



Religious Education Policy

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Love God, Love One Another.



Christ is at the centre of all we do.

Here we value each other as a unique child of God and a citizen of the future.

Respect for everyone and the world in which we live in is at the heart of our catholic teaching and learning.

In our Catholic Primary School we nurture, educate and inspire the whole child to develop independence and confidence so as to reach their full potential.

Spiritual, social, moral, and cultural growth is actively encouraged through prayer, study, worship, and creative liturgy, also the wider life of the school is nurtured and developed.

Together we create a safe happy healthy and welcoming environment for all who enter our school community.

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AIM

To encourage, foster and develop a love and understanding of God and of how to live in his image and likeness.

OBJECTIVES

We aim to create an environment where children are taught by example to grow as happy, flexible, responsible, independent, creative and adaptable people, showing tolerance among themselves and towards others.

It is the responsibility of the Head Teacher to preserve the distinctive nature of our Catholic school by ensuring that the RE. Policy is observed and implemented by all members of staff both Catholic and non - Catholic.

The RE. Co-ordinator and SLT will work with the Head Teacher.

As with all teachers in a Catholic school, the co-ordinator should provide an experience of a living and worshipping community so enabling the children under their care to enter into the full life of the church. Such a community must be rooted in the religious understanding of life and that life should be based on the Gospels.

The team will:

- Review the agreed policies for Religious Education as and when required.
- Prepare and implement new or revised schemes of work.
- Provide support and in-service training to give opportunities for professional and personal development of staff.
 - Organise and review resources and encourage colleagues to be aware of availability and to assist where necessary in preparation of class/ school Masses.
- Coordinate assessment procedures and record keeping systems.
- Liaise with Parish Priest and Catechists re. Sacramental programmes and liturgies.
- Initiate and preparing special celebrations throughout the school year.
- Promote liaison with our parish, other schools and the Diocesan Education

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Service.

- Facilitate parental involvement.

The class teacher will be responsible with the Head Teacher and co-ordinator for implementing the R.E. policy within the classroom.

In the event of the class teacher being non-Catholic appropriate support will be given.

As part of induction training all new staff are trained by the school and can access CPD if offered by the Diocese in the teaching of The Way the Truth and the Life RE Education programme.

All teaching staff are involved in the worship and liturgical celebration that is central in the life of our school. Other school personnel will always be welcome to pray with us.

R.E at Saint Aidan's is not confined to a specific timetabled lesson but permeates the whole of our teaching.

The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of each child is addressed through all aspects of the curriculum as well as through the various day-to-day situations and opportunities that arise.

Formal RE is delivered through the scheme The Way the Truth and the Life, which is followed according to the Shrewsbury Diocesan guidelines with reference to the 'Religious Education Curriculum Directory' (Bishops Conference of England and Wales 1996).

At least 10% of curriculum time is devoted to delivering the RE scheme through teaching.

In addition to this time outside of the 10% is used for PSHE and cross-curricular work linked to the Dimensions Curriculum.

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R.E. IN THE CLASSROOM

CONTENT

The content of our teaching is from "The Way the Truth and the Life" programme supplemented with; our own faith experience, special occasions and the liturgical year. Due reference will be made to Key Stages 1 and 2 of the R.E. Curriculum Directory (Bishops' Conference 1996) to ensure that pupils have the knowledge and understanding of our Catholic faith necessary for them to grow and develop as Christian people within the Church.

PLANNING

The Way the Truth and the Life scheme have materials for Early Years through to year 6. There are many planning documents and tools available on the Diocesan website

Each year is split into 6 topics, one per half term and is organized to coincide with major events in the liturgical year.

Each year group studies a different topic.

Planning for each year group is discussed at the start of each half term.

ASSESSMENT

In assessing Children's progress in R.E, the emphasis will be on a wide range of achievement. Assessment – end of lesson

Pupils are encouraged to reflect on and share what they have learned during the lesson as individuals and as a group.

Teachers will ask specific questions to discover which learning objectives have been achieved.

Assessment – marking and commenting

Marking in R.E is consistent with the school's marking policy. It will be positive and constructive to affirm and celebrate success and encourage future learning. Comments will serve to challenge and encourage pupils to reflect.

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Comments will encourage high standards. Marking will give attention to key vocabulary. Comments made will reflect the learning objective of the concepts being explored in each lesson.

Termly Formal Assessment

Teachers are required to plan appropriate assessments in line with specific learning objectives outlined in the Way the Truth and the Life. Assessment questions and levels are provided in the back of each teacher book. The assessments are now reviewed and levels in line with Bishop's Conference. The Assessments used are in line with Diocese and using their marking guidance. Assessments are completed at the end of each unit or topic taught.

At the end of topics 1,3 and 5 (2021-22) formal assessments are completed. Six children are chosen and have detailed analysis using diocesan guidelines. I can statements are completed at the end of every topic. Foundation Stage complete formal assessments for all topics.

Classes or groups of children will be given levels from the relevant attainment targets.

Assessment levels are monitored by the R.E co-ordinator. Children are encouraged to evaluate each WTL theme. This is done sometimes through whole school assemblies, sometimes through class work, written work, prayers, services or discussion.

All topics are celebrated in each classroom in the form of display.

Each display offers evidence of pupil achievement and understanding.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP - See separate policy

Worship is at the very heart of life at Saint Aidan's. Staff and children pray together daily and time is always made for prayer.

The Angelus is prayed daily.

Assembly Gospel-reflection assemblies take place weekly led by the SLT.

In addition, each class, in turn leads the school in prayer and worship at given times of the year. The content of the assembly is usually chosen by the class

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teacher and pupils and is expressed in various ways, e.g. song, drama, dance, story, poetry and art or simply in prayer.

Once a week, assembly is led by the Head Teacher or the SLT.

This includes a ceremony of awards (STAR AWARD and SCHOOL MISSION AWARD) when the school acknowledges the God-given talents, the endeavours and the contribution each one makes to the life both in and out of the school. It enables us all to appreciate each other in many different ways and it promotes self-esteem. At this assembly the school is engaged in prayer.

Music and silent reflection, form very important parts of this worship

Hymn practices

This is also a time of prayer. In addition to the musician, the R.E. co-ordinator and all relevant teaching staff are present. The children are taught a range of hymns both traditional and modern. The Children are taught hymns to be sung during the various rites of the Mass and for the seasons of the Liturgical calendar. There is a great emphasis in hymns as part of our worship.

Mass

Mass is celebrated in school regularly and links to the Liturgical Year.

Liturgies

WHOLE SCHOOL LITURGY

Class Liturgies involve a gathering with reflective music, lighted candles and symbols and artefacts. Each class has a liturgy box. The liturgy boxes contain the following: White, purple, red, green cloths, cross, candles, stones and other items chosen by the class teacher and class for our resources.

There is a planning board for Gather, Word, Response and Mission and individual cards to enable the children to choose different ways of celebrating the liturgy.

Word should be in relation to the Church calendar or Gospel for the relevant WTL unit.

Each class celebrate a liturgy on the days when they are not gathered as a

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school or Key Stage. There is a reading (Word) from the scriptures, time for reflection and prayers.

The Liturgies involve action (Response), shaking hands / holding hands / closing eyes / singing / praying etc.

The children will be sent out from the liturgy with a mission, an experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives.

Retreat Days

All children are involved in whole school retreat days in Advent and Lent. These are a wonderful way to pause, reflect and celebrate together and to prepare for Christmas and Easter. It is a time of discernment for the staff and the children.

The Sacramental Programme

The Children who are eligible for first Sacraments are prepared in Year 3.

The children are prepared in school using The Way the Truth and the Life and also use the books 'Making Things Right' and 'Called to his Supper'

Parent support the programme and the books are sent home to complete. Each child is presented with a certificate and gift at Holy Communion.

The services all take place at Saint Hilda's Catholic Church in Northenden. .

COMMUNITY LINKS

Parents are to be encouraged to be involved in all aspects of their child's education and particularly in their spiritual development by:

Attending Class Masses and assemblies

Being introduced to WTL at pre- school meetings.

Being involved in the preparation of their children for first sacraments

Attending meetings and working with the children on material sent home.

Parents are reminded of Mass times, Holy days, special feasts and seasons of

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the liturgical year, through the school newsletter.

Wednesday Word

The links are sent on the weekly newsletter and the Sunday Gospel is also referenced in their Gospel Reading Records/ Homework Diaries

The RE Lead and Head are in regular contact with the Head Teachers/Leads of the local Catholic schools and regularly involved in cross cluster moderations, celebrations and many other aspects of our curriculum across the Liturgical Year (Prayer Relay in Lent, Mini -Vinnies etc)

Parish

Children are encouraged to become actively involved in the life of their own Parish, eg. Sunday liturgy, reading or involvement at children's Masses, Children's Liturgy. Fr Nick Kern encourages and welcomes the children to the church.

Shrewsbury Diocese

The children are made aware of the diocese to which they belong and care is taken to support Diocesan initiatives. The RE co-ordinator attends termly meetings with the diocesan education service. The Head Teacher and Deputy Head Teacher also attends Diocesan meetings.

We raise money and bring in goods over the year for Mission Together, Caritas, CAFOD and our local food bank.

Emotional support

Trained staff are available for children requiring support, within the School.

We also have assistant Educational Psychologists who can work with specific children for counselling. Staff are also supported through Caritas if required and can access our Employee Welfare Scheme through Manchester Schools Alliance.

Spiritual Moral Social and Cultural

RATIONALE: As a Catholic School, we seek to develop an ethos in our school whereby the spiritual, moral, social and cultural needs of all within the school community are supported.

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This will be expressed through our response to the gospel call to love. We live out our mission to Love God and One Another.

SPIRITUAL:

As a Catholic community we strive to support the pupils in the development of their spiritual life, so that through reflection, pupils will acquire insights and attribute meaning and purpose to personal existence.

We believe that this begins with a personal encounter with the living Christ and that once experienced this needs to be fostered and developed through:

Personal and community prayer.

A sense of God's presence permeating the life of the school.

Liturgies where pupils become aware of entering His presence.

Hearing His word spoken in Scripture.

Experiencing the community of the faithful.

Celebration of the Mass.

A curriculum that creates a sense of awe, wonder.

Quiet times of reflection.

Opportunities to express personal views and insights whilst searching for the truth together.

MORAL

At the heart of the Church's and the school's moral teaching lies the understanding that we love because we are first loved by God.

We are called to reflect God's love for us in our relationships with others and, since His love is unconditional and freely given, we have been given the freedom to respond to His love, or reflect Him.

How we understand and use this gift of freedom is crucial to our moral development – to our becoming fully human.

At St Aidan's we believe: Love is at the heart of the Catholic understanding of morality.

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Morality touches all aspects of the curriculum. Every free human action has a negative or positive influence on life.

Individuals are created free by God to choose what is right or wrong.

We support the children in their understanding of their place in the world and how to treat God's beautiful world and all of the people in it.

SOCIAL

God did not create mankind for life in isolation, but for the formation of social unity. Therefore, it is part of the responsibility of the school to support pupils, and their families, in the formation of good social attitudes.

The school community will nurture our pupils to:

Learn about the obligations, constraints and satisfaction that go with membership of a group and community

Become aware of their own identity as individuals and to take account of the feelings of others.

Experience, through the social organization and management of the classroom, opportunities to learn and develop correct social skills and attitude.

Participate in a supportive way in group and school activities so as to develop co-operative skills that will help all to live with each other.

Learn what it means to be a responsible citizen.

CULTURAL

Cultural development is the increasing understanding and command of those beliefs, values and customs, knowledge and skills which taken together form the basis of identity and cohesion in societies and groups.

Cultures grow and change; features of the past influence and present and will shape its future form.

Pupils at St Aidan's will:

Be introduced to the values and customs held within our Catholic cultural tradition.

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Be taught about the values and customs of our national culture.

Become aware of cultures of the past through historical programmes of study

Respect and study the values, customs and cultural heritage of people who belong to other faiths or ethnic cultures

Have their cultural achievements outside school acknowledged and valued

Be taught through a curriculum which will enrich, deepen and broaden their experience of all cultural excellence and give them the cultural capital they need to succeed as a child of God.

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