



ST. BEDE'S R C PRIMARY SCHOOL

R.E. POLICY

MISSION STATEMENT

The understanding inherent in our teaching of R.E. in St. Bede's reflects our mission statement: To create a happy, secure and Christian atmosphere in which children are safe and encouraged to be healthy, to achieve and make a positive contribution and can grow and develop physically, intellectually, spiritually and morally.

VALUES

We believe that the purpose of our school is to:

- Be a happy, healthy and caring school – a school in which all individuals are valued and respected.
- A school where Jesus Christ is at the centre of all that we do and say.
- A school that provides a high quality and inclusive education and encourages everybody to reach their full potential in whatever they attempt.
- A school where all our children feel safe, secure and know how to cope with success and failure.
- A school where we encourage our children to become responsible citizens of the future.

AIM

The aim of R.E. is to explore the religious dimension of questions about life, dignity and the purpose within the Catholic tradition. We aim to do this by linking the children's own experiences and universal experience. We will also look at other faiths to give the children experience and understanding of them.

For all children the programme will raise questions and provide materials for reflecting on their own experience. Using this will help them to explore the beliefs, values and way of the Christian tradition and other faiths. The work we do with the children will help to sustain their faith and grow when other knowledge is outgrown.

Every effort will be made "to create in the classroom a community where the children know they are loved, where they feel confident and secure ... our deepest concept is in terms of loving kindness and fidelity ... these grow from our experience of the kindness and love we receive from others".

- 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

CONTENT

Religious Education Directory - To Know You More Clearly 2025:

In line with the Diocese of Lancaster support for planning; our Reception, Year 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 classes will deliver their Religious Education curriculum based on the delivery of the new RED. In Year 1 and 3, this will be supported by the '**Vine & Branches**' Catholic Education Publication. All pupils will be invited to encounter Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ as the living person at the heart of their study in a way that respects their individual religious identity. As the curriculum is new to staff, this will be monitored closely, and staff supported by the subject leader.

Teachers ensure that pupils see the 'purpose' of each lesson and the content in relation to their lives. Teachers make deliberate and intentional retrieval of previous knowledge to continually build on learning. There are regular checkpoints and formative assessments within lessons to tailor learning to the needs of pupils. Teachers are encouraged to be creative in task design, and children's work can take the form of artwork, discussion, drama, song, writing or a mixture of these.

To ensure the children can be assessed accurately teachers ensure that the expectations of the Assessment Standards are integrated into the whole planning process. This will inform the teaching and ensure that expected standards are aspired to. The critical question to address at the planning stage is 'what must I do, in this theme, to enable children to achieve the standard I know they can achieve?'

All religions and their communities are treated with respect and sensitivity, and we value the links, which are, and can be made between home, school, and a faith community. We acknowledge that each religion studied can contribute to the education of all our pupils. We promote teaching in Religious Education that stresses open enquiry and first- hand experiences wherever possible for both staff and children.

Year 6 will continue to use the Diocesan approved scheme of work 'The Way, the Truth and the Life'. This includes 6 topics per year group. At the end of each term children are assessed against R.E. objectives as either working towards, within or above Age- Related Expectations. In September they will follow the RED to complete the training cycle for the development of the new RED.

The children at St. Bede's enjoy learning about other religions. Through this RE learning, the children are able to make links between their own lives and those of others in their community and in the wider world, developing an understanding of other people's cultures and ways of life.

Other faiths are addressed as a consequence of, and in the context of, Catholic teaching. Catholic teaching about the action of God in the world requires an informed and respectful approach to other faiths. By study of the action of God in these faiths, Catholics can come to a deeper appreciation of the revelation of God in Christ.

The school has a separate HRSE Policy for teaching Human Relationships and Sex Education and follows the Ten:Ten scheme which aligns with the teachings of the Catholic Church.

CURRICULUM TIME ALLOCATION:

In line with Bishops' Conference recommendations, 10% of curriculum time is allocated to Religious Education. This does **not** include Collective Worship.

MARKING, RECORDING AND REPORTING

Children's work is levelled once a term in line with Diocesan guidelines. Six children's work are kept for assessment purposes. They also keep relevant work connected to the topics covered. This may be in the form of text books or as an addition to each child's personal records. Work is moderated once a year at the Diocesan meeting in Kirkby Lonsdale.

Any R.E. work is marked for factual errors, and misspelling of 'technical' words, e.g. 'Jesus' and positive comments may be added to some pieces of work. We feel that R.E. is not a subject where the children can be right or wrong on some of the issues and therefore we enable the children to express their own point of view.

There are two parents meetings a year, (three for Reception) where the children's work can be reviewed. Each class prepares a "Worship Assembly" once a term to which parents and governors are invited. Parents are also invited to the weekly and termly class masses in that children attend throughout the school with the parish.

SCHOOL ORGANISATION

Classes are organised according to age except when circumstances force us to do otherwise. Classes are mixed in ability and sex. A teacher is in charge of the subject area but all staff share the teaching load.

Children are taught R.E. on a class basis and a variety of methods are used – talking, stories, discussions, drama, debates, guest speakers etc.

Children are prepared for the Eucharist and Confirmation in Parish based programmes.

EVALUATION AND REVIEW

Our main evaluation is how the children respect themselves and their achievements, behave and treat others.

We hold termly RE staff meetings where work books etc. may be scrutinised and any problems/difficulties or successes are discussed.

Children are also asked their opinions and assessments of the work carried out.

RESOURCES

All resources and artefacts are kept in the library or storage cupboard in main corridor. Artefacts are displayed either on the shelves or on the walls and in storage boxes. The R.E. resource books e.g. stories of Saints, Liturgy Planners etc. are stored in the library. The books and artefacts are updated each year (budget permitting) by the R.E. Co-ordinator.

PRAYER

An essential part of the Catholic ethos of the school is the prayer life. The most important aspect of prayer for children is that they realise it is their way of communicating with God. Children are encouraged to pray in different ways according to their age and personal development. Children are introduced to a variety of different ways of praying:

- quiet reflection / meditation
- praying together
- writing own prayers
- prayers through music
- learning traditional Christian / Catholic prayers

Staff are encouraged to pray with children, and to be an example for them. Through prayer, we endeavour to develop our relationship with God. All classes have a prayer area and this area changes with the liturgical year. Class prayers are established throughout the school and each teacher uses prayers appropriate to age and ability of the class. Candles, pictures and objects are also used as a focus for prayer. Throughout the school week, children are involved in daily acts of worship, liturgy and opportunities for deep, spiritual reflection. Children are given the opportunities to plan and lead Liturgy during many aspects of the liturgical year including Advent and Lent leading up to Easter. Different year groups attend Mass weekly and whole school Masses are held at the beginning and end of term including Holy Days of Obligation.

There is a separate Prayer Policy which supports the RED Curriculum.

DISCIPLINE AND RELATIONSHIPS

We believe that children learn best when they are safe and happy. Good relationships between staff and children are paramount. We encourage open, honest discussion with children. (See School Behaviour Policy). Particular care is taken when teaching R.E. to ensure that there is consistency between teaching and practice.

SPIRITUAL AND MORAL DEVELOPMENT

The religious character of our school is seen as giving shape to every aspect of school life, and especially the spiritual and moral development of our children. Spiritual development is understood as the development of all those aspects which enable us to appreciate goodness, beauty of the world around them and truth. Through our teaching, we enable children to reflect on their experiences of life. Through their awareness and understanding of themselves, they recognise God's action in their lives. In addition, pupils are taught about the importance of the mission of the Church. Helping children to make their moral decisions is a crucial part of the formation of a moral conscience. Through our teaching, we aim to help children to have an understanding of the Gospel of Jesus and through self-awareness enable them to come to good moral judgements.

ROLE OF THE 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 scrutinies 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 other Headteachers, Governors, parents, the *Office for Education & Schools* on matters relating to Religious Education.
- Auditing, managing and developing resources within a given budget when available.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

This takes place in the parish.

First Communion: Staff and Head present at celebration masses.
Work with clergy on any other issues.

Confirmation: This is a parish-based programme though the Head and staff attend the Confirmation.

REVIEWED October 2024

REVIEW DATE September 2025