

In our school every day we learn, love and pray.

St Edmund's Catholic Primary School

Religious Education Policy

Mission Statement

“A learning community, celebrating Christ in all, building a kingdom of love, hope and joy”

Philosophy

We will aim to place Christ and the Gospel message at the centre of all we do – to create a caring Christian environment where everyone is valued.

We believe that our Catholic school is distinguished by the quality of care extended. We promote a strong partnership between our school, parents and the parish.

We recognise that a curriculum of excellence prepares pupils for adult life morally and spiritually.

We acknowledge that at the centre of this curriculum there must be quality religious instruction and opportunities for prayer leading to an awareness of Christ and his love for us.

We aim to

- Ensure that, in partnership with home and parish, the curriculum provides a Catholic Christian setting in which children can grow in understanding and in the acquisition of skills, attitudes and values
- Ensure effective learning and teaching across the curriculum
- Promote effective use of time
- Develop children's ability to think clearly and logically
- Encourage self-respect and respect for the needs and rights of others
- Value achievement
- Prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life
- Foster an appreciation of what is beautiful and worthwhile
- Provide excellence and enjoyment for our children

Aims and Objectives

- To ensure that the whole curriculum stimulates religious growth and development, along with academic and social progress.
- To foster a love of God through knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith from doctrine and scripture.
- To develop an awareness of the way in which our beliefs make us part of a caring Christian community.
- To help our children be aware of and respect other faiths.
- To experience a living liturgy.
- To encourage the development of a personal relationship with God and to respond to Him.

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- To respect God's world.

In an atmosphere of care and acceptance, attitudes which we wish to develop are: co-operation, commitment, self-confidence, honesty, curiosity, tolerance, empathy, awe and wonder.

We achieve this by:

Teaching and Learning

- The diocesan scheme 'God Matters' plus the supplementary guidance are used to teach RE. There are nine topics studied throughout the year, many are linked to the Liturgical Year. All classes study the same topics at a level appropriate to the age of the children.
- 10% of direct teaching time is devoted to the teaching of RE.
- Weekly lesson plans include cross-curriculum links where appropriate. Children are engaged in Art, Drama, discussions and various forms of writing to express their knowledge and understanding,
- Each class has a Class Book or Big Question book in addition to the children's work books to record children's thoughts and learning.

Progression

All children follow the Study Units from the Diocese entitled "God Matters."

The programme presents a systematic presentation of the Catholic faith in the light of the teaching of Vatican II. This takes as its starting point four great documents from that Council, on Revelation, the Church, the Liturgy, and Christian Living in the modern world. The presentation is based on the liturgical cycle and the implications of our celebration of the mysteries of faith for Christian living. The themes, Creation, Incarnation and Redemption, are built into the programme according to the age of the child, so that by the end of primary school each child should have experienced a systematic presentation of the main areas of Catholic teaching and life.

This presentation of the Catholic faith puts the child at the centre of the programme.

The themes explored are:

- Community of Faith, the Church
- Celebration of Ritual, the Sacraments
- The Way of Life, Christian Living
- The children will be introduced to Scripture. Translations of the Bible used are in a language easily understood by young children, while remaining true to the context and meaning of the passage.
- The children are encouraged to explore the stories and make connections with their own lives at home, in the classroom and the playground.
- Education in PSHE and Personal Relationships are included in the Religious Education Planning and are taught with and linked to the termly RE topics.
- The scheme follows the Liturgical Year of the Church, including Holydays of Obligation, Festivals and seasons of the Church's Year.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

- Children's work is marked in line with the School's Marking Policy

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- Informal assessment of each topic is undertaken by teachers and children
- Each term one topic is formally assessed.
- Levels of attainment are recorded and given to the RE Leader who tracks pupils' RE progress across the school
- The Headteacher and RE Leader monitor the curriculum for each year group for subject content and progression and to ensure that topics have been covered each term.
- Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to parents/carers in a written report at the end of each academic year.

Monitoring

The subject is monitored in line with the School's monitoring timetable; this will take the form of lesson observations, book sampling and pupil conferencing.

Special Needs

It is intended that each pupil will grow and develop in his or her own way and at his or her pace. We recognise that all children have varying levels of Spiritual as well as learning needs and our work aims to be differentiated accordingly. (Refer to Special Needs and Inclusion Policy.)

Equal Opportunities

All pupils in our school, irrespective of ability, faith and background will have appropriate differentiated access to the Religious Education programme.

We celebrate cultural differences, and are aware of the need to look for suitable literature concerning the variety of celebrations and festivals. We seek opportunities with topics and music to widen our children's awareness of other faiths and cultures. We are always looking to develop the children's knowledge of other faiths and cultures by the addition of related reference books and artefacts in our library.

Policy reviewed **December 2016**

Policy reviewed **March 2019**

Next review date **March 2022**