses in class, artwork, photographs, etc.
- Moderation of work takes place within the school and with Partnership schools.
- Progress is tracked as pupils move throughout the school.
- Clear targets are set for Religious Education so that staff are accountable for progress.
- Pupils are encouraged to discuss their targets with staff.
- Pupils, particularly in upper KS2, know the steps that they need to improve their attainment in Religious Education.

Assessment informs planning effectively as staff adapt their plans to meet the identified needs of pupils.

Marking

Overall judgements should not be made on one piece of work and need to be taken into account over a period of time. Marking work in RE will be:

- in accordance with school policy and age and ability of the child
- positive and constructive so that it affirms and celebrates success and encourages future learning
- challenge and encourage children to reflect
- encourage high standards
- about the progress in understanding of the RE concept being explored and related, where appropriate to the learning intention.

Resources

- Each teacher has access to planning based on Come and See which also included the standards for each lesson. 'God's Story' and 'Church Story' for his/her appropriate year group.
- Each class has a selection of Bibles, prayer books, religious books for children, candles, artefacts etc.
- Further resources are available in the staffroom and in Prayer room cupboard including assembly/drama books, posters and artefacts for other faiths.
- The Prayer Room is an important resource that is available to every class.

Future Development of Religious Education

- Through careful and effective monitoring, evaluating and planning, we will continue to review Religious Education throughout the school and sustain any initiatives we have identified in the school plan.
- To sustain outstanding teaching and learning and increase the percentage of good teaching to outstanding teaching and learning.
- Embed assessment procedures to ensure consistency across the school.
- Further improve the tracking of progress of pupils as they move through the school.
- To extend opportunities for the moderation of work across the school.
- To continue to improve the quality and range of resources/curriculum activities that support the cultural diversity of our school and multi-faith wider community.

Responsibilities

The Subject Leadership Team will:

- co-ordinate the development of Religious Education throughout the school
- attend subject leader meetings
- assist the SLT in securing and monitoring the delivery of the Religious Education programme throughout the school
- monitor the teaching and learning in RE by scrutiny of work and lesson observations
- organise resources and assist colleagues in their use
- support new and non-catholic members of staff in school, and organise, where possible, relevant courses
- develop the liturgical prayer life of the school involving staff, pupils and clergy
- work with the Music subject team to develop liturgy through music
- together with other members of staff organise displays and opportunities to celebrate the children's achievements
- liaise with the PSHE team to make cross curricular links to RE
- liaise with the Diocesan Religious Education advisors
- attend in-service courses led by the diocese
- encourage and foster links between home, school and the wider community
- liaise as appropriate with the Pastoral Care and Chaplaincy Teams, clergy and others concerned to develop the Catholic life of the school and wider community

Classroom Practice

Each class teacher will:

- prepare plans with year group colleagues and deliver the Religious Education curriculum
- will create stimulating and interesting displays and a prayer corner/table
- prepare class assemblies
- introduce children to the liturgical feasts and seasons of the church

- help to develop the children’s knowledge of God and their relationship with Him through scripture, prayer, reflection and meditation

SEN/Mastery/EAL

We recognise that children have different needs and abilities. We aim to provide equal access to the Religious Education curriculum and to the practise of our faith for all of them. Lesson plans will identify where work will be differentiated through the use of mastery tasks. When resources are purchased children’s differing needs are taken into account.

Health and Safety

Members of staff should be aware of the Health and Safety policy which applies to all areas of school life. Within the RE context special attention must be given to:

The use of candles:

- Class Holy Tables, Collective Worship candles and candles handled by the children should be battery operated
- Lit candles during mass and liturgies must not be left unsupervised.
- Candles should be snuffed, not blown out.
- Matches must be left out of children’s reach

Appreciation and understanding of other faiths and cultures

We believe at St Martin’s that our children should develop and nurture their own faith and at the same time develop a respect and awareness of other faiths and cultures so they are fully prepared to live and work in our multi-ethnic society. We hope to achieve this by providing our children with the following opportunities:

- Raising awareness and celebrating other faiths through Collective Worship.
- PSHE.
- Through our pro-active stance on inclusion.
- The provision to support families of pre-school children.
- Working with schools from across Luton as part of the School’s Linking Network (SLN) *Due to COVID-19, This is unable to take place 2020-21*
- Working with schools within the West Area Partnership. *To be done via TEAMS*
- The School Improvement Governor linked to RE and Community Cohesion - works with the Pastoral Care Team to help develop opportunities for Community Cohesion.
- We have actively sought to reflect the diverse cultural nature of the school through the membership of the Governing Body.
- The ‘Come and See’ programme.
- Other faiths week includes visits to other places of worship and visitors from other faiths. *This is unable to take place due to COVID-19 2020-21*
- Taking part in a variety of multi-faith and culture weeks throughout the year.
- Taking part in work with the Luton Council of Faiths. *This year parents and staff were invited to attend the Peace Walk virtually through Zoom. 2020-21*

Personal, Social, Health Education

- PSHE is taught throughout the school linking to the RE topics and Science. The main aim of PSHE is to educate the whole child and provide children with an understanding of life itself. High priority is given to the development of pupil's attitudes, behaviour, values and personal qualities enabling them to develop the life skills necessary to become healthy, independent and responsible members of society. We encourage our pupils to play a positive role in contributing to the life of the school and the wider community.

Religious Education in the Wider Community

- Deanery inset meetings led by NORES and by the RE Leaders are attended by all teaching staff. *Unable to do this due to COVID-19 2020-21*
- Liaison between the RE Subject Leadership Team and RE Primary Advisor.
- The RE leader makes NORES news available to all staff.
- Diocesan religious education training available to all staff and governors
- Residential retreat for 6 at Alton Castle.
- The Family Workers incorporating prayer and reflection into PEEP and Play and Stay sessions. *These sessions are unable to take place due to COVID-19*
- Parents, governors etc invited to take part in liturgical celebrations. *This is to be done through TEAMS from Lent term.*
- Reflective prayer sessions for parents. *This is to be done through Teams during the season of Advent 2020*
- Prayer Bags go home with a child once a week to support family prayer. *Due to Covid-19 this is to be done virtually. 2020-21*
- Visits from outside speakers and organisations to develop a greater understanding of the wider church. *Due to Covid-19 this is to be done virtually where possible*
- Close links with the parish priest to promote the children's spiritual well-being.
- Priests from the deanery support the school in the celebration of liturgies.
- Masses/services at the parish church. *Unable to do due to COVID-19 until further advice is given from the Diocese 2020-21*
- School choir sing for elderly people in the community. *Unable to do this academic year due to COVID-19 2020-21*
- CAFOD deliver assemblies to pupils and training to staff. *Unable to do due to COVID-19 2020-21*
- Fund raising for Local Foodbank, CAFOD, Macmillan, Clic Sargent and Keech Cottage Hospice.
- Termly newsletters to inform parents of our RE programme and guidance for supporting children at home to develop their spirituality.
- *Reflections uploaded to Remote learning platform for families to use while unable to attend Mass due to COVID - 19*

Future Development

- To provide more opportunities to experience other faiths in the community.
- To continue to develop parish links

Review, Monitoring and Evaluation

It is the responsibility of our Governing Body to agree, and then monitor this Religious Education Policy. The committee of governing body for curriculum does this together with the head teacher. The head teacher will report to the Governors in the half termly report on issues relating to this policy as appropriate.

This policy is written in light of the self-evaluation audit undertaken by the School Leadership Team. Through engagement with the Diocese and Local Authority as part of our self-evaluation and review process, practice will be monitored and evaluated during the year (please refer to the Curriculum Monitoring, Review and Evaluation Policy).