

St. Monica's Catholic Primary School



Religious Education Policy 2022-2023

Approved by Headteacher and Governors	Date: May 2023
Last Reviewed on	Date: May 2023
Next review	Date: May 2025

Catholic schools, with RE at their core, exist to "help parents, priests and teachers to hand on the Deposit of Faith in its fullness to a new generation of young people so that they may come to understand the richness of the Catholic faith, and thereby be drawn into a deeper communion with Christ in his Church."

Religious Education Curriculum Directory pvii

Mission Statement

'Success for all within a Christ-Centred Community'

Rationale of Religious Education

The purpose of Religious Education at St Monica's Catholic Primary School is to nurture the Catholic Faith, and its teachings, in our children. Our mission is to help the children in our school to know God and to recognise his presence in others. By helping them to live this faith, we hope to encourage our children to develop a better relationship with God and others around them. Central to our ethos are the opportunities for prayer and worship which lie at the heart of our faith. The ethos of the school is of immense importance, and we seek to create an atmosphere of love and respect, among all in our school community.

The shared faith choice which every parent made in choosing St Monica's is at the essence of our mission statement. To meet this end, this policy is based on our Catholic faith and practices so that our children can receive "successful learning within a Christ centred community" In school we will help all children to develop an understanding of the place that religion plays in people's lives and how it has influenced history and the growth and development of society.

Children of other faiths and none, who attend the school are warmly welcomed and nurtured as part of our school learning community.

We place immense value on respect for the individual. We encourage everyone to be honest, tolerant, just and forgiving of one another and we recognize that each person who is a part of the St Monica's Catholic Primary School community; staff, children, and parents, is on their own personal journey of faith, and are all at different stages.

With this in mind, we recognise that as mentioned in the Religious Education Curriculum Directory, the outcome of Religious Education is religiously literate and engaged young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills – appropriate to their age and capacity – to reflect spiritually, and think ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.¹

¹ Religious Education Curriculum Directory, Catholic Bishops' Conference, 2012, p. 6

Our aims in Religious Education

1. Our aim is to instil a deep understanding of our shared catholic faith as well as giving our children the chance to learn about other religions. Through this, our aim is that this learning will help our children understand about faiths, beliefs and how religion has influenced both the development of humankind and the society in which we live.
2. To enable our children to communicate with God through prayer and scripture.
3. To encourage our children to grow spiritually.
4. To help Our children to explore and express their sense of awe and wonder at the world God has created.
5. To encourage our children to develop their respect, tolerance and understanding of those holding different beliefs, faiths, and cultures.
6. To help our children to grow in awareness of themselves and to develop a positive attitude to their own emotions, life, and learning.
7. To encourage awareness of issues involving social justice and the rights of the individual, particularly through awareness of the Universal church.
8. To present a comprehensive content which engages pupils and is the basis of knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith.

Curriculum time allocation

In line with Bishops' Conference recommendations, 10% of curriculum time is allocated to Religious Education. This does **not** include Prayer and liturgy.

KS1 - 2hr/Wk

KS2 - 2 ½ hr/Wk

Programme of Study

Religious Education is central to the curriculum at St Monica's Catholic Primary School. To fulfil the above aims and to address the four areas of study outlined in the Curriculum Directory for catholic schools – Revelation, Church, Celebration and Life in Christ - the Come and See programme is used as recommended by the Archdiocese of Liverpool.

One of the scheme's goals is to improve the children's knowledge of Scripture and each year group and topic has a specific Scripture focus, which builds progressively from year to year, ensuring that the children leave with a good grounding in the Old Testament as well as the New Testament.

Each topic follows the Explore, Reveal, Respond process. In Explore the children discuss similar issues in situations of which they have experience. In Reveal the children are introduced to the new knowledge in the unit. While in respond they engage with the new knowledge and reflect on what it means to them and to their lives and actions as Christians. Each unit ends with a celebration of their new knowledge which contributes to their appreciation of the love God has for them.

Assessment, Monitoring, Recording and Reporting

In the Come and See programme, assessment is covered by the Respond section which involves:

- ✓ looking back to recognise and value what has gone before.
- ✓ reflecting on the present.
- ✓ looking forward to plan the future.

Throughout the topics, children are assessed by the teacher using the standard indicators for the topic in the Come and see programme as well as questioning, observations throughout the lesson and formative assessment through the marking of the children's written work.

Throughout the year, the children will be formally assessed with tasks provided by the Archdiocese, these formal assessments along with the ongoing formative assessment enables each child to be assessed and awarded a level appropriate to their performance in Religious Education in line with the Archdiocese of Liverpool End of Year Standards. Each child will be assessed as either working towards the expected standard, at the expected standard or working above the expected standard.

Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to parents/carers at regular parent/teacher consultations throughout the year and reported in the children's end of year reports.

Management of the subject

The Religious Education subject lead (Miss McGiveron) alongside SLT monitors work through regular observations, book scrutinies and by collecting samples of work for the school portfolio to track pupils' progress over the years.

Regular staff meetings and CPD's are devoted to Religious Education and include a focus on assessment and moderating of pupils' performance. Prayer and liturgy is also monitored.

Other Faiths

We believe that learning about other faiths and cultures is essential for our children to have a better understanding of their own faith and culture. It is also fundamental to encouraging tolerance and respect, vital British values to which St Monica's Catholic Primary School adheres.

The Come and See programme integrates the teaching of Other Faiths, and allows for learning with progression across the year groups. All children study different aspects of Judaism, Sikhism, and Islam each year and time is allocated for the study of other faiths, ensuring a good accumulative knowledge by the time they leave primary school.

Equal Opportunities

At St Monica's Catholic Primary School, we aim to give all our children irrespective of age, background, or ability equal access to learning opportunities. For religious education, this means equal opportunity to reflect on their life experiences and to understand their own and other people's responses to those experiences in the context of religious belief and practice.

There are a wide variety of activities through which children can convey their responses and new knowledge and understanding can be gained. In considering teaching approaches, it is important to bear in mind the diverse ways in which children might prefer to make responses, depending on their particular strengths and abilities:

- a) verbal response
- b) written response
- c) drawing
- d) acting
- e) participation
- f) singing

All work is valued. We are aware of children's various cultural, social, and ethnic backgrounds and are sensitive in our approach and the use of materials. Teachers are expected to differentiate learning experiences so that all children can meet their full potential.

Policy review

This policy will be monitored, evaluated, and reviewed by SLT, RE Lead and the Governing body and updated every 2 years.