



"Hand in hand, we listen to God's call, we learn from God's word and we share God's love through service."

Religious Education Policy



St. Augustine's Catholic Primary School

Religious Education Policy

Mission

'Hand in hand, we listen to God's call, we learn from God's word, and we share God's love through service.'

Introduction

At St. Augustine's Catholic Primary School, we believe that Religious Education forms the foundation of all that we say and do. Within Religious Education as a subject, and through our day to day school life, we promote a deeper knowledge, a growing appreciation and understanding of the Catholic faith. We strive to support all those within our school community to be inspired by the Gospel word, and help everyone on their journey of faith.

Aims of Religious Education

1. To nurture each person of our school community on their journey of faith.
2. To promote knowledge and understanding of Catholic faith and life.
3. To develop religiously literate young people.
4. To develop children's awareness of the religious commitment in every day life, including the Church's community.
5. To promote dignity and freedom of every person, as created in the image and likeness of God, by making children aware of other denominations and faiths.
6. To experience feelings of wonder and awe to the natural world.
7. To foster appropriate attitudes, respect and care for others, and think about the meaning and purpose of life.
8. To inspire every aspect of school life.
9. To encourage the children to be Disciples of Christ and live out the Gospel values.
10. To develop moral and ethical convictions by asking questions, examining and reflecting.

How we meet these aims

These aims are met through day to day school and parish life. Within the school day, there is focus and attention on these elements of the curriculum:

- Scheme of work
- Sacramental Education
- Prayer
- Collective Worship

Legal Right

Parents have a legal right to withdraw their child from R.E and Collective Worship.

St. Augustine's Catholic Primary School

Religious Education Policy

Scheme of Work

- Entitlement

Religious Education is a core subject within St. Augustine's Catholic Primary School. It is at the heart of our whole Curriculum and therefore embodies our daily lives. RE is allocated 10% of the Curriculum time as required by the Bishops' Conference. It is taught as a discrete subject throughout the school, but will naturally form part of other curriculum areas within a Catholic School. During special times of the Liturgical year (such as Holy Week), R.E will be blocked into larger chunks to allow children to be fully immersed in, and reflective of the time, supporting them in their faithful journey.

- Religious Education Programme of Study

Each teacher is responsible for the planning and delivery of the Religious Programme of work, through the implementation of the Diocesan Strategy 'Learning and Growing as the People of God'. This strategy was created from the RES Curriculum Directory. Adherence to the guidance set out in the strategy, along with the Catechism, directory, and ethos inspired within the school, helps to ensure continuity and progression throughout the school.

Other denominations and faiths are taught throughout the year, at key events and festivals within the faith's calendar. Each year group focuses on a certain aspect of the faith to ensure progress, a growing respect for other religions and to develop a more spiritual understanding of the diverse culture and faith within our world.

Long Term Plan

The Long term plan is created by the RE leader in line with the Diocesan expectations, and receiving of the Sacraments. The Long term plan is shared with all staff and copies are kept in the RE File and classroom files.

Short Term Planning

Short term planning is done in full detail and therefore incorporates the Medium Term Plan. Planning is done on the Diocesan STP proforma. The RE lead monitors planning throughout the year. This monitoring and moderation between year groups supports teachers in developing their planning and ensuring Age Related standards are taught.

- Assessment, Recording and Reporting

Assessment for learning:

Marking follows the school's marking policy. Marking promotes an R.E focus, ensuring children have understood the objective taught. Secretarial and presentation elements may be highlighted, and spelling will be primarily focused on RE specific vocabulary.

End of Unit Assessment:

Monitoring and Assessment Focus is given by the Diocese on a four year rolling programme—Liturgical Year, Scripture, Living as Christians and Sacraments. The RE Leader shares the assessment focus before the start of the academic year. The RE Leader asks for dates in which assessments are handed in. Teachers assess using the Diocesan proforma and criteria to ensure consistency. Sample work is collected and monitored by the RE Lead based on the requirements of the Diocese. Progress is also monitored through Pupil Progress Meetings.

Age Related Standards:

EYFS, KSI, Lower KS2 and Upper KS2 have Age Related Standards to be assessed throughout the two years. Children are selected and monitored to develop an understanding and knowledge of reaching the Age Related Standard within RE.

Reporting to Parents:

Teachers discuss children's work and progress during parent consultations in Autumn and Spring. Annual reports are completed and sent out in the summer term.

Sacramental Education

- Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion

Children are prepared for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Eucharist in Year 3.

The Diocesan 'Learning and Growing as People of God' programme strategy is followed in preparation.

Preparation for the Sacraments are accompanied with four meetings for parents, led by our Parish priest, Fr. Tom. In addition to this, Masses throughout the year inspire and encourage a community link with the Parish of St. Augustine's. During preparations for the Sacraments, parents are a vital part of the teaching and are asked to take part alongside their children.

- Sacrament of Confirmation

Children are prepared for the Sacrament of Confirmation in Year 6.

The Diocesan 'Learning and Growing as People of God' programme strategy is followed in preparation.

Parents and children are invited to attend a series of meetings, and parents are encouraged to work with their children.

Children preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation are also asked to attend Confirmation Club. This is an after school club that is run by the R.E leader at St. Augustine's, and where the children join together with those at Christ the King to learn more about this special commitment. Throughout the preparation, great emphasis is placed on the children being responsible for the undertaking and commitment. We encourage children to come to know the Holy Spirit better and relate to Him as is present in their lives and the Church's life.

Retreat days are organised for both Year 3 and Year 6 to help enrich their Sacramental Preparation. This is often led within our Holy Cross MAC Secondary School, Cardinal Newman.

Where children attend Mass as part of their preparations, they are each given a gift to help them embrace and reflect on the Sacrament they are preparing to receive and their journey of their faith.

These include, Bibles, Rosary beads and prayer books.

Prayer

- Prayer as a whole

Prayer is being aware of the presence of God in our lives. It is a way of communicating and opening a relationship with God, a relationship of love and communion. Prayer is not simply traditional prayers that are said, but something that engages the whole person. Through prayer, we bring ourselves before God. We bring our love, our joys, our difficulties, our needs and the needs of others throughout the world.

What you will see

Morning prayers are said each day

Grace before and after meals

Afternoon prayers are said before children go home

Angelus is said at 12 noon by Key Stage 2 children

During Collective Monday Morning Mission Assemblies, traditional taught prayers are said to ensure continuity.

- Prayer Spaces

Prayer Spaces ensure that our school community have the opportunities to reflect and pray. There are spaces around the school to encourage children to have spontaneous prayer. Our main prayer area provides a wonderful place for children to not only pray individually, but gather as a prayerful group.

In both KS1 and KS2 halls, displays and prayer altars are used to focus children's attention on the Liturgical Year or particular study at that time. Each year group are on a rota to form these display boards.

In our KS2 hall, our Jesuit values are displayed and added to as children demonstrate the values in their day to day life.

Children are given a value token added to the board showing how our community is blossoming with our values.

In each classroom, prayer altars are created as the focal point of the classroom for prayer. The altars change depending on the Liturgical Year - the enthroned Bible, candle and cross remain throughout the year, but the colours, statues, objects and Scripture will change. The children take part in forming and dressing the prayer altars and are encouraged to bring their own reflective responses.

- Formal and Informal Prayers

As part of the Diocesan Strategy and 'Teach Us to Pray' document, Children are taught specific prayers in different year groups and throughout the year. The progression of prayer supports the child's whole being in developing an understanding of prayer and a relationship with God. The traditional prayers are taught and explained to the children. Children become familiar with these prayers through hearing them and joining in at Mass, during collective worship (KS1 and KS2), assemblies, liturgies and Holy Times.

- Songs of Praise

Learning and singing hymns are also a form of praise and prayer to God. These take place every Tuesday morning, either as a whole school or Key Stage specific. Children sing their praises to God and learn new and traditional hymns throughout the school year. Children recognise how some hymns are specific to the Liturgical Year too.

Collective Worship

Collective Worship forms a significant part of our school life. Collective Worship can be both formal and informal, directed and spontaneous. Where possible, children are given a central role in forming Collective Worship and encouraging them to take an active role in their worship of God.

- Mass

Whole school masses are held at the beginning and end of each term. Additionally, KS1 and KS2 attend and lead Mass every Wednesday morning on a rota. Children have a prominent role in developing the Mass, sharing and giving their own ideas. Year 6 write their own introductions and bidding prayers. Whole school Masses and services are shared for Harvest, Advent, Lent and other Holy Days of Obligation.

- Other Collective Worship

Mass is not the only time when the children gather for collective worship.

- Mission Monday: Every Monday Morning, children have Key Stage specific Mission assemblies where there is a focus on the Gospel. These are relevant to the Liturgical Year, or something specific that is happening in the world. These are planned and delivered by either SLT or the Chaplaincy Team.
- Gifts from God Assembly: Celebration assemblies are held on a Friday morning to reinforce the Gospel message, praise those who have shown the Jesuit values, and encourage children to live out the Gospel in their lives.
- Rosary group: Every Tuesday lunch, a member of the Parish community comes into school to lead a Rosary group with KS1 and KS2 children.
- Stations of the Cross: During Lent, children reflect on this important season where they participate in the Stations of the Cross at church on a Friday afternoon, with the Parish.
- Guided Meditation: Throughout the year, children are given opportunities through RE lessons and Holy Time, where Guided Meditation is directed.
- Lectio Divina: The Chaplaincy Team and RE lead have been directed in Lectio Divina and deliver this throughout the school either by class group, year group or Key Stage.
- Benediction and Adoration: Throughout the year, there are opportunities for children to experience both Benediction and Adoration.

- Holy Time

If children are not at Mass on a Wednesday morning, there is dedicated time for Holy Time.

Groups of children within the class work alongside the class teacher to develop, direct, plan and deliver the Holy Time Liturgy Service to the rest of their class. Children are given time prior to the Wednesday to work with the class teacher in developing each part of the Liturgy Service: Gather, Listen, Respond and Go Forth. Children produce PowerPoints, resources, and images to help the rest of their class in participating and understanding their relationship with God.

Bible

Sets of Bibles are kept in a central location for classes to collect and use within their classrooms for services and RE lessons and when children wish to use them. In addition to this, an enthroned Bible is displayed in each classroom on the class Prayer Altars. Children are encouraged to reflect on Scripture and express this through drama, art and discussions.

Scripture quotes are shown around the school and in classrooms. Children use these, as well as Scripture Religious art to enhance and enrich their understanding of God in their lives.

Catholic Life and Giving to Others

At St. Augustine's we aim to bring about an awareness of the needs of others. The children involve themselves in a lot of fundraising throughout the year for a variety of charities. This is particularly the case during Lent. This is led by the School Council to ensure consistency, dedication and specific needs. Children in EYFS, KS1 and KS2 are all involved in raising money through a variety of different activities including; cake sales, races, pyjama days, non school uniform days, hot chocolate selling, and much more. The school also take part in helping families in need resource their homes, and providing food to these families and food banks. The reminder and emphasis on giving to others is shown by annual assemblies given to the children by different charities who we raise money for. The great spirit of generosity combined with good will have formed a part of our school and community.

We aim that our school ethos is one that fosters and nurtures giving which is emphasised through this and also the power of prayer.

Parents and the Community

School, Parish and home work together in all aspects of the faith journey of the children. Special times during the Liturgical year are celebrated within the school and at church. Parents are welcomed and encouraged to join these, they include:

- Prayer bags: throughout the year, prayer bags are given to the children to take home and create their own prayer service. Children are encouraged to write up and reflect on their family prayer service in a special book which is then passed on to the next child. These prayer bags are given at different times during the Liturgical Year.
- Stations of the Cross: parents are encouraged to attend Friday's Stations of the Cross in church.
- Advent and Easter Mornings: At the start of both Advent and Easter, the school opens and welcomes the parents to take part in special mornings dedicated to the Season. Children and their families join together in prayer services, art activities, scripture readings and much more.
- KS2 Carol Service
- KS1 Christmas Nativity
- Masses for the Sacraments: Y3 and Y6 families are invited to the preparation Masses, creating a wonderful link between School, Parish and Home.
- School Masses and Sunday Masses: Parents and families are welcomed to Mass on Wednesday for their children's Mass, and also St. Augustine's Sunday Mass at 10.30am, where the children are often involved.
- Lenten Reflection
- Assisting in fundraising events and charity events
- Attending Parent Consultation evenings and Sacramental preparation meetings

Governors

Fr Chris is currently our RE Link governor. She works along side the Head teacher, SLT and RE lead to ensure consistency and a dedicated approach to the school's community on their journey of faith.