



*"We are a Catholic community, living and learning in faith.
Through the Gospel values of faith, hope, trust and love, we aim to recognise individuality and
enable each other to fulfil our potential"*

St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School

Religious Education Policy

*St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School is committed to safeguarding, child protection,
and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all members
of the School and its community to demonstrably share this commitment.*



Putting Christ and the teachings of the Catholic Church at the centre of the educational enterprise is the key purpose of Catholic Schools. By doing this the church seeks to root our spiritual development, our learning & teaching, the formation of our culture, in Him.

(Christ at the centre. A summary of why the Church provides Catholic Schools.
Diocese of Birmingham 2005)

Our Mission Statement

Key Stage 1:

We are a Catholic Family, living and learning with Jesus.

Key Stage 2:

We are a Catholic community living and learning in faith, through the Gospel values of faith, hope, trust and love. We aim to recognise individuality and enable each other to fulfil our potential.

At St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School we believe that all learning is about God. As such, the teaching and learning of Religious Education is at the very heart of our curriculum. While RE exists as a discrete subject area in its own right, the skills, concepts, attitudes and beliefs learned in the subject permeate every area of life at St Cuthbert's.

What do these four Gospel values mean to us?

Faith: Matthew 17:20 He replied, *"Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."*

If we have faith in Jesus, we can do anything!

Hope: Jeremiah 29:11 *For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*

God is always with us!

Trust: Proverbs 3: 5-6 *Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.*

Trust in God and he will lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil!

Love: John 13:34-35 *A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.*

Jesus is our role model!

The Role of Parents in Religious Education

“The first educators in the faith are parents. It is they, above all others, who establish in their children the first sensitivity and responsiveness to the presence of God, to the practice of prayer and to the patterns of life in the community of faith, the parish. By their example in the home and, their participation in the Mass and the other sacraments, the foundations of a life-long faith and discipleship in their children are laid down.” Statement from the Bishop’s Conference of England and Wales on Religious Education in Catholic Schools 2000. It is, with this statement in mind that we recognise and acknowledge the importance of the partnership with the home and parish communities to which our children belong. As the General Director for Catechesis affirms: “This partnership between home and parish is enhanced by the role of the Catholic school in which the educational mission of the church finds a particular and important expression.”

Aims

Through RE we aim to:

- Enable each child to form a strong, sure relationship with God through Jesus Christ
- To lead children to a deeper knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith, other religious traditions and the ways in which they seek to express the significance of human life.
- Foster and deepen the children’s faith and reverence for God by developing their understanding of the Gospels and by creating an environment which reflects the Gospel values
- Provide opportunities for children to celebrate their faith through liturgy, Collective Worships, sacrament and prayer
- Develop a respect for each other and all people, including those of different faith and cultural backgrounds
- Explore the religious dimensions of questions about life, dignity and purpose within the Catholic traditions
- To challenge children to examine their own lives, to deepen their personal faith commitment and to respect that of others
- To promote spiritual and moral development in all aspects of school life, since God is present in all things, thus enabling children to make sense of how God is active in our world
- To support parents in the faith development of their children

- To help the children to develop a range of skills including the ability to investigate, interpret, communicate, criticise, evaluate and socialise
- To deliver a curriculum that fosters excellence and enjoyment for all children

Objectives

Within the context of our Mission Statement, Learning and Teaching, Special Educational Needs, Assessment, Marking, Recording and Reporting, Equal Opportunities and Health and Safety Policies, the teaching of RE will give children the opportunity to:

- Appreciate that God's love and presence are made real and celebrated in the seven sacraments of the Church
- Develop the appropriate skills and attitudes to promote an informed and full response to God's call in everyday life
- Reflect, discuss and question their thoughts, feelings, emotions and attitudes.
- Study, investigate and reflect upon their learning
- Develop ways of expressing themselves through the various types of informal and formal prayers
- Familiarise themselves with the sacred books of the Old and New Testaments
- Take part in a variety of celebrations including non-Eucharistic liturgies, Masses and assemblies
- Come to know and understand the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church

Teaching Religious Education and the Curriculum

Since the total curriculum in our school is based on the values of the Gospel and because we see all education as revealing the mystery of God, we recognise two aspects of Religious Education in the school:

- a) Implicit or unstructured RE: those opportunities which arise in the course of the school day to lead children through curriculum content or through relationships to a religious understanding of their implications. It is the policy of the school to use such opportunities as they arise.
- b) Explicit or Curriculum RE: those timetabled or planned periods of time given to an explicit consideration of RE in the classroom. It is the policy of the school to give 10% of the timetable to KS1 (2 hours) and 10% to KS2 (2 ½ hours).

In common with the other Catholic Primary schools in the Diocese, the RE programme used throughout the school is "Come and See" as approved by the Bishops of England and Wales. Our Come and See programme follows a structure based upon the four Constitutions of the Second Vatican Council:

REVELATION – God speaks – finding meaning in life.

CHURCH – Christ the light of the nations – Community of Faith

CHRISTIAN LIVING – Joy and hope – Way of Life

SACRAMENTS – Liturgy: Celebration – Celebration in symbol and ritual

The Themes

Come and See is developed through three themes based upon the above documents of the Second Vatican Council, which are gradually explored each time at greater depth. They are Church, Sacrament and Christian Living. The basic question – belief for each season time is explored through three kinds of themes:

- Community of Faith – Church
- Celebration of Ritual – Sacraments
- Way of Life – Christian Living

Each of the themes occurs in each season time and each theme gradually builds on the understanding of the previous theme. The themes for each season are as follows:

Autumn

The three autumn themes are developed in the light of an understanding of Creation.

- **Family** - Domestic Church focuses on life as a gift, myself as a unique and loved creation, the creative love and care that can be expressed in family groups.
- **Belonging** – Baptism/Confirmation focuses on the call to belong. Baptism and Confirmation, sacraments of the gift of God's life and friendship.
- **Loving** – Advent/Christmas focuses on the capacity for entering into loving relationships and the perfect gift and revelation of God's love, Jesus, born to Mary, born as one of us.

Spring

The three spring themes are developed in the light of an understanding of Incarnation.

- **Community** – Local Church focuses on the people of God gathered in Christ, united in the journey of faith, in care for one another, in sharing their story and in celebration.
- **Relating** – Eucharist focuses on the invitation to know Jesus, to live in communion with him and one another.
- **Giving** – Lent/Easter focuses on Jesus' loving self-giving. On the cross, the Father's love that raises him to new life and the challenge of Christians to follow Jesus' example of self-giving.

Summer

The three summer themes are developed in the light of an understanding of Redemption and the work of the Holy Spirit.

- **Serving** – Pentecost focuses on the on-going mission of Jesus Christ in the Church through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- **Inter-Relating** – Reconciliation focuses on love, compassion and forgiveness of God the Father revealed in Jesus and poured out by the Spirit to bring forgiveness and reconciliation in the sacrament of Reconciliation.
- **World** – Universal Church focuses on the same love revealed in the diversity of the world and its people, and the gifts of the Spirit that bear fruit in love, joy, justice and peace for all people.

Our programme follows a four-week structure based around a four-week sequence of teaching:

- Explore- 1 week:
This is the introduction to the topic where children's life experiences are explored. Children will have the opportunity to ask and answer questions about the topic and reflect on what it means to them.
- Reveal – 2 weeks:
This is the heart of the programme where knowledge and the understanding of the Catholic faith is revealed. Children will discover and explore: the Holy Trinity; scripture from the Holy Bible; Catholic prayers and hymns; Christian Worship, including the different rites during Mass; the Seven Sacraments and the lives of Christians who are true followers of Christ.
- Respond- 1 week:
This is where all new learning is assimilated, celebrated and reflected on. The children complete either a 'What I now know form?' or complete a Respond booklet and/or plan a class celebration.

Other World Faiths are taught for two discrete weeks during the school year. In the Autumn Term, all classes learn about Judaism. In the summer term, all classes dedicate one week to learning about another World Faith: Islam.

The Come and See Programme leads the themes and planning for the Curriculum based projects that run through our school.

What does an RE lesson look like at St Cuthbert's?

- Every lesson begins with the Sign of the Cross and lighting a candle.
- A LO (Learning Objective) and SC (Success Criteria) using driver words are shared or created by the children at the beginning, middle or even end of the lesson so they can evaluate their learning

- A teaching input will introduce children to the main lesson content. Questions are asked to assess children's starting points or extend their thinking further.
- A range of activities are used for children to communicate their knowledge and understanding e.g. research tasks, paintings, hymns, writing tasks, dance, drama and discussions/circle times.
- Every RE lesson will include a period of prayer and reflection.
- Hymns are now taught through our Religious Education lessons to enhance the children's ability to make links with a range of sources.

Multi Faith Programme

As part of the 'Come and See' programme, two weeks are set aside for the study of other faiths, one in the autumn term and one in the summer term. Judaism, the root of our faith is studied every year along with one other world faith. At St. Cuthbert's we have chosen Islam as our second faith and this is built upon each year. During our Faith Weeks, pupils are given the opportunity to explore aspects of these faiths through practical activities and, wherever possible, from input by representatives of other faiths as well as trips to their place of worship.

Inclusion

Where necessary, teaching and tasks will be adapted to suit the needs of all children; those with Special Educational Needs as well as the Gifted and Talented. Appropriate support will be offered to ensure every child has full access to the RE curriculum.

Differentiation

Differentiation is achieved in RE through: the amount of adult support given, planning different activities, using the success criteria to impact an open-ended task and through asking a range of questions. Teachers are encouraged to differentiate most of the lessons during the Reveal section of the Come and See programme to help all children achieve their potential.

Marking, Assessment and Monitoring

Marking

In the children's Religious Education books or on Seesaw, signalled in the books, for each topic, there should be evidence of the Explore, Reveal and Respond section of the Come and See programme. Three lessons, for each topic, are marked with next steps to extend the children's thinking further. Other feedback may be given by the teacher (T) or a Learning Support Assistant (LSA). Verbal feedback is instant and meaningful for the children and is especially valued in RE. Please see the School marking policy.

Assessment

One topic during each term will be assessed against 'Interim Standards'. When planning for each topic, teachers look at the three different areas of:

- Knowledge and Understanding (Learning about)
- Engagement and Response (Learning from)
- Analysis and Evaluation

This will ensure that teachers get enough evidence for children to achieve their potential. Assessment Data will be inputted on Pupil Asset. Please see the School Assessment Policy.

Monitoring

The RE Leader will monitor teaching and learning (in line with the School observation policy), the children's learning in their RE books (or Diocesan supplied sheets), RE displays and Prayer Tables.

Spiritual and Moral Development

At St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School, we believe that spiritual development relates to that aspect of inner life through which the children acquire insights into their personal existence. It is the experience of love, of goodness and beauty. It is a sense of being taken out of oneself; the sense of wonder, of questioning, of awe, or simply the instinct that there must be more to life than this.

We believe that enhancing spiritual development helps children to create increasingly coherent narratives about themselves. Through spiritual development, the children are encouraged to grow in self-awareness and in awareness of their responses to experience, seen especially in the light of faith.

At St Cuthbert's we aim to provide a safe environment in which our children feel confident to open themselves to the truth of their own experience and feelings. We encourage children in their spiritual development by encouraging a questioning and searching attitude about the self which will include "Who am I?" "Where do I fit in?" and "How do I relate to others?"

Staff are also encouraged to develop their awareness of their own spiritual journey through regular Staff Collective Worship and that, like the children, they can experience the excitement of discoveries and should be prepared to risk sharing their experiences with the children.

Moral education at St Cuthbert's is promoted through the R.E. curriculum, E.P.R, core values and all other subject areas. It is promoted in interpersonal relationships, enlivened by the whole School Catholic Ethos and is concerned with personal decision making on the basis of what is right and wrong.

Spiritual and moral development is promoted in all aspects of School life, since God is present in all things: curriculum subjects, extra-curricular activities, interpersonal relationships, Collective Worship – each are avenues into understanding and experiencing God, thus enabling children to make sense of how God is active in our world. Therefore, every member of staff in our School has a role to play. All share in the nurturing of the whole person and by their witness to Christian values, help create the ethos in which all can grow, spiritually and morally, and be formed in the likeness of Christ.

Children's spiritual growth is aided by opportunities for religious experiences, meditation and reflection; Collective Worship allows children to explore and share beliefs, appreciate the discipline of silence and prayer, raise and address moral, personal, social, national and international concern (see policy for Collective Worship). Our values led education is uniquely placed to promote spiritual and moral development because they both reflect and structure the sort of person we become.

Religious Displays and Prayer Tables

Every classroom will have a special area reserved for spiritual focus -this includes an RE display and a Prayer Table.

The Religious Education displays should contain: a title, some information about the topic, a prayer/reflection, some key questions, key vocabulary and evidence of children's learning.

The Prayer Table should contain: a crucifix, a statue of Mary, a living thing (e.g. plant), a Bible opened to relevant scripture, a prayer file/box and a candle.

Both areas should reflect the liturgical time of year through the artefacts, scripture readings and colours displayed. The following colours will be used throughout the liturgical year:

- Christmas and Easter: White
- Ordinary time: Green
- Advent and Lent: Violet

Our values tree, (F-AIR) is in the reception entrance area where we display examples of children who have demonstrated living the school values. This is a community approach as we invite parents/carers and members of staff to recognise any child who have gone the extra mile to display these values. These names and the reasons are written on leaves and displayed for that term. During the end of half term Celebration Worship, some of the leaves are shared and awards are given to some of our children.

Prayers

The following prayers are taught to our children throughout their time at St Cuthbert's:

- The Sign of the Cross
- Morning prayer
- Prayer before lunch
- Afternoon prayer
- Our Father
- Hail Mary
- The Glory Be
- Angel of God
- Responses at Mass
- Penitential Rite
- Apostles Creed

In October (the month of the Holy Rosary) and May (the month of Our Lady), the children learn how to pray the Rosary with their class teacher. In EYFS and KS1 this may be built into their learning throughout the month progressing into KS2 praying a decade each day.

Please refer to the School Collective Worship Policy.

RE Home Learning

In KS2, Religious Education Home Learning is set in accordance with the overall class project once a term. This is at the discretion of the class teacher.

Links with Parents and the Parish

Teachers report information about the children's RE learning three times a year, through two parents' evenings and a formal written report. Throughout the School year, parents are invited to Class Masses, Whole School Masses and their child's Class Liturgy, which always focuses around their current RE topic.

Staff dedicate time to attend our Year 3 children's Holy Communion Masses at Church and help and support them through their journey.