

Holy Cross RC Primary School



Religious Education Policy

Signed _____ [Headteacher] Date April 2024

Signed _____ [Chair of Governors] Date April 2024

Next Review Date April 2025

Contents:

1. Mission Statement

1. Mission Statement

'The Mission of schools is to develop a sense of truth, of what is good and beautiful.' (Pope Francis)

Our Ethos is:

God made us all unique

- To learn, live and grow
- To show good citizenship to all
- To be the best we can possibly be
- Showing Christ's love in all we do.

Our Core Values are:

- Here at Holy Cross we are a Catholic family rooted in Gospel values.
- Offering a safe, learning and nurturing environment within the community where all can grow.
- Leading the way in faith and prayer.
- "You are created in the image and likeness of God". We will celebrate your uniqueness, promoting inclusiveness and dignity.

- Celebrating cultural diversity and recognising religious diversity through...
- Respect, tolerance love, justice, compassion, kindness forgiveness, honesty, charity, encouraging happiness, peace and hope.
- Our curriculum will equip our children to grow and develop fully into the young adults of the future.
- Striving for continuous improvement, success and achievement for all.
- Strengthening our local, wider and global family through good citizenship.

3. Vision Statement

At Holy Cross Catholic Primary School, we live by the gospel value of treating others as you would like to be treated.

Our vision is to strive to:

- *Provide the best education possible for all children in a warm and caring environment that enables every child to reach their full potential;*
- *Enable children to become positive citizens, independent, resilient,*

tolerant and respectful of others, ready to play their part in the local community and wider society;

- *Ensure that every child feels safe, happy and valued.*

At Holy Cross we put children at the heart of everything we do.

4. Rationale.

"Religious education is never simply one subject among many, but the foundation of the entire educational process. The beliefs and values studied in Catholic religious education inspire and draw together every aspect of the life of a Catholic school."

(Statement from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, May 2000)

5. Aims

Religious education in Catholic schools aims 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.
- We also incorporate Catholic Social Teachings **into every aspect of the RE curriculum**, in order to consolidate Pope Francis' encyclical – Fratelli Tutti.

At Holy Cross we aim to deliver a broad and engaging Religious Education, enriched in the Catholic Ethos of the school community. To support the delivery of our RE curriculum we use the support materials of God Matters we are also piloting the new RED resources in YR and Y3.

6. Intent statement:

To work in partnership with parents, families and the parish to appreciate the way that religious beliefs shape our lives and our behaviour, to make reasoned and informed judgements, and to help children to acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Faith and other Faiths.

7. Full Intent:

At Holy Cross Catholic Primary School, we recognise that every child is unique and special, created in the image and likeness of God. Through our RE Curriculum, we aim to inspire awe, wonder, reverence and spirituality within

every child. As children are taught about God's love they discover their Christian responsibilities and how they should pray and care for others.

Teaching should give pupils the knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the Catholic faith and its traditions. It should deepen the child's understanding of God through the experience of prayer and develop and encourage a personal response to God and the recognition of an awareness of a moral responsibility, through the development of conscience. Pupils will learn about other faiths to increase their knowledge, respect and understanding of everyone in our society. Skills taught will cover reflection, empathy, investigation, interpretation, evaluation, analysis, synthesis and expression.

Religious Education is central to the life of our school and permeates throughout the whole curriculum, developing our cross-curricular approach. The Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools informs our chosen topics, which are sequential and include progression of skills. Children will understand how the Gospel values relate to their own lives and how they can live as moral citizens in our world today. Through the relationship the school has with the Clifton Diocese, the children have experiences of the church, Catholic traditions and how to live out the Beatitudes. There will be opportunities beyond the classroom for real life learning and for pupils to visit different places of worship as well as having opportunities to engage in spiritual reflections and retreats.

8. Implementation:

RE is taught individually but plays a central role in all areas of school life. Children in most year groups follow the RE Curriculum using the updated version of the 'God Matters' scheme of work. Every class follows the topics of Creation, Prayers, Saints and Feasts, Advent, Christmas, Revelation, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Pentecost and Sacraments with the EYFS and Year 3 following the new RED Diocesan scheme of work.

We also incorporate Catholic Social Teachings, in order to consolidate Pope Francis' encyclical – Fratelli Tutti. It is important for our pupils to have an understanding of their rights and responsibilities both to themselves and the Common Good. This will also allow them to develop a sense of identity, find their place in the world, and make positive contributions to society. Children are encouraged to be resilient and develop the knowledge needed to keep themselves and others safe, make well-informed decisions using their learning as a moral compass, be respectful and tolerant, and uphold the British Values and the Values of the Gospel.

9. The Planning, content and delivery of RE

Children from years 1 to 6 are assessed at the end of every unit apart from Christmas and Other Faiths. Assessment will be based upon a child's ability to learn about Religion (AT1) , a child's ability to learn from Religion (AT2) and a child's ability to analyse and evaluate (AT3 – KS2 only).

RE is a core subject and RE teaching makes up 10% of the Curriculum time. Within their classrooms, children experience a range of teaching methods and provision is made for prayer, celebration and Mission. This also links with other aspects of Celebration of the Word, which includes Masses and assemblies. Skills are built upon, year on year and sequenced appropriately throughout the school and lessons are planned using this document. Monitoring occurs regularly by the school chaplaincy team, Curriculum Lead and school governors.

Cultural capital will be developed through learning about important people and places in the Catholic faith, including diverse Saints and Clergy as well as significant people and places from other faiths.

10. Impact:

Our principal aim is that children leave Holy Cross with a wide range of happy and rich memories in RE formed through interesting and exciting experiences driven through an engaging and comprehensive curriculum which is the basis of knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith, enabling them to develop a living and personal faith in Jesus Christ and allowing them to know and love God.

As of September 2023, Reception class and Year 3 have begun to pilot the new RED (Religious Education curriculum directory)

You can find planning for the new curriculum below. All other year groups will continue to use the adapted God Matters units until the new year group planning becomes available.

11. Inclusion

As a school we ensure that all children and staff are treated fairly and equally.

All children have equal rights to access all areas of the curriculum, regardless of race, gender, [socio-economic status](#), [religion](#) and disability. Within this subject area, the School Leadership Team (SLT) and all the staff endeavor to provide the appropriate provision for this to occur. This policy follows the guidelines and practices that are stated and outlined in Holy Cross Catholic Primary School Equality Policy.

12. Special Educational Needs & Equal Opportunities

We believe that all children should be able to experience a range of Religious Education activities irrespective of age, gender, ability. In our school we teach RE to all children, whatever their ability. The teaching of RE is a vital part of our school curriculum policy, which states that we provide a broad and balanced education for all our children. When teaching RE we ensure that we provide learning opportunities matched to the needs of children with learning difficulties. We take into account the targets set for individual children in their Individual Education Plans (IEPs/EHCPs etc).

13. Monitoring and Evaluation

We evaluate the school's provision of RE through the Religious Education Co-ordinator, her role is to:

Liaise with the Deacon to arrange School Masses, Paraliturgies, Classroom Celebrations, Reconciliation, Special Feasts and Masses in school.

Observe, monitor and evaluate RE across the school.

Lead staff meetings with an RE focus.

Liaise with Governors.

Attend diocesan RE Subject leader CPD opportunities and meetings.

Organise and distribute planning and assessment documents to colleagues.

Provide guidance to colleagues when requested.

Have an overview of RE in the school.

Be responsible for RE resources and the purchase of new materials within the confines of the school budget.

14. Home, school, parish links

We recognise the importance of parents and carers as the child's first teacher and their role in faith development. Parents and staff do everything possible to work in close partnership. There are many opportunities for parents to engage in school life. Holy Cross Catholic School seeks, in partnership with parents, to develop and nurture the Catholic faith of our children. We strive to bring pupils to a fuller understanding and knowledge of the Roman Catholic tradition. We celebrate Mass in school. Children are prepared for Holy Communion at the parish churches of St Gerard Magella and St Mary on the Quay. Christmas and Easter celebrations take place in the school hall in consultation with the parish priest. We also organise whole school Mass at St. Mary on the Quay once a year.

15. Resources

We have a wide range of resources which are updated regularly and are available to all staff.

16. Policy Monitoring and review

This policy is monitored by the RE subject leader and is reviewed by the staff and governors periodically.