

Our Lady of Peace
Catholic
Infant & Nursery School

'We grow towards God through love, prayer, respect and learning'



Religious Education Policy

Date of review: June 2013

This policy will be reviewed June 2015

This policy is written in consultation with staff and governors of both Our Lady of Peace Catholic Schools and in light of our mission statement, in that it values and respects pupils and staff.

Religious Education is taught within the school so as to give children a knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith and leads pupils into an exploration of the different aspects of religion and in thoughtful reflection upon religious belief.

We wish our school to be a community of faith, in which each member participates, fully aware that all our work and aspirations derive from Jesus Christ. We believe that the ethos of our school is of prime importance, as our children are sensitive to learn from the atmosphere and attitudes within the school. Our aim is to permeate all facets of education in our school with Gospel values, creating a Catholic Christian community, where all education goals are rooted in Christ and in his Gospel and we are reflecting God's purpose in our undertakings.

Aims:

We aim to promote:

- Knowledge and understanding of Catholic faith and life.
- Knowledge and love of Christ within the Sacraments.
- The skills needed to engage in examination or reflection upon religious belief and practice.
- The needs of all our children knowing that some of them will be from committed Catholic homes while others will not.
- The celebration of RE for our pupils through shared assemblies and liturgies.
- A spiritual dimension to the lives of the pupils and the liturgical year is reflected in the life and activities of the school.
- Positive attitudes towards people of other faiths and other religious traditions in relation to God.

Objectives.

- To develop a knowledge and understanding of the mystery of God, of Jesus Christ and the Church and of the central beliefs which are held by Catholics.
- To develop an awareness and appreciation of the Catholic faith and of how it affects personal and social behaviour and of the vital relationship between faith and life, life and faith.
- To encourage investigation, reflection and evaluation of the truths of our faith by the pupils.
- To foster appropriate attitudes e.g. respect for truth, respect for the view of others, awareness of spiritual, of moral responsibility.
- To foster an awareness of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life and especially the challenges of living in a multi-cultural, multi-faith society.
- To develop appropriate skills e.g. ability to listen, reflect, to pray to and to be aware of God, to acquire knowledge and organise it effectively to make informed judgements.
- To educate the whole person and to find a balance between knowledge of doctrine, response to worship and personal and social development according to Gospel values. For a truly balanced education in faith we believe each individual must be treated with equal importance.

Entitlement

- RE is regarded as the heart of the curriculum enriching and informing all areas of learning. RE must always deepen pupils understanding of Catholic belief and contribute to their education in the Catholic faith.
- Visits from speakers representing other Christian denominations and other faith groups will be encouraged in order to strengthen links with the wider community.
- RE lessons form 10% of the curriculum time

Interpretation

Programme of Study

Religious Education is taught through the Come and See programme. Each term focuses on one of the basic questions about life, its dignity, its purpose and a central Christian belief which relates to and addresses these questions

Autumn: Life and Creation – Where did I come from?

Spring: Dignity – Incarnation – Who am I?

Summer: Purpose – Redemption – Why am I here?

The question is explored through three themes. Each theme relates to one of the key dimensions of religious and Christian faith.

Community of faith – Church

Celebration/Ritual – Sacraments

Way of life – Christian Living

The individual topics studied can be found at the back of this policy

RE is to help develop a knowledge and understanding of the concept of the Catholic faith and foster reverence, awe and wonder.

Religious Education gives shape and is linked to the whole curriculum; every part of it is ultimately related to God. We teach to further children's faith development not only through lessons and activities relating to a formal programme, but through prayer and worship and most importantly by examples.

All teachers are responsible for developing the RE of the pupils in their class. The RE Leaders are always willing to support all teachers with their planning and in preparing lessons.

Planning

- Staff are encouraged to plan together in Year groups
- The RE Leaders are always available to support members of staff with their planning.
- Weekly planning is incorporated into the school weekly plans.
- Pupils begin working in formal RE books when they are in Reception.
- Pupil's work is recorded in a variety of ways e.g. pictorial, written, wall displays and photographic evidence.
- Work is marked according to the school marking policy. It is marked sensitively and positively. Often oral feedback is given to children..

Assessment

Teachers formally assess pupil's knowledge, understanding and appreciation of Catholic belief and practice appropriate to their age and development, their knowledge of scripture, understanding of God's message and their moral development and attitudes.

Assessment in RE establishes what children know, understand, can do and how to get there – it does not assess spirituality or the practice of faith.

At the beginning of each topic in Come and See, in the Explore and Reveal sections there is an indication of the Areas of Learning and the Attainment Levels which are covered. At the end there is a summary of the levels for that topic

Regular assessment is carried out in line with Nores guidelines:

- Teachers formally assess three pieces of children's work across the year – one per term
- Formal assessment tasks are planned for and moderated by the Deanery RE Leaders
- Moderation of all assessment takes place in school

Further information about assessment can be found in *Levels of Attainment in Religious Education in Catholic Schools and Colleges*.

Staffing and Responsibilities

- We aim to demonstrate our own faith and commitment as a staff, in partnership with our governors, priests and parents.
- The RE Leaders are available to staff to offer advice and support if requested.
- The RE Leaders attend appropriate courses that are provided by the deanery and diocese and then provides up-to-date information to staff.
- The RE Leaders meets termly with others from the Slough deanery.
- The RE Leaders are responsible for developing RE Inset and introducing new initiatives
- The RE Leaders and the Headteacher are responsible for monitoring the teaching and learning in RE

Resources

Each year the RE Leaders have a budget for the purchasing of resources relevant to the subject. Resources for RE are available in the RE resource area, in classrooms and through the RE Leaders.

The RE Leaders are currently Mrs Margaret Lawrence and Miss Kelly Gorrod.

Future Development

The development plan for RE is reviewed annually and incorporated into the School Development Plan

All future development, in the light of our Mission Statement will be aimed at continuing to create an environment where the Gospel values of prayer, truth, holiness, justice, love and forgiveness permeate our ethos.