



Religious Education Policy

LEADER / CO-ORDINATORS	Mrs K. Gillard
GROUPS INVOLVED IN DISCUSSION	Headteacher Senior Leadership Team All Staff Governing Body Children Parents
LINK TO SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN	Priority 1 – Further develop the Catholic Life of the school and all that encompasses to ensure the school challenges itself further and remains outstanding in its delivery for all and places Jesus and the teachings of the Church at the centre of pupils' lives.

'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding; in all your ways, acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.'
Proverbs 3:5-6

Introduction and Aims

This policy provides a framework for all staff which includes guidance on planning, assessment, recording and reporting in Religious Education. It offers guidance on teaching styles and opportunities for meeting the needs of all pupils, as well as giving advice on equality.

Religious Education is, then, the core subject in our Catholic School

Mission Statement

As stated in our school's Mission Statement, our 3 aims are to-

- ~ Have a sense of responsibility and take an active part in serving our world;
- ~ Have a growing understanding of Gospel Values and gather together in prayer and Worship;
- ~ Have a passion for learning and an enjoyment for discovery.

"Hand in Hand,

In the image of Jesus,

We grow together and celebrate who we are."

The staff of St. Aidan's Catholic Primary School will work to give each child the entitlement of a broad, balanced, differentiated curriculum (irrespective of ability) encouraging in every individual a sense of self-worth and self-esteem. All teaching and learning is underpinned by the school mission statement.

Intent

Hand in hand with Jesus, in the life of faith of our Catholic School, religious education plays a central and vital part. At St. Aidan's, Religious Education pervades the whole curriculum. The beliefs and values studied; inspire and draw together every aspect of the life of our Catholic School.

RE is for all and is a collaborative activity, which respects and promotes the child's innate capacity for wonder, awe, reverence and imagination.



ST. AIDAN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

We aim to educate the whole person. At the heart of the school is a sense of purpose, which is to create a community that shares the values of love, respect, truth and reconciliation as shown through the example of Christ.

Audience

This Religious Education policy document is available to:

Teaching and Support Staff

Governors

Parents and other visitors to the staffroom

Supply Teachers

Inspectors

Copies of this policy are available through the school website and also through the school office on request.

The implementation of Religious Education

To fulfil our aims and objectives we use the 'To Know You More Clearly' Programme of Religious Education Recommended by the Archdiocese of Liverpool.

The following pages show an overview of the Themes and Topics over the year cycle of 'To Know You More Clearly'.

The Aims and Objectives of Religious Education

The overall aims of Religious Education at St. Aidan's are:

The comprehensive and systematic study of:

- the mystery of God;
- the life and teachings of Jesus Christ;
- the teachings of the church;
- the central beliefs that Catholics hold and the basis for them;
- the relationship between faith and life.

These are explored in a manner, which encourages investigation, and reflection by the pupils, develops the appropriate skills and attitudes and promotes free, informed and full response to God's call in everyday life.

In the words of the Curriculum Directory 2012, the outcome of Catholic Religious Education -

'The outcome of excellent religious education is religiously literate and engaged young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills – appropriate to their age and capacity – to reflect spiritually, and think ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.'

Our Mission Statement reinforces this message.....

"Hand in Hand, in the image of Jesus, We grow together and celebrate who we are."

The staff of St. Aidan's Catholic Primary School will work to give each child the entitlement of a broad, balanced, differentiated curriculum (irrespective of ability) encouraging in every individual a sense of self-worth and self-esteem. All teaching and learning is underpinned by the school mission statement.

The deliberate intention of St. Aidan's School is to cater for the individual needs of the children and equip them with a better understanding of the world in which they live.

St. Aidan's Religious Education programme will...



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1. include analysis and critical appreciation
2. provide opportunities for celebration, prayer and reflection
3. provide children with the language of religious experience - a 'literacy' in religious activities, places, stories, symbols and rituals, people and objects
4. present a systematic presentation of the Christian event, message and way of life, in ways appropriate to the age and stage of development of the child
5. require that all adults involved, understand the underlying theological as well as educational principles
6. include appropriate materials about other faiths

Curriculum and School Organisation

To fulfil our aims and objectives we use the 'To Know You More Clearly' Programme of Religious Education recommended by the Archdiocese of Liverpool.

Overview of Content

The following pages show an overview of the Themes and Topics over the year cycle of To Know You More Clearly.

The Process

The process for delivering each of the topics in To Know You More Clearly has three main stages, which enable pupils to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes.

- Branch 1 – Creation and Covenant
- Branch 2 – Prophecy and Promise
- Branch 3 – Galilee to Jerusalem
- Branch 4 – Desert to Garden
- Branch 5 – To the Ends of the Earth
- Branch 6 – Dialogue and Encounter

The process encompasses a variety of teaching and learning styles, which enables the needs of individual pupils to be met.

The Approach Chosen

We have chosen a whole school approach to the long term planning for Religious Education so that all pupils explore their topics at the same time, following a one-year cycle. All classes follow their own appropriate programme according to their year group except for Y1/2, Y3/4 and Y5/6 who alternate their programmes on a two-year cycle.

Time Allocation for RE

The Bishop's requirement of 10 percent of curriculum teaching time is clearly indicated on the class timetables. This time does not include time for collective worship and Hymn Practice.

In Key Stage One and the Foundation Stage the time spent on RE each week is at least 2 hours and 10 minutes

In Key Stage Two the time spent on RE each week is at least 2 hours and 30 minutes.

Planning

Long Term Planning

Long term Planning is the responsibility of the Leadership Team. Each class has its own long term plan according to the programme of study for that particular year group.

Medium Term Planning

Medium Term Planning is the responsibility of the RE Co-ordinator.

The medium term plan details:

- the content and focus of each theme
- links to the Catechism of the Catholic Church and Religious Education Curriculum Directory
- Key concepts, skills and attitudes
- Attainment targets
- Christian doctrine for the term



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- Themes and topics
- The start dates for each topic (each topic should be given equal time – each topic will take a half term to complete)

The planner shows the allocated length of time required to ensure that the three learning outcomes for each topic will be achieved.

Short Term Planning

Short Term Planning is the responsibility of the class teacher. Planning is documented on the recommended planning proforma from the Archdiocese which has been adapted by the RE Coordinator. At St. Aidan's, teachers also create 'Smart notebooks/PowerPoints' which are used with the children and should include the following-

- Topic Organiser
- Objectives and Success Criteria for every lesson
- Standards-Skills (previously known as 'driver' words)
- Key stages of process
- Adapted Teaching and activities
- Resources
- Dates

The impact of Religious Education – Assessment, Recording and Reporting

Assessment is focused by the overall aims and objectives of Religious Education. In To Know You More Clearly, it is related to the concepts, skills and attitudes to be developed through the exploration of the themes and the learning outcomes for each topic. Assessment establishes what pupils know, understand and can do. It does not assess faith or the practice of faith. Assessment in To Know You More Clearly emphasises a wide range of achievement.

In our school it involves:

Informal Assessment

- General observation of children engaged in general tasks and activities
- Observation of contributions made to classroom displays
- Review: end of task, activity, lesson, topic
- Marking of more formal written work
- At the start of every topic, children produce a mind map of their ideas and understanding of the topic. This is reviewed at the end of the topic and new learning is presented in a different colour. This clearly shows where new learning has taken place.

Recording

Recording provides evidence of achievement. It involves pupils in self-assessment and progress in dialogue with the teacher. It takes many forms:

- Notes from observations
- Written comments on pupil's books
- Visual evidence – for example photographs, DVDs

Reporting

There are four dimensions to reporting in Religious Education.

Reporting:

- Provides feedback to pupils on their achievement and progress
- Informs teachers and colleagues of the achievement of individual pupils and the areas studied by a class and year group
- Informs parents of the progress and achievement of their child
- Informs parents, governors, parish and external agencies of the content and quality of Religious Education being provided and the achievements of the pupils.



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At St. Aidan's parents are given the opportunity on three occasions during the school year to meet with their child's class teacher to receive verbal reports on the progress of their child. Parents also receive a written end of year report.

Training and Development

At St. Aidan's we believe that it is important to create an environment, which stimulates and facilitates individual growth and development in all areas. We are committed to the process of training all staff at an individual level and to using newly acquired skills and expertise for the further improvement of our school's performance.

At St. Aidan's, training and development takes place throughout all aspects of school life and takes into account all members of our school community. The needs of individuals, teams and the whole school are given consideration when identifying areas for development. Objectives for training and development are closely linked to the School Improvement Plan. The impact of Training and Development on practice is evaluated so that our school can sustain and improve its performance.

Staff Communication

Staff are informed by the RE Coordinator which topics are to be covered each academic year and the dates each topic starts within the term, by means of the medium term planning sheet. Assemblies are incorporated within the timetable on a weekly basis and contain a prayer and liturgy.

Staff also have a timetable outlining key dates for their Class Stay, Pray and Celebrate prayer and liturgy, which are led by the children and attended by parents.

Information regarding RE events etc is included in term timetables and included on the weekly diary. Parents receive a termly RE newsletter which includes the key dates for school.

Resources

A list of all staff members and their responsibilities is available in the Staff Handbook.

All members of staff teach R.E. and take assemblies and lead prayer and liturgy.

When staff are recruited we actively look for the qualification: Catholic Teacher's Certificate, or a willingness to complete the qualification. New staff without the qualification are supported through our induction procedures and encouraged to work through the appropriate training.

Each class base has the following resources to support the To Know You More Clearly programme

- Appropriate copy of To Know You More Clearly programme/Website access
- RE Handbook
- Artefacts for prayer and liturgy displays
- Centrally Based Resources
- Good News Bibles
- Selection of Big Books – Bible stories and Other faiths
- God's Story Books 1 and 2
- The Church's Story Books 1,2 and 3
- Selection of teacher resources books including themes – Biblical, Assembly, Mass, Services, Sacraments, Prayer

Contribution to Sacramental Preparation

We believe that it is essential that Home, School and Parish work very closely together in preparing each pupil for the Sacraments.

St Aidan's Catholic Primary School fully supports the parish in their preparation of the children for the Sacraments of Confirmation, Eucharist and Reconciliation. Parents are invited to an initial meeting during which the process of preparation and the commitment required is outlined. Input from the parish priest, school and catechists is given.



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We follow the 'With You Always' Programme. This is a resource for parents and their children who are in Year

4. The resource encourages parents/carers and children to meet together with parish catechists, supported by the school, to learn about the sacraments using the family catechesis method. Parents are the first and best teachers of their children in the ways of faith as is made clear when the child is baptised. The goal of family catechesis is the evangelisation of the whole family with particular emphasis on the support of parents to pass on the faith to their children. Family catechesis helps support the Home-Parish-School partnership.

In order to achieve the aims outlined above, the children will have the opportunities in Religious Education to:

- Develop confidence, value and pleasure in Religious Education;
- Work both independently and with others, listening to others' ideas and treating these with respect;
- Be creative, flexible and show perseverance;
- Record responses, including observations of the natural and man-made environment;
- Develop a respect for the environment and for their own health and safety and that of others;
- Develop their cultural awareness and understanding and appreciate the value of differences and similarities;
- Develop an understanding that all people are equal regardless of age, race, gender or ability and that there needs to be alternative solutions to meet the needs of individuals and groups of people;
- Find enjoyment, satisfaction and purpose through Religious Education;
- Express their own ideas, feelings, thoughts and experiences through Religious Education.

Religious Education is planned and taught by the teacher or HTLA supported by Teaching Assistants throughout the school, through cross curricular links to the topics outlined in the Curriculum.

Special Educational Needs and Deeper Understanding Pupils

The school uses a variety of teaching and learning styles in Religious Education lessons. The principal aim is to develop children's knowledge, skills and understanding. Teachers ensure that the children apply their knowledge and understanding when developing ideas, planning and making products, and then evaluating them. We do this through a mixture of whole-class teaching and individual or group activities. Within lessons, we give children the opportunity both to work on their own and to collaborate with others, listening to other children's ideas and treating these with respect. Children critically evaluate existing products, their own work and that of others. They have the opportunity to use a wide range of materials and resources, including ICT.

In all classes, there are children of differing ability. We recognise this fact and provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child. We achieve this through a range of strategies:

- Setting common tasks that are open-ended and can have a variety of results;
- Setting tasks of increasing difficulty where not all children complete all tasks;
- Grouping children by ability and setting different tasks for each group;
- Providing a range of challenges through the provision of different resources;
- Using additional adults to support the work of individual children or small groups;
- Providing specialist support where individual children have particular gifts or talents.

Training and Development

- Auditing staff skills and confidence in the teaching of Religious Education on a regular basis;
 - Arranging training for individuals as required;
 - Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies is a course that is recommended by the Archdiocese and what we use within school to train and develop our staff.
 - The Religious Education Subject Leader should attend courses and support and train staff as far as possible.
- Advice regarding all aspects of Religious Education can be sought from the Religious Education subject leader and any requirements for training can be discussed and planned for.



The role of the Governors

Our governors determine, support, monitor and review the school's approach to teaching and learning. In particular, they:

- Support the use of appropriate teaching strategies by allocating resources effectively;
- Ensure that the school buildings and premises are used optimally to support teaching and learning;
- Check teaching methods in the light of health and safety regulations;
- Seek to ensure that our staff development and our performance management both promote good quality teaching;
- Monitor the effectiveness of the school's teaching and learning approaches through the school's self-review processes, which include reports from subject leaders and the termly head teacher's report to governors.

The role of Parents

We believe that parents have a fundamental role to play in helping children to learn. Every effort is made to inform parents about what and how their children are learning by:

- Holding parents' evenings to explain pupil progress;
- Sending information to parents, at the start of each term, which outlines the topics that the children will be studying during that term at school;
- Sending parents regular reports in which we explain the progress made by each child, and indicate how the child can improve further;
- Explaining to parents how they can support their children with homework, and suggesting, for example, regular shared reading with very young children, and support for older children with their projects and investigative work.

We believe that parents have the responsibility to support their children and the school in implementing school policies. We would therefore like parents to:

- Ensure that their child has the best attendance record possible;
- Ensure that their child is equipped for school with the correct uniform and PE kit;
- Do their best to keep their child healthy and fit to attend school;
- Inform school if there are matters outside of school that are likely to affect a child's performance or behaviour
- Promote a positive attitude towards school and learning in general

Monitoring and Review

We are aware of the need to monitor the school's Religious Education policy, and to review it regularly, so that we can take account of new initiatives and research, changes in the curriculum, developments in technology or changes to the physical environment of the school. We will therefore review this policy every three years, or earlier if necessary.

This policy was last up-dated on	September 2025
Discussed and agreed with Governors	10 th November 2025 (Q of Ed Meeting)
Formal Review of Policy	September 2027

Signed: _____
Headteacher, Mrs J. M. Farrimond Chair of Committee