



St. Cuthbert's R.C.
Primary School Hartlepool

Religious Education Policy

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Author: - J M Wilson / E Daly

Religious Education Policy

Mission Statement

"Let the light of Christ shine in us all."

Rationale of Religious Education

"Catholics believe that Religious Education is not one subject amongst many, but the foundation of the entire education process. The beliefs and values it communicates should inspire and unify every aspect of school life". (Bishops Conference of England and Wales, 1988) We also recognise that our children come from a range of backgrounds and abilities and that our teaching of Religious Education will reflect this (*'The Religious Education Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools'* p.9)

Aims and Objectives

The Catholic vision of education promotes the dignity and freedom of every person as created in the image and likeness of God. This vision inspires and encourages the beliefs and values that are lived out in the daily life of the Catholic school. Within this vision, religious education is very much a journey of formation involving every member of the school community, together with a pupil's family and parish community. It is in this context that the three elements of religious education, catechises and evangelisation, co-exist, providing mutual support and reinforcement.

For all children Religious Education is the core of the school's curriculum. It is a rigorous academic discipline, and as such, it is to be taught, developed and resourced with the same commitment as any other subject. For those already engaged in the journey of faith religious education will be catechises, and for some children and young people religious education will be evangelisation, the first opportunity to hear the good news of the gospel.

The Aims of Curriculum Religious Education in St. Cuthbert's School are to promote:

- Knowledge and understanding of Catholic faith and life.
- Knowledge and understanding of the response of faith to the ultimate questions about human life, its origin and purpose.
- The skills required to engage in examination of and reflection upon religious belief and practice.

The Objectives of curriculum Religious Education in St. Cuthbert's School are:

- To develop knowledge and understanding of the mystery of God and of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit and the Church, and of the central beliefs which Catholics hold.
- To develop awareness and appreciation of Catholic belief, understanding of its impact on personal and social behaviour and of the vital relationship between faith and life, life and faith.

- To encourage study, investigation and reflection by the pupils.
- To develop appropriate skills: for example, ability to listen, to think critically, spiritually, ethically and theologically; to acquire knowledge and organise it effectively, to make informed judgements.
- To foster appropriate attitudes: for example, respect for truth; respect for the views of others; awareness of the spiritual, of moral responsibility, of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life and especially the challenge of living in a multicultural, multi-faith society.

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

Religious Education in the Classroom

Since the total curriculum in our school is based on the values of the Gospel and because we see all education as revealing the mystery of God, we recognise two aspects of Religious Education in the school:

- a) Implicit, or unstructured Religious Education - those opportunities which arise in the course of a school day to lead pupils through curriculum content or through relationships to a religious understanding of their implications. It is the policy of this school to use such opportunities as they arise.
- b) Explicit, or curriculum Religious Education - those time tabled or planned periods of time given to an explicit consideration of Religious Education in the classroom. It is the policy of this school to give 10% of the timetable at Key Stage 1 and 10% at Key Stage 2.

Programmes of Study

To fulfil our Aims and Objectives we use the '**Come and See**' programme to adhere to the **Curriculum Directory**, as prescribed by the Diocese. We will continue to use the Planning Sheets provided by the Diocese to help us to do this.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

We recognise that assessment, recording and reporting are a natural part of teaching and are integral to the learning process. They are continuous processes requiring a close partnership between teachers and pupils, and the involvement of others as appropriate. They are the responsibility of all teachers.

We believe that assessment is at the heart of good teaching and informs future planning. Good assessment strategies will be rooted in effective planning. All planning will take account of the concepts, attitudes, skills and knowledge highlighted in '*The Religious Education Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools*' (p10)

Teachers' long, medium and where applicable, short term planning will be a collaborative process which assists continuity and progression.

Teachers will ensure that by the end of a Key Stage, all appropriate Attainment Target strands are assessed at least once.

All teachers will use the agreed planning document from the Diocese.
Pupils are encouraged to 'self assess' their work where appropriate.

All planning will identify specific assessment strategies for each topic, which will be integrated into our teaching. Assessment will also take place through general observation, end of lesson reviews, and end of task reviews, marking and commenting of work and through the end of topic activities within 'Come and See.'

Marking pupils' work will be approached positively and constructively so that it affirms and celebrates success relating to the task's learning objective and informs pupils of their next steps through responsive marking.

Reporting

Reporting of Religious Education will provide feedback to pupils on their achievement and progress. It will be a means of information for parents, which contributes to our partnership with them. It will offer opportunities for discussion and collaboration developing the part played by both in the child's education.

The Religious Education Co-ordinator will report back to the Leadership Team and Diocese as required.

Sacramental Preparation

We follow the Diocesan programme for preparation for sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. This takes place within Years 4/5 curriculum RE. This is complemented by the diocesan programme for Parish Catechists.

The Role of the Religious Education Co-ordinator

- To ensure that guidance from the diocese is shared with the leadership team and actioned in school.
- Review and update, when necessary the Religious Education Policy.
- Monitor implementation of Policy and offer support and guidance with the "Come and See" Programme.
- Monitor assessment procedures and record keeping for staff.
- Ensure breadth, continuity and progression within the subject.
- Ensure resources are available and of good quality.
- Liaise with the Church and Priest over Holy Communion Programme.
- Liaise with the Governors in reference to Curriculum Religious Education.
- Acting in an advisory capacity to Teaching Staff.
- To input into Section 48 Self Evaluation Form.
- To work with the leadership team to promote the Catholic life of the school.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Religious Education Leader, and is evaluated and reviewed by the Headteacher, Teaching Staff and Governors every two years.