

Religious Education Policy



St. Anne's Catholic Primary School.
Chertsey

<u>Person Responsible:</u>	<u>RE Lead /H/T/DHT</u>
<u>Date policy reviewed:</u>	<u>March 2024</u>
<u>Reviewed by:</u>	<u>Teaching staff, Head Teacher, Governors</u>
<u>Date of next Review:</u>	<u>October 2024 (with new RED)</u>

St. Anne's Mission Statement:

With Christ at the centre of our lives, we live out our call to serve the young;

"It is not enough to love children,

They must know that they are loved." St. John Bosco

Introduction

The policy has been arrived at through close consultation with staff at all levels and be seeking advice and guidance from outside agencies. It has been developed with the following aims and philosophies very much in mind.

The Mission Statement

Our Mission Statement is central to the life of the school. It is displayed in all rooms and at the front of every RE book. All the children are encouraged to think of ways which they can strive to live out the Mission Statement. The school song is rooted in the mission statement, KS1 can sing the mission and every collective worship ends with pupils reflecting on how they will 'live out 'our mission, for others to know that they are loved.

The Importance of the Role of Parents in Religious Education

St. Anne's Catholic Primary School recognises the central role parents have in the religious education of their children. The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us that **"Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. They bear witness to this responsibility first by creating a home where tenderness, forgiving, respect, fidelity and disinterested service are the rule."** (CCC 2223)

As the Statement of the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales on Religious Education in Catholic Schools '2000' states, **"The first educators in the faith are parents. It is they, above all others, who establish in their children the first sensitivity and responsiveness to the presence of God, to the practice of prayer and to the patterns of life in the community of faith, the parish. By foundations of a life-long faith and discipleship in their children are laid down."**

Our Catholic School

It is in the spirit of the above statement that our school works. We see St. Anne's School in the partnership with the home and the parish communities to which our children belong. As the General Directory for Catechesis affirms,

"This partnership between home and parish is enhanced by the role of the Catholic school in which the educational mission of the church finds a particular and important expression."

This 'educational mission' is our central role.

The Aims of Religious Education at our School

Religious Education lies at the heart of the curriculum and school life.

At St. Anne's we aim to ensure that Religious Education attends to the needs of every pupil who has been admitted to the school and that it will:

- Enable all members of the school community to understand and to live our Mission Statement.
- Help pupils recognise and appreciate the religious and spiritual dimensions of life.
- Lead to a deeper knowledge and understanding of the Catholic and other religious traditions and the ways in which they seek to express the value and significance of human life.
- Allow space for searching and questioning.
- Challenge pupils to examine their own life stance, to deepen their personal faith commitment and to respect that of others.

- To see their learning as a journey.
- That it has the high priority that other core subjects have but is also distinctive

Our Approach to Religious Education at St. Anne's School

We aim to provide an environment where every child feels secure. We teach the children how to respect and value each other as individuals and how to care for one another so they help to foster a calm, happy and caring community.

We discuss our attitudes and behaviour and how they affect the well being of other members of our school community.

We aim to teach children and each other, by example, in the daily life of the school.

We pray together, teaching both specific school prayers and how to pray spontaneously and peacefully.

We gather together for Collective Worship and to celebrate liturgy and Mass on a number of occasions each term.

Through R.E., Collective Worship and liturgies we teach concepts, knowledge of the scriptures, the Church and moral attitudes.

We follow the Religious Education Programme – Come and See, and EYFS are following the new RED in line with the Diocese

We encourage home, school and parish links.

We welcome and encourage the visits of the parish priests of St Anne's and Salesian school and their involvement in the life of the school.

We work collaboratively with the parishes to prepare children in Year 3 for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

We promote the children's awareness of the local and wider communities by encouraging them to participate in charitable activities and fund-raising and also by visiting regularly the local residential home for the elderly.

We acknowledge that everyone is equal in the sight of God and follow a policy of equal opportunities.

We promote the Catholic identity of the school through the Governor's Admission Policy.

The Religious Education Programme at our School

The R.E. curriculum is delivered through two different programmes. Years R, 1 and 6 are doing the new RED and the rest of the school are using the programme 'Come and See'.

In response to the question; 'where do you live?' which was asked by the disciples, Jesus invited them to; 'Come and See.' (John 1:39) The disciples went with Jesus 'and spent the rest of that day with him'.

Come and See Programme:

Central to the programme are three basic human questions and the three Christian beliefs that are the Church's response in faith.

Where do I come from? Life- Creation

Who am I? Dignity – Incarnation

Why am I here? Purpose- Redemption

In Come and See these big questions are considered in the light of the Scriptures and Traditions of the Church, as expressed in the documents of the Second Vatican Council and the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

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.

‘It is necessary, therefore, that Religious Education in schools be regarded as an academic discipline with the 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. However, it should not simply be regarded as one subject among many, but rather it should engage in interdisciplinary dialogue. Religious Education in schools underpins, activates, develops and completes the educational and catechetical activity of the whole school.’ (Religious Education Curriculum Directory 2012).

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 programme and informs the process of each topic, opened up through; Explore, Reveal and Respond.

Explore

The teacher helps the children to begin to look at and focus on the experience within their own lives-concerning themselves, their relationships and their world. In this way, the children are led to a deeper understanding, clearer vision and the discovery of significance and value of the experiential events of everyday life.

Reveal

Reveal is the heart of the process. The teacher and the children together discover the Christian understanding of the mystery of the Trinity; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They explore the mystery of human life as revealed in the person, life and gospel of Jesus Christ. It will involve learning about Scripture, the teaching of the Church, prayers, rites, psalms, hymns and other expressions of Christian faith and the lives of outstanding Christians.

Respond

Remember is the first part of this section. The children will respond by remembering and celebrating all that they have learnt. Rejoice is the second part of the section. There will be the opportunity to plan and take part in a celebration. Renew, is the final aspect. The teacher helps each child to make an individual response, hold on to and make their own, what they have understood of the topic.

EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6

From September 2022, EYFS have been following the new Religious Education Directory – ‘To know you more clearly’ which follows 3 structural elements: Understand, Discern and Respond.

Years 1 and Years 6 have been following this since September 2023.

Multifaith Programme

As part of the 'Come and See' R.E. programme all children will study Judaism for two weeks in the Autumn term and Islam for one week in the Summer term.

This enables the children to have an understanding of what life is like in the two other Abrahamic faiths.

Using the Programme

The school spends 10% of the teaching week on Religious Education in line with the requirements from the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales. At St. Anne's, Foundation and Key Stage One are timetabled for 2 ¼ hours and Key Stage Two 2 ½ hours, which does not include Collective Worship.

How does the Come and See Programme work?

The year groups following the 'Come and See' programme is developed through three themes based on documents from the Second Vatican Council. These themes are: Church, Sacrament and Christian Living.

The whole school explores each religious theme at the same time through different topics following a yearly teaching cycle. The following is the timetable of topics adopted.

The long term plan, seen below, can be found on the school website.

	YEAR 2 & FS 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5
	Beginnings God at every beginning	Homes God's dream for every family	People The family of God in Scripture	Ourselves Created in the image & likeness of God
	Signs & symbols Signs & symbols in Baptism	Promises Promises made at Baptism	Called Confirmation: a call to witness	Life choices Marriage commitment and service
	Preparations Advent; preparing to celebrate Christmas	Visitors Advent: waiting for the coming of Jesus	Gift God's gift of love & friendship in Jesus	Hope Advent; waiting in joyful hope for Jesus; the promised one
	Books The books used in Church	Journeys Christian family's journey with Jesus	Community life in the local Christian community: ministries in the parish	Mission Continuing Jesus' mission in diocese [ecumenism]
	Thanksgiving Mass a special time for saying thank you to God for everything, especially Jesus	Listening & sharing Jesus gives himself to us in a special way	Giving & receiving Living in communion	Memorial sacrifice The Eucharist the living memorial of Jesus' sacrifice
	Opportunities Lent: an opportunity to start anew in order to celebrate Jesus' new life	Giving all Lent a time to remember Jesus' total giving	Self discipline Celebrating growth to new life	Sacrifice Lent a time of aligning with the sacrifice already made by Jesus
	Spread the word Pentecost a time to spread the Good News	Energy Gifts of the Holy Spirit	New life To hear & live the Easter message	Transformation Celebration of the Spirit's transforming power
	Rules Reasons for rules in the Christian family Sacrament of Reconciliation	Choices The importance of examination of conscience Sacrament of Reconciliation	Building bridges Admitting wrong, being reconciled with God and each other Sacrament of Reconciliation	Freedom & responsibility Commandments enable Christians to be free & responsible
	Treasures God's treasure; the world	Special places Holy places for Jesus & the Christian	God's people Different saints show people what God is like	Stewardship The Church is called to the stewardship of Creation

Each topic in the 'Come and See' programme lasts for four weeks. The programme identifies these elements of the process of Religious Education:

Teaching Methods used in the teaching of RE at our school.

At St. Anne's Catholic Primary the children have the opportunity to be taught in different ways.

- Whole class discussion and teaching.
- Group discussion and feedback.
- Differentiated activities according to abilities.
- Partner work.
- Creative curriculum activities
- Individual research and study.

Teachers are encouraged to be as varied and as creative as possible in the methods they use in the teaching of R.E.

Staff meetings led by the Lead focus on developing teaching and learning in RE

Marking of work

Each class teacher is responsible for the marking of recorded work in R.E. books.

Marking is in accordance with the school guidelines (See marking policy)

The marking of R.E. must be seen in light of the children's response to the subject, to the learning objectives given at the beginning of each element of the 'Come and See' theme, and their use and remembering of the key words which accompany each theme.

Developmental marking is central to our marking policy, through challenges, peer and self assessment/reflection.

Assessment

St. Anne's are using the new framework set out by the Diocese and have been using it since September 2018. Staff are encouraged to annotate throughout the year for coverage and termly to pick children from 3 different abilities to level and moderate in a staff meeting. They then put levels of attainment onto target tracker. This is then printed off by the lead and analysed for next steps and actions for either whole school or individual groups or pupils.

Differentiation/ Special Educational Needs and groups of pupils.

Pupils will be at different levels of maturity and will have different life experiences and very different attitudes and feelings. Lessons should be planned to allow children the opportunity to articulate their views with all contributions being valued and respected.

Assessments from the end of each term will be analysed by the coordinator and staff will meet with the coordinator to review particular pupils or groups of pupils not making enough progress.

The coordinator will have data for all pupils and groups such as EAL, SEN and Pupil premium.

Homework

Pupils are set R.E. homework where appropriate and in line with the Homework Policy. This can be related to classroom R.E, involve research or the learning or writing of prayers.

Display

All classrooms have a prominent Religious Education display relating to the current topic. Key religious vocabulary and an extract of scripture from the topic should be clearly visible.

Classrooms have the school mission displayed on the wall.

A crucifix and mission statement is displayed in every room in the school.

Stations of the Cross are displayed in the school studio.

All classrooms have a prayer table which stands alone and is seen as a sacred place within the classroom. Prayer tables should include: a crucifix, a Bible, a candle and prayer box / book for children's own prayer intentions. Prayer tables have a cloth of the correct liturgical colour of the season. Pupils face or gather around the prayer table for collective prayer.

The RE council help the lead to monitor these areas.

Reporting

Parent's evenings in the Autumn and Spring Terms may give parents and teachers the opportunity to discuss pupil progress. At the start of the year there is a 'Meet the Teacher' evening where the curriculum is shared with parents.

The end of year report will report on RE.

Monitoring

The RE Leader collect a sample of the pupil's R.E books in once a term.

General feedback is given at a staff meeting. All staff receive individual written feedback.

R.E. teaching is monitored once a year and written feedback is given to staff.

RE work is moderated during sessions which include R.E. meetings for teachers, moderation meetings with other Deanery schools and during R.E. co-ordinator meetings.

Spiritual and Moral Development

St. Anne's Catholic Primary has always tried to create the atmosphere needed to fulfil our Mission Statement. We try to emphasise the qualities of self-discipline, self-control, perseverance, determination, a sense of fair play and thoughtfulness for others in school and in the wider community. (See Behaviour Policy, Equal Opportunities Policy, Relationships and Sex Education Policy, and Personal, Social and Health Education Policy.)

Prayer

At St. Anne's Catholic Primary School, we aim to help children value and respect the power of prayer and to use it to help strengthen the children's relationships with God.

We seek to be a praying community. It is important for the children to know 'formal' prayers of the church which we may all pray (pray) together and which we all hear and say with the parish/family communities outside school.

We all pray collectively at school in the morning (in class or at assembly) before lunch, after lunch and at the end of the school day.

Prayer does not only mean 'formal' prayers. We do hope to help each other to listen to God speaking to us and to respond in our hearts and minds during moments of silence. We also encourage prayer writing by the children themselves.

Each class has a prayer area which provides a focus for prayer in the classroom. Opportunities for Prayer arise from 'Come and See'.

At school the children are taught to know by heart the following prayers:

The Sign of the Cross

The Lord's Prayer

The Hail Mary

The Glory be to the Father

The Morning Offering

The Night Prayer

Grace before / After Meals

During Key Stage 2 children become familiar with and are encouraged to learn:

The Prayer for the Dead

The Prayer of the Rosary

The Act of Contrition/Sorrow

The Responses to the Mass

The Guardian Angel Prayer

The Apostles Creed

As a school/family community we pray together during the months of October and May saying the Rosary before school commences

Assembly and Collective Worship

At St. Anne's Catholic Primary School, the daily Collective Act of Worship is an essential element of our School Life.

We value the opportunity to gather so we can pray together, sing together, share sadness together and celebrate good news together.

Children attend separate Key Stage Collective Worship led by the Head Teacher/Deputy Head. For Key Stage 1 this is on a Tuesday and Friday. Year 5 and 6 have Collective Worship on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Individual classes take turns to prepare a Collective Worship that usually takes the form of a play or a celebration of words and songs which can be written by the children. We feel it is important that each child in school has the opportunity to take part. The daily Collective Worship takes place in the classrooms when children are not attending a hall collective worship.

Celebration Assemblies take place on a Friday. Birthday cards are presented to children and reward certificates are issued as appropriate for good work, effort and kindness.

Our collective worships are related to a particular feast day or season in the liturgical year, or are linked with the 'Come and See' themes. Readings from the Bible and stories form an integral part of the assemblies. They are related to the children's daily lives and practical applications are stressed, encouraging the children to put what they hear in the Gospels into action.

Liturgy

At St. Anne's Catholic Primary School we believe that celebrating the Mass is important to the spiritual life of the whole school community. We try to make each celebration of the Mass a community celebration which involves the children, teachers, support staff, governors, parents and parishioners.

Timetable of Masses-

September – Start of a new year. Years 2-6 attend.

January- St. Don Bosco. Years 2-6 attend.

May – A May procession – the whole school in the hall.

July- End of school year. Whole school mass- held outside.

The children are asked to lead and play a role in each mass as much as possible. In particular:

Readings, singing(choir) Offertory, Music, Liturgical dance, drama, altar Servers.

At the start of the academic year the Head Teacher and RE co-ordinator meet with the Parish Priest to plan the timetable of Masses for the forthcoming academic year.

Sacramental Programme

Children in Year 3 are invited to join the Parish of St. Anne's programme in preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. The school is involved with the programme.

In Advent and Lent the local priest visits to minister the Sacrament of reconciliation for KS2.

The year 3 classes, invite parents into school to have a celebration of their Holy Communion.

Links with the Home

To provide the best Catholic education we believe that it is essential to establish and maintain links with parents.

1. Home-School Agreement

On accepting a place at the school parents and carers are requested to sign a Home School Agreement document which acknowledges the catholic identity of the school and outlines the commitment expected of the parents and children as the basis for a good working relationship between home and school.

2. Welcoming Prospective and New Parents

We provide relevant information about the school in the school prospectus which is available to prospective parents. We show parents around the school, before applications are made, if this is requested.

We organise an evening for parents before admission to the Reception Class, to give the parents the opportunity to meet each other, the Head Teacher, the Class Teachers and representatives of the Governing Body and to find out all they need to know about the school.

3. Regular Information about the Child and his/her Progress and Welfare

The Head Teacher and teaching staff are always very willing to talk to the parents about the education and welfare of their child.

The Head Teacher is always available before or after school to see parents if they have any questions, suggestions or concerns.

Parent Evenings are held in the Autumn and Spring Term, when parents are invited to discuss their child's progress with the class teacher. Written reports are sent home every summer term.

4. Parents Supporting the Work of the Teacher at Home

The School Prospectus contains guidelines on how parents and carers can support their child's learning at home.

There is a home-school reading scheme and a homework policy.

Information about forthcoming topics to be covered in each subject is provided in a termly letter.

5. Providing Information about the School and What is Happening

The monthly Newsletter conveys a wide range of information about the work of the school. Separate letters are also sent home about events.

Collective Worship

6. Each parent is invited to join classes for a celebration of the work that has been done during a topic. These are known as rejoice for KS1 and Prayer Services in KS2.

7. Rosary in October and May

Parents are invited to join us at the front of school during these months to pray the Rosary together.

Links with the Wider Community

We welcome the visits of the Parish Priest of the St. Anne's and other members of the Clergy. We value the clergy's contribution to the Catholic life of our school.

We encourage the children to participate in fundraising for the benefit of the Local and Wider Community.

Induction of New Colleagues

All new members of the staff must read very carefully the R.E. Policy and the R.E. Handbook. They are encouraged to ask the R.E. Co-ordinator for any help in any matter relating to R.E. The diocese provide a set of guidelines for staff new to our Catholic schools.

Resources

Resources are stored in the Resources cupboard outside the Head Teachers office and in the RE cupboard in the conference room.