

OUR LADY OF LOURDES POLICY AND PROCEDURES GUIDE

Subject: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Issue Date: 23.06.16

Review Date: 23.06.18

Status: Non Statutory policy.

To be reviewed: FGB to determine.

To be ratified by: Headteacher.

Mission Statement

At Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School we learn to live and love like Jesus, to help one another and treat everyone with kindness, respect, tolerance and understanding in a safe and caring environment.
God is always with us.

PHILOSOPHY

*Let us all remember this:
one cannot proclaim the Gospel of Jesus
without the tangible witness
of one's life.*

Pope Francis

We believe Religious Education underpins everything we do at Our Lady of Lourdes School. We proclaim the Gospel and invite pupils to respond to the message of Christ, to grow in faith and knowledge and respond to the call to holiness. We understand the specific contribution that Religious Education makes to the Catholic Life of the school. Therefore lessons are planned, taught, assessed and monitored with the same rigour as other curriculum subjects. We seek to help pupils integrate all of life's experience and all learning into an ever-deepening appreciation of faith in Jesus Christ. We understand Religious Education to be the systematic study of the teaching of the Church and the mystery of Christ. Our children should be allowed to explore their faith in order to gain a deeper understanding of its purpose in everyday life.

AIMS

- To enable each child to explore the religious dimension of questions about:
 - Where did I come from? (Life – Creation)
 - Who am I? (Dignity – Incarnation)
 - Why am I here? (Purpose – Redemption)
- To explore these questions within the Catholic faith tradition and through the four key dimensions of:
 - Revelation
 - Church/Community
 - Sacraments/Celebrations
 - Christian Living/Way of Life

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- To encourage the children to search for God, to come to know Him, to Love Him and to serve Him.
- To help them to enter into a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ by Prayer, Liturgical celebration and Christian Living. To see Jesus Christ as the fullness of God's love for us.
- To encourage devotion to Mary, Mother of God.
- To help them be aware of and to celebrate the liturgical year and seasons, the feasts of Our Lord, Our Lady, Saints etc.
- To help them to reflect on their own experiences, and make links with our Church community and other faiths worldwide.
- To encourage them to deepen and enrich their understanding and living of their faith.
- To help them build a community of faith – home, school, parish, Diocese.
- To help them to understand that life is a faith journey leading to eternal life
- To present engagingly a comprehensive content which is the basis of knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith;
- To enable pupils continually to deepen their religious and theological understanding and be able to communicate this effectively;
- To present an authentic vision of the Church's moral and social teaching so that pupils can make a critique of the underlying trends in contemporary culture and society;
- To raise pupils' awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities in order to respect and understand them;
- To develop the critical faculties of pupils so that they can relate their Catholic faith to daily life;
- To stimulate pupils' imagination and provoke a desire for personal meaning as revealed in the truth of the Catholic faith;
- To enable pupils to relate the knowledge gained through Religious Education to their understanding of other subjects in the curriculum;
- To bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture.

CURRICULUM TIME ALLOCATION

In line with the Diocese of Brentwood, 10% of curriculum time is allocated to Religious Education. This does *not* include Collective Worship.

OUTCOMES

We endeavour to promote, encourage and support the development of the children's knowledge, understanding and skills to ensure they are religiously literate and engaged in their learning. We will encourage them to reflect spiritually and think ethically developing an awareness of the demands and joys of religious commitment.

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PROGRAMME OF STUDY

In order to address the four areas of study outlined in the Religious Education Curriculum Directory, 2012 – Revelation, Church, Celebration and Life in Christ - the 'Come and See'

programme is used as recommended by Brentwood Diocese. We believe it offers clear opportunities for sound religious formation and education for primary school children. With its sound scriptural and doctrinal basis, clear patterns of continuity and progression, and educational understanding of children's learning needs and levels.

PROCESS

Religious Education is taught through the process of Explore, Reveal, Respond. This follows the pattern of: the human *search* for meaning, God's initiative in *Revelation* and the *response* in faith. This pattern is outlined both in the Catechism of the Catholic Church and in the Curriculum Directory.

OTHER FAITHS

Other faiths are taught from Year R to Year 6 following the programme of study in 'Come and See'. Judaism is explored over two weeks of study in the Autumn Term and in the Summer Term, either Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism or Sikhism has one week of study.

PERSONALISED LEARNING

All pupils in our school, irrespective of ability, faith or background, will have appropriate differentiated access to the Religious Education programme. A variety of teaching strategies will be adapted appropriately to the needs and learning styles of individual learners. We will challenge children to be self-motivated and take responsibility for their own learning.

RESOURCES

All classes have a copy of 'Come and See' and further linked resources can be located on the staff shared folder on the main server. Additional resources can also be found through the 'Come and See' website www.comeandseere.co.uk and all staff have their own login and password. CAFOD supports schools to embed a global dimension across the whole school curriculum. They have developed educational resources including stories, images, assemblies, activities and lesson ideas that can be found on their website: www.cafod.org.uk/primary

ASSESSMENT, MONITORING, RECORDING AND REPORTING

- Assessment of standards is carried out according to Diocesan guidelines using the criteria in the Levels of Attainment booklet agreed by The Diocese of Brentwood.

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- Regular monitoring of teaching and learning takes place throughout the year:
 - Book scrutiny (Autumn Term)
 - Lesson observations (Spring Term)
 - Learning walks (on-going throughout the year)

- Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to parents/carers in the child's interim report (mid-year) and end of year report

POLICY REVIEW

This policy will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed by the RE coordinators, Staff and Governors and updated every 2 years.

Approved on _____

Signed: _____

Headteacher

Signed: _____

Governor