



Happy in His
loving care



St Augustine Webster Catholic Voluntary Academy

Religious Education Policy

Date:	February 2024
To be reviewed:	2 Years
Policy Holder	Head teacher

Mission Statement

Mission Statement

We consider ourselves a big happy family that is welcoming, caring and successful. Our school is a place where we show mutual respect, understanding and tolerance of all people in the world, and where we take responsibility for our actions. It is a place where self-belief and confidence are nurtured but, most of all, a place where we live out our virtues and keep Christ at the centre of everything we do.

We are Happy in His Loving Care.

Rationale

In the life and faith of St Augustine Webster Catholic Voluntary Academy, Religious Education plays a vital and central part, it is the foundation of all of our teachings. At the very heart of Catholic education lies the Christian vision of the Human person. Therefore, Religious Education is never simply one subject among many, but the foundation of the entire educational process. Our Catholic beliefs and values inspire and unify every aspect of our school life. They are the basis, and an essential influence, on all that the staff and pupils at St Augustine Webster Catholic Voluntary Academy do. It is not solely taught as a curriculum area but as a way of life, promoting the Gospel values, giving praise and reverence to God. It is an opportunity for everyone to develop their own personal faith, through words and actions, and to enter into a communion with God. This is achieved through liturgy, collective worship, assemblies, lessons and roles and responsibilities throughout the school, which deepen our Catholic life and highlight our belief that Christ is at the centre of all that we do.

Aims & Objectives

We strive to develop opportunities for each child to grow spiritually in their faith. This includes the deepening of knowledge and understanding of key theological ideas and their application to life. Through Religious Education lessons, delivered using the 'Come and See' programme, we work to develop independent thinking and the ability to express personal faith experiences.

These can be summarised as stating that Religious Education in a Catholic school is the comprehensive and systematic study of:

- The mystery of God and His creation
- The life and teachings of Jesus Christ
- The teachings of the church
- The central beliefs that Catholics hold, the basis for them and the relationship between faith and life

Through Religious Education children will also be encouraged to:

- Investigate and reflect
- Develop appropriate skills and attitudes
- Deepen their religious and theological understanding and to communicate this effectively
- Relate their Catholic faith to everyday life
- Foster their spiritual development by experiencing the love of God through worship, witness and work
- Develop a sense of responsibility, self-confidence, self-respect, self-discipline and acceptable behaviour, including respect and sensitivity for other people's way of life. This will hopefully prepare each child for his/her life in a multi-ethnic society.

Religious education is a way of life and as part of this journey we strive to work closely together within the parish community and with our Parish Priest, Canon Matthew. This is so we can raise pupils' awareness of our faith and traditions, and that of other communities, in order for each child to gain a greater understanding and respect.

In the words of the Curriculum Directory 2012, the outcome of Catholic 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.”

Religious Education in the Classroom

Since the whole curriculum in Catholic schools is based on the values of the Gospel, the link between faith and life and because we see all education as revealing the mystery of God, we recognise two aspects of Religious Education at St Augustine Webster Catholic Voluntary Academy:

- (a) Implicit or unstructured Religious Education – this deals with the opportunities which occur in the school day which leads pupils through curriculum content or
- (b)

through relationships to a “religious understanding.” It is our policy to utilise all of these opportunities as they arise.

- (b) Explicit or curriculum Religious Education – those planned or timetabled periods of time given to a systematic studying of Religious Education in the classroom.

It requires 10% of the length of the taught week for each key stage of Education. (This translates to 2 ½ hours per week in Foundation and Key Stage 1 and 2 ½ hours per week at Key Stage 2). This time does not include time for Collective Worship and hymn practice. The teaching of Religious Education must be clearly indicated on each class timetable.

We believe that excellence in the teaching of Religious Education will be characterised by clear religious learning objectives and of key content, by appropriate methodologies, rigour, rich resources, and achievement of identified outcomes and accurate methods of assessment. Classroom R.E. will be a challenging educational experience between the pupil and the teacher using appropriate subject material.

Display

In order to highlight the importance of Religious Education and the Catholic ethos of the school, displays of a religious nature should be evident in each classroom throughout the year. Similarly, such displays should be encouraged in corridors and at appropriate times of the year in the school entrance. An R.E. / Prayer focus area should be encouraged as a focal point in each classroom. This area should have at least cloth of the appropriate liturgical colour, a crucifix, a candle and a Bible. Statues, artefacts and posters should be prominently displayed whenever possible and changed on a regular basis.

‘A Catholic School which promotes the best possible teaching of religious education is fulfilling its true purpose.’ Bishops’ Statement Jan 2000

Programme of Study

To fulfil our aims and objectives we use the “Come and See” programme of work, as recommended by the Diocese, for the whole school, from Foundation to Year Six. Each year group has its own set of topics within the programme. Work is planned according to 3 Attainment Targets

- AT1 – Knowledge and understanding (What do I know?)
- AT2- Living out what we know in our lives, relationships and behaviour (How can I live it out?)
- AT3 – Further thought, wondrous moments, questions which we find difficult to answer (What do I wonder about?)

Planning should include an element of each Attainment Target within all topics.

- Explore – generally AT2/AT3
- Reveal – covers all of AT1 along with some elements of AT2/AT3
- Respond – generally AT2/AT3

Other Faiths are taught in line with the thinking of the church, the aim being to encourage in the children a greater understanding through a greater knowledge. Teaching formally about other faiths begins in Foundation onwards. Two faiths are studied each year for one week each. Each year Judaism is studied and one other faith chosen from Hinduism, Sikhism or Islam. We do not look at other faiths in comparison to Catholicism but rather in terms of what practising the other World Faiths looks like for believers. Understanding, respect and tolerance are key elements of our programmes of study.

The “Come and See” scheme provides a key focus and objectives to be covered by each year group.

Teaching

In line with the four areas of study, set out in the Curriculum Directory 2012:

- Revelation: God speaks – finding meaning in life
- Church: Christ the light of the nations – Community of Faith
- Christian Living: Joy and hope – Way of life
- Sacraments: Liturgy – Celebration

Each term the following themes are explored:

- The Church
- A sacrament
- Christian living

Church Sacrament Christian living

	Church	Sacrament	Christian Living
Advent Term	My Family – Domestic Church	EYFS, KS1 and Yr 3 – Baptism Yr 4 – Confirmation Yr 5 – Marriage Yr 6 - Ordination	Celebrating Life – Advent and Christmas
Lent Term	My Parish – Local church	The Eucharist Yr 3 Reconciliation	Cost of Life – Lent and Easter
Pentecost Term	My Worldwide Community – Universal Church	Reconciliation Yr 3 - Eucharist Yr 6 – Anointing of the sick	Feasts to celebrate – Pentecost and the Ascension

“The Catechism of the Catholic Church addresses the human search for meaning, God’s initiative in Revelation who comes to meet us and our response of faith. This pattern guides the structure of the “Come and See” programme and informs the process of each topic.” (Come and See)

This is done through a process of: **EXPLORE, REVEAL** and **RESPOND** over a period of 4 weeks.

EXPLORE (search – Beginning of each topic) – An introduction to the topic where the children explore their own life experiences. They will explore themselves, their relationships and their world.

REVEAL (revelation) - This is the heart of the programme where knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith is revealed through the word, in scripture, tradition, prayers and Christian living.

RESPOND (response – During week 4, at the end of the topic) - This area has three parts; Remember, Rejoice and Renew. There is no new learning during this week. This week consolidates what the children have been taught. During this week the children are given the opportunity to plan a Collective Worship, to celebrate their learning, and to respond to what they have learnt.

In each academic year the themes are covered as follows:

THEMES & TOPICS	EYFS	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6
Domestic Church FAMILY	MYSELF	FAMILIES	BEGINNINGS	HOMES	PEOPLE	OURSELVES	LOVING
Baptism/Confirmation BELONGING	WELCOME	BELONGING	SIGNS & SYMBOLS	PROMISES	CALLED	LIFE CHOICES	VOCATION & COMMITMENT
Advent/Christmas LOVING	BIRTHDAY	WAITING	PREPARATIONS	VISITORS	GIFTS	HOPE	EXPECTATIONS
Local Church COMMUNITY	CELEBRATING	SPECIAL PEOPLE	BOOKS	JOURNEYS	COMMUNITY	MISSION	SOURCES
Eucharist RELATING	GATHERING	MEALS	THANKSGIVING	CHOICES	GIVING & RECEIVING	MEMORIAL SACRIFICE	UNITY
Lent/Easter GIVING	GROWING	CHANGE	OPPORTUNITIES	GIVING ALL	SELF DISCIPLINE	SACRIFICE	DEATH & NEW LIFE
Pentecost SERVING	GOOD NEWS	HOLIDAYS & HOLIDAYS	SPREAD THE WORD	ENERGY	NEW LIFE	TRANSFORMATION	WITNESSES
Reconciliation INTER-RELATING	FRIENDS	BEING SORRY	RULES	LISTENING & SHARING	BUILDING BRIDGES	FREEDOM & RESPONSIBILITY	HEALING
Universal Church WORLD	OUR WORLD	NEIGHBOURS	TREASURES	SPECIAL PLACES	GOD'S PEOPLE	STEWARDSHIP	COMMON GOOD

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

Assessment is focused on the overall aims and objectives of Religious Education. In “Come and See”, it is related to the concepts, skills and attitudes to be developed through the exploration of themes and the learning outcomes for each topic. Assessment will establish what pupils know, understand and what they can do. It does not assess faith or the practice of faith. There is now a focus on assessing achievement and progress according to diocesan end of year expectations in line with other core subjects.

Ongoing Assessments

Assessment should include: -

- Use of ‘I Can’ target sheets for each topic at the appropriate level
- Knowledge of the End of Year Expectations
- General observations of children engaged in tasks and activities in the classroom.
- Note of contributions made to classroom displays.
- Review: end of task, activity, lesson, and topic.
- Marking of more formal written work.

Foundation Stage – at least 1 piece of recorded work per topic studied

Key Stage 1 - 3 to 4 pieces of recorded work per topic studied

Key Stage 2 - 4 – 6 pieces of recorded work per topic studied

At the end of every term, attainment is recorded on ‘OTrack’, in line with the other core subjects, to enable progress to be tracked. Children should be assessed as being one of the following:

Below – Working below the end of year expectations for their year group

Emerging – Working within the end of year expectations for their year group but at a lower level

Expected – Working within the end of year expectations for their year group at the age -related level

Exceeding – Working beyond their age-related level.

These levels are outlined by the Diocese through the ‘I Can’ statements and Diocesan End of Year Expectations.

Formal Assessment

Assessment of pupils’ work is a necessary part of the learning process. Its purpose includes the affirmation of attainment and achievement, the necessary recording and reporting of pupil progress and helping the pupil to take the next step in learning.

In line with the Diocesan guidelines, one piece of work per term is formally assessed. This piece of work is set through the Diocese, on a termly basis, and is built around one of the learning foci in the “Come and See” programme.

This planned activity takes place to allow the pupils to respond at different levels.

Baseline Assessment is also carried out in line with Diocesan guidelines. This baseline assessment is done in the Foundation stage when each child starts school. It is then logged and repeated towards the end of the academic year. The results from each assessment are compared in order to provide Year one with sufficient information regarding the needs of each child and to ensure progression in Religious Education for each child.

Recording

Work is presented in a variety of ways across the school, both written and oral. In written pieces, children must present work as they would in English and other subjects and there is the expectation that it will be neat, clear and well organised. Throughout topics, children are encouraged to actively listen and interact with others to discuss issues and form opinions. This shared learning enables children to express their own ideas, listen to those of others and grow in their understanding.

Recorded work should include: - written work, photographs, role-play (photographed), artwork, scripture work and displayed pieces of work. Each piece of work must have a clear objective from the learning foci set out in the scheme. Photographed work must be annotated.

A creative approach to the Religious Education is used when planning lessons and so the choice of presentation is dependent upon the learning taking place. All activities are planned through deep consideration of how the learning objective can be best achieved and how mastery can be embedded.

The recording of work provides evidence of achievement and pupil involvement. Work will also be evidenced in other forms such as:

- Notes from observations
- Written comments on children's work, in line with school marking policy, to help make the child aware of how they can improve their work. Showing evidence that children have responded to their next steps.
- Visual evidence e.g. photographs and video recordings of children's work
- Class/school portfolios
- Pupils self-assessment

Reporting

- Provides feedback to the pupils
- Informs teacher colleagues of individual achievement and areas studied
- Informs parents of child's progress and achievements
- Informs parents, governors, parish and external agencies of the content and quality of Religious Education being provided and the achievements of the pupils

A verbal report is given to parents at Parents' Evening in the Advent and Lent terms. Religious Education is the heart of the whole curriculum and is formally reported on the annual written report sent to parents during the Summer Term.

Leadership of Religious Education

Religious Education is the responsibility of the R.E. subject leader and the Headteacher. Their role is to monitor and assess the R.E. curriculum throughout the school to ensure continuity and progression. They also ensure that the aims and learning outcomes in the Curriculum Directory are identified and fulfilled. They meet with, and inform, school Governors of developments in religious education and liaises closely with the staff of the school to fulfil their monitoring duties.

Monitoring and Review

The R.E. Subject Leader regularly reviews resources. Along with the Headteacher, they are responsible for monitoring the standards of the children's work and the quality of the teaching in Religious Education. She is also responsible for supporting colleagues in the teaching of Religious Education, for being informed about current developments in the subject and for providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in the school. The RE Subject Lead has allocated time to review the delivery of Religious Education, monitor and evidence children's work, update action plans and support school staff. The Headteacher reports to Governors termly, in-line with the priorities on the School Development Plan.

Book looks take place termly. Feedback is then given to all staff. Lesson visits in Religious Education lessons are carried out by the Headteacher and R.E. Subject Lead throughout the course of the year.

Equality Statement

We have a legal duty under the Equality Act 2010, in respect of safeguarding and in respect of pupils with special educational needs (SEN).

The curriculum is inclusive and facilitates the needs of all children regardless of their age, size, mobility, gender, ethnicity and ability. Our planning aims to foster an appreciation of each other's cultures and beliefs along with the promotion of a healthy and positive self-image. This is linked to the school's role as a Christian community, Special Education Needs and Inclusion.

Review

We acknowledge that this policy and our understanding of learning need to be reflective and open to new research in order for our teaching to be successful. The Headteacher and staff will review this policy during January 2025. Any suggested amendments will be presented to the Governing Body.