

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING



**ST. URSULA'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Religious Education Policy

*“With God at the heart of our St Ursula’s family, we welcome all as we learn
and grow together”*

Spring 2023

Mission Statement

With God at the heart of our St Ursula's family, we welcome all as we learn and grow together.

Rationale of Religious Education:

The purpose of Religious Education at St Ursula's Catholic Primary School is to nurture the Catholic Faith, and its teachings, in our children. Our mission is to help the children in our school to know God and to recognise his presence in others. By helping them to live this faith, we hope to encourage our children to develop a better relationship with God and others around them. Central to our ethos are the opportunities for prayer and worship which lie at the heart of our faith. The ethos of the school is of great importance and we seek to create an atmosphere of love and respect, among all in our school community.

Children of other faiths and none, who attend the school are warmly welcomed and nurtured as part of our school learning community. Attendance and respect at acts of collective worship is expected, and seen as support of the Catholic ethos in action.

Our diocese (Brentwood) describes the role of RE in its Catholic schools thus:

Religious Education in schools sows the dynamic seed of the Gospel and seeks to 'keep in touch with the other elements of the pupil's knowledge and education; thus the Gospel will impregnate the mentality of the students in the field of their learning, and the harmonization of their culture will be achieved in the light of faith.' It is necessary, therefore, that Religious Education in schools be regarded as an academic discipline with the same systematic demands and the same rigour as other disciplines. It must present the Christian message and the Christian event with the same seriousness and the same depth with which other disciplines present their knowledge.¹

We place great value on respect for the individual. We encourage everyone to be honest, tolerant, just and forgiving of one another and we recognize that each person who is a part of the St Ursula's Catholic Primary School community; staff, children and parents, is on their own personal journey of faith, and are all at different stages.

With this in mind we recognise that as mentioned in the Religious Education Curriculum Directory, the outcome of 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.²

Our Aims:

1. To provide staff, children and their families with the knowledge, understanding and awareness of the Catholic faith and its beliefs
2. To enable staff, children and their families to communicate with God through prayer and scripture
3. To encourage staff, children and their families to grow spiritually.
4. To help staff, children and their families to explore and express their sense of awe and wonder at the world God has created
5. To encourage staff, children and their families to develop their respect, tolerance and understanding of those holding different beliefs, faiths and cultures
6. To help staff, children and their families grow in awareness of themselves and to develop a positive attitude to their own emotions, life, and learning
7. To encourage awareness of issues involving social justice and the rights of the individual, particularly through awareness of the Universal church
8. To present a comprehensive content which engages pupils and is the basis of knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith;

¹ *Policy for Religious Education in Primary Schools*, February 2015

² *Religious Education Curriculum Directory*, Catholic Bishops' Conference, 2012, p. 6

9. To enable pupils continually to deepen their religious and theological understanding and be able to communicate this effectively including through pupil voice groups e.g. RE Monitors and Pupil Chaplains.
10. To bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture.³

Curriculum time allocation:

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

KS1 2hr/Wk

KS2 2 ½ hr/Wk

Programme of Study:

R.E is central to the curriculum at St Ursula's Catholic Primary School. To fulfil the above aims and to address the 4 areas of study outlined in the Curriculum Directory for catholic schools – Revelation, Church, Celebration and Life in Christ - Come and See programme is used as recommended by the Diocese.

One of the scheme's goals is to improve the children's knowledge of Scripture and each year group and topic has a specific Scripture focus, which builds progressively from year to year, ensuring that the children leave with a good grounding in the Old Testament as well as the New Testament.

Each topic follows the Explore, Reveal, Respond process. In Explore the children discuss similar issues in situations of which they have experience. In Reveal the children are introduced to the new knowledge in the unit. While in respond they engage with the new knowledge and reflect on what it means to them and to their lives and actions as

Christians. Each unit ends with a celebration of the new knowledge which contributes to their appreciation of the love God has for them.

Assessment, Monitoring, Recording and Reporting

In the Come and See programme, assessment is covered by the Respond section which involves:

- looking back to recognise and value what has gone before.
- reflecting on the present.
- looking forward to plan the future.

Each topic is assessed by either pupil, teacher or by both using the 'I can' statements or the assessment outcomes of the topic within the programme. At the end of KS1 & KS2 every child will be assessed by their class teacher and awarded a level appropriate to their performance in R.E. In line with the National Curriculum method of assessing attainment, and supported by David Quinn's (RE, Diocese of Nottingham) Expectations Grid, children's performance in RE will be assessed as accessing/meeting/exceeding.

Each teacher keeps a class record of assessed work and records of pupils' progress and these are used to inform and differentiate future planning. The subject leader also holds this information to help ensure consistency and as an aid to reviewing medium term planning.

Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to parents/carers in the half termly written reports and this is explained to parents at regular parent teacher consultations throughout the year.

Governors monitor pupil progress through annual Book Looks or Learning Walks. They provide written feedback to the Executive Headteacher, RE Subject Lead and staff.

Management of the subject

The R.E subject leader alongside SLT, monitors work through regular observations (including drop-ins), book scrutinies and by collecting samples of work for the school portfolio in order to track pupils' progress over the years.

³ *Religious Education Curriculum Directory*, Catholic Bishops' Conference, 2012, p. 6

Regular staff meetings and CPD's are devoted to RE and include a focus on assessment and moderating of pupils' performance. Daily collective worship is also monitored, as is the children's participation and engagement in parish mass.

Other Faiths

We believe that learning about other faiths and cultures is essential for children to have a better understanding of their own faith and culture. It is also fundamental to encouraging tolerance and respect, vital British values to which St Ursula's Catholic Primary School adheres.

The Come and See programme integrates the teaching of Other Faiths, and allows for learning with progression across the year groups. All children study different aspects of Judaism, Sikhism and Islam each year and time is allocated for the study of other faiths, ensuring a good accumulative knowledge by the time they leave primary school. Visits to places of worship of other faiths and visitors are carefully planned into the curriculum.

Equal Opportunities

St Ursula's Catholic Primary School aims to give all children irrespective of age, background or ability equal access to learning opportunities. For religious education, this means equal opportunity to reflect on their life experiences and to understand their own and other people's responses to those experiences in the context of religious belief and practice. Children with learning disabilities and most able children should be allowed to express themselves according to their ability, for example by using art to record ideas and thoughts where writing skills are less developed.

There are a wide variety of activities through which children are able to convey their responses and new knowledge and understanding can be gained. In considering teaching approaches, it is important to bear in mind the different ways in which children might prefer to make responses, depending on their particular strengths and abilities: -

- a) verbal response
- b) written response
- c) drawing
- d) acting
- e) participation
- f) singing

All work is valued. We are aware of children's various cultural, social, and ethnic backgrounds and are sensitive in our approach and the use of materials. Teachers are expected to differentiate learning experiences so that all children can meet their full potential.

Policy review

This policy will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed by SLT and the Governing body and updated every 2 years.

APPENDIX 1

The Role of the Co-ordinator for Religious Education

The Religious Education co-ordinator is responsible to the Head Teacher for the following:

- The co-ordination of all Religious Education work throughout the school.
- Working with senior leaders on monitoring teaching and learning, planning and standards through lesson observations and work scrutinies according to school practice.
- Attending appropriate training and keeping up to date with current thinking, policy and developments and feeding back to staff.
- Identifying training needs of staff to ensure their suitability to teach effective Religious Education.
- Supporting and advising colleagues in the preparation and implementation of the Come and See programme.
- Auditing, managing and developing resources within a given budget.
- The building of close links between school and parish community.
- The liaison with parish priest in organisation of school celebrations.
- The production and evaluation of the school Religious Education Policy Document.
- Collaboration with other Catholic schools to produce an exemplar of RE work.
- Working with RE leaders from KS3 to develop a transition programme of study.
- Meeting with and organising the work of the pupil groups for RE i.e. RE Monitors and Pupil Chaplains