

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Reviewed: January 2025

To be reviewed: January 2028

***This policy will be updated in line with the whole school
using the Religious Education Directory.***

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



RE POLICY

'Living, Loving and Learning as followers of Jesus Christ.'

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In the life of the Catholic School, Religious Education plays a vital and pivotal part. The religious growth of the children will be nurtured in a happy, stimulating, secure and caring Catholic Ethos. Our R.E. curriculum actively contributes towards the aims specified in the school's Mission Statement. We provide a broad and varied R.E. curriculum, through a variety of teaching approaches and learning situations, to meet the needs of all our pupils. We use the 'Come & See' programme in Years 4, 5 and 6, embedding 'To know you more clearly' from the RED in EYFS, Years 1, 2 and 3 over the last 2 years. 'A Journey in Love' throughout the school at different points of the year.

The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of all staff. The whole curriculum of a Catholic school is based on the values of the Gospels and because we see all education as revealing the mystery of God. It is also implemented by the use of rich storytelling form scripture and role play. We recognise the following aspects of Religious Education:

- Opportunities which arise in the course of the school day through the curriculum or through relationships, which lead pupils to 'Living, loving, learning...' It is the policy of this school to use such opportunities as they arise in conjunction with the PSHE curriculum.
- Planned for lessons.
- As well as school, the home and Parish are also responsible for the Religious Education of children. Parents and carers are the first educators and so the co-operation and support of parents are indispensable at every stage of the child's religious, spiritual and moral education.
- In the religious development of the child in a catholic school the atmosphere and ethos of the school is vitally important to foster the idea of community. The ethos must be tangible so that children can sense what is important and respond accordingly.

### **INCLUSION:**

At Holy Family we recognise our responsibility to provide a broad and balanced curriculum for all our pupils. All aspects of the curriculum reflect the three principles essential to developing a more inclusive curriculum.

- Setting suitable learning challenges.
- Responding to pupils' diverse learning needs.
- Overcoming potential barriers to learning and assessment for individuals and groups of pupils.

***Come and See - Inclusion ~ Community cohesion:***

Catholic schools will develop a range of attitudes and activities that promote and support the dignity and worth of everyone. The commitment of the Catholic Church to interfaith dialogue and to working with other Christians provides a further basis for young peoples' contribution to peaceful social cohesion.

***Come and See supports and enables the faith experience of all children because it starts with their real life experience and leads them to reflect upon and consider the Christian message in all its richness in that experience.***

AIMS – taken from RED 2024:

The aims of Religious Education are:

1. To engage in a systematic study of the mystery of God, of the life and teaching 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;
2. To enable pupils continually to deepen their religious and theological understanding and be able to communicate this effectively;
3. To present an authentic vision of the Church's moral and social teaching to provide pupils with a sure guide for living and the tools to critically engage with contemporary culture and society;
4. To give pupils an understanding of the religions and worldviews present in the world today and the skills to engage in respectful and fruitful dialogue with those whose worldviews differ from their own;
5. To develop the critical faculties of pupils so to bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture;
6. To stimulate pupils' imagination and provoke a desire for personal meaning as revealed in the truth of the Catholic faith;
7. To enable pupils to relate the knowledge gained through religious education to their understanding of other subjects in the curriculum.

Outcome of Religious Education:

The outcome of excellent Religious Education is religiously literate and consciously 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 recognise the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.

***Come and See*** offers the opportunity to search, to explore, to discover, and to respond; this is part of what it is to be human.

***Catholic schools are guided in all they do by an important and coherent vision of education. According to 'Come and See' - This vision is based on the truth revealed by God about ourselves, our life together in community and our ultimate destiny with God. This gives rise to an educational endeavour centred on the person of Jesus Christ, who is our Way, Truth and Life.***

The aims of Religious Education at Holy Family are:

- clear religious learning objectives
- key content
- to teach appropriate methodologies
- to use of a variety of resources
- achievable learning outcomes
- accurate methods of assessment

The outcome of 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.'*

Religious Education Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools 2012

#### **IMPLEMENTATION/CONTENT:**

Years 4, 5 and 6 children at Holy Family follows the religious programme 'Come and See'; however, Reception and Years 1, 2 and 3 follow the new RED. In 'Come and See' links are made with pupils' experiences and with the experience of other faith traditions.

The aims of the programmes are as follows:

- To help pupils recognise and appreciate the religious and spiritual dimensions of life
- To create a religious ethos of love and understanding between staff and pupils

We will endeavour to ensure that all adults involved, teachers, parents, teaching assistants etc. understand the theological principals underpinning the children's religious education as well as how the programme works and its educational value. This will be provided through regular training and updates. Explanations will be given in the school newsletter.

To fulfil our aims and objectives we use the 'Come and See' programme recommended by the Liverpool Archdiocese, which explores the religious dimension of questions about life, dignity and purpose within the Catholic tradition. Links are made with both the pupils' own and universal experiences. Links are also made with the experience of other faith traditions. The programme is, therefore, objective and subjective, and for all children will raise questions and provide reflection material for their own experience.

We are embedding the Religious Education Directory in line with guidance from the Archdiocese of Liverpool. This includes Reception Years 1, 2 and 3 and will have been introduced in Year 4 by the end of the academic year 2025/26.

Holy Family 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 attend an initial meeting during which the process of preparation and the commitment is outlined. Input from the parish priest, school and catechists is given. 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 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.

Our R.E. programme will include learning intentions, which take into account the religious and educational needs of all our children:

- those from supportive Catholic homes.
- those for whom the school maybe the first and perhaps only experience of church.
- those from other Christian backgrounds.
- those from other faith backgrounds.

**The following strategies and aims underpin the effective delivery of religious education in the Catholic school (page 11 Come and See)**

- Religious education will be taught discretely and developmentally. It will include the deepening of knowledge, and understanding of key theological ideas and their application to life.
- Ample opportunities will be offered for children to apply and use their knowledge and skills in cross-curricular studies to deepen their understanding of religious truths and think creatively.
- Engagement with their own and others' beliefs and values will help to develop good attitudes and dispositions so that children are instilled with a love of learning and a desire to go on learning.
- Engagement with difficult questions of meaning and purpose which everyone has to face will enable them to think critically about their own questions of meaning and purpose.
- Offer the children a sense of self-worth through their experience of belonging to a caring community and an awareness of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.

Our R.E. programme will provide many opportunities for celebrating joyfully and prayerfully through music and in quiet times of reflection. This will take place in class, during our termly 'Stay and Pray' sessions, assemblies and whole school celebrations.

Our R.E. programme will be appropriate to the age and developmental stage of each child.

## **THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTORY (RED):**

The RED is Scripture based. It follows the story of Jesus, and it is an invitation to Know Him more clearly. It allows children to get to know Him, to journey with Him through His life, death and resurrection.

The RED is taught through six curriculum branches: Creation and Covenant; Prophecy and Promise; Galilee to Jerusalem; Desert to Garden; To the ends of the earth; Dialogue and Encounter.

In each lesson, children explore their learning through four knowledge lenses: Hear/Word; Believe/Creed; Celebrate/Liturgy; Live/Life.

Come and See:

Domestic church - Family  
Baptism/Confirmation - Belonging  
Advent/Christmas - Loving  
Local church - Community  
Eucharist - Relating  
Lent/Easter - Giving  
Pentecost - Serving  
Reconciliation - Inter-relating  
Universal Church - World

The class teacher will ensure differentiation according to each child's ability and with the support of the differentiated tasks suggested in Come and See. This will be evident in the planning and evaluation.

For all children the programme will raise questions and provide material for reflecting on their own experience. It will help them to explore the beliefs, values and way of life of the Catholic tradition and where appropriate of other faith traditions.

## **THEMES:**

*Come and See is developed through three themes based on the above documents of the Second Vatican Council, which are gradually explored each time at greater depths. They are Church, Sacrament and Christian living.*

*The basic question belief for each season time is explored through three kinds of themes.*  
*Community of faith - Church*

*Celebration in ritual - Sacraments*  
*Way of life - Christian Living*

## PLANNING:

GATHER: Consider how the children will begin the celebration.

LISTEN (The Word): Some scripture read or enacted

RESPONSE: How will the children respond to all they have heard?

GO FORTH: How will the children take away the message?

The short-term planning is the responsibility of the class teachers. Under the direction of the R.E. coordinator, teachers use the provided planning pages and the Come and See website to plan. The R. E. also coordinator downloads all materials submitted onto the archdiocesan share point and shares it with the appropriate colleagues for each new topic.

Through their planning teachers:

- Allocate time (2 ½ hours per week) for learning outcomes to be achieved (annotating their planner with the date on which lessons are taught).
- Plan the topic to ensure achievement of the three learning outcomes.
- Select appropriate activities for the whole class or groups.
- Indicate opportunities for assessment and follow Formal Assessment guidance.

### Cross Curricular Links:

When planning R.E. we recognise that there is a great deal of scope for cross- curricular work and integration with other subjects. At Holy Family we seek to develop learning across the curriculum through R.E. wherever opportunities arise e.g. PSHE, Geography Science, Eco-schools – Live Simply opportunities.

### Information and Communication Technology:

At Holy Family we believe that ICT is crucial in enabling children to function efficiently in any curriculum area. It enhances all areas of the curriculum, allowing all children to achieve and exceed expectations. The skills that children develop are encompassed into everyday activities and challenges within the classroom environment.

As with all areas of the Curriculum the overall purpose of differentiation in R.E. is:

- To enable children to succeed in an activity.
- To challenge children beyond their comfort zone of knowledge, understanding and skills.
- To enable children to recognise their achievements and celebrate these.

## PUPIL PROGRESSION/ASSESSMENT:

At Holy Family, assessment is focused by our 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 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 ***Come and See*** emphasises a wide range of achievement. Throughout the period of time embedding the RED, R.E. coordinator continues to moderate work with cluster groups to ensure continuity and quality of work.

In our school it involves informal assessment through:

- observation of children engaged in classroom activities
- observation of contributions made to displays
- discussion or questioning
- marking of more formal work

A note is kept on the planning sheets of those achieving above or below expectations as indicated by the Standards of Attainment and skill words.

Assessment is carried out through class assessments at the end a specified topic – one per term as set out below on the 3-year assessment planner.

RE is a core subject, so assessment and tracking take the model that the school has for maths and English. We will be assessing the skills taught through Come and See/RED. The decision will be how securely children are achieving year group expectations. Progression between classes is shown largely through different driver words and the extent to which the pupils can make links between the different topics they have experienced. It is not content based. Each year group needs their appropriate sheet, even though they are on the same topic as their peers.

Each term after the teachers assesses the level of the children, considering written and verbal observations and evidence. We will record on the class tracking sheet which band in the age-related expectations each child falls into. A judgement will be made using the teacher's assessment. A range of evidence will be used to reach this assessment such as photographs, pupil discussion, books, and lesson observation. This is a best fit. Greater depth (GDS) is where pupils show the ability to draw appropriate links and therefore needs all developing and most of the secure statements.

The end of term judgement is the band they are working within, not the one they have completed, but children need to have achieved half they are in that band. Secure can only be achieved when most of the standard has been met.

#### **EXPECTATIONS:**

In each topic, teachers are offered brief summaries of what children can be expected to know, understand and be able to do. As for other curriculum subjects, these are expressed in terms of level summaries using the driver words. They provide support for the tasks of differentiation, assessment, recording and reporting.

#### **STANDARDS OF ATTAINMENT:**

There are 3 standards (and 3 assessment sheets) that a child can be working through if they are working within their age-related expectations. Similarly, to how we assess maths and English they can be:

- WTS (working towards expected standard)
- EXS (at the expected standard)
- GDS (above expected standard)

#### **RECORDING:**

Children's work provides evidence of their achievement. The R.E. marking policy has been adapted to fit in with the new whole school marking policy. Pupils will be given one, two or three ticks next to the lesson objective depending on the extent of their understanding within the lesson. At certain points within the relevant section, pupils will receive a positive, constructive comment, which challenges and encourages high standards with time for pupil

reflective comments. Pupils are often involved in self-assessment and dialogue with the class teacher regarding their work.

### **MONITORING:**

The procedures for monitoring, reviewing and evaluating the teaching of Religious Education and the monitoring of teaching are as follows: -

- monitoring of R.E. work
- monitoring of planning
- observations
- ensuring that each class has a 'prayer table' in class and a 'R.E.' display area.
- Class led Prayer and Liturgy

### **RESOURCES AND DISPLAYS:**

A special area is set-aside in each classroom. A prayer table or prayer area is intended to act as a focus for pupils during times of worship and quiet times. A special focus may be displayed for the week's theme, or a crucifix, candle or other artefact may be used as a centering object during prayer. Each class also has a Come and See display board, situated close to the class prayer table (where possible).

Pop up prayer spaces are made available for children throughout the year, with a quiet prayer space outside Miss Hilton's room all year. This creates opportunities for quiet reflection outside of lesson time. This provides an opportunity for spontaneous prayer for both adults and children.

All staff have access to a number of copies of 'God's Story'. 'Church Story', and 'Good News' Bibles appropriate to the age of the children being taught. In addition, there is a wide variety of story books and resource books e.g. Art in Religious Education for staff to use to supplement the curriculum. We also have resources to support Collective Worship, key Religious events and the teaching of other faiths.