



Join the faith and learning journey



Religious Education Policy

Mission Statement

St. Antony's School is part of the Roman Catholic community of the Holy Family, where Jesus Christ is our inspiration as we raise standards and aspirations for all of our children.

As a deeply committed Roman Catholic Primary School, St. Antony's regards Religious Education as central to the whole life of the school.

The Religious element permeates throughout the school day: in and out of the classroom, with the hope that the children will identify with and adopt such an attitude to life. The school follows closely the Salford Religious Guidelines for the teaching and assessment of R.E. Our lessons also include elements of particular religious importance to the school and parish.

We are committed to allowing pupils to explore their own faith and develop their relationship with God and what He wants them to be.

Our Catholic School has a unique and special role to play in the lives of the children. We seek to foster a distinctive outlook on life rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We aim to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, physical, personal and social development of all our children and help them to achieve their full potential and enlarge their capacity to enjoy learning. By creating an environment rooted in Christian values, we hope to encourage regular worship, and to develop tolerance and respect for others, so that effective learning can take place.

Aims

- ✓ To encourage an atmosphere of Christian understanding, care, love and respect throughout the school in every aspect of school life.
- ✓ To identify the school as distinctively Catholic through its teaching, liturgy, displays, ethos.
- ✓ To give religious instruction, according to the Religious Education Curriculum Directory.
- ✓ To give the children a sense of moral value by personal example, teaching and discussion.
- ✓ To liaise with the Parish Sacramental Programme; with Catechists, the Parish Priest, parents and the wider parish in guiding children through their journey of Christian initiation.
- ✓ To celebrate our Catholic tradition of worship, praise and thanksgiving .
- ✓ To celebrate feasts through the Liturgical year.
- ✓ To acknowledge other faiths of pupils in our school.
- ✓ To develop an understanding of those who worship in another faith.
- ✓ To mark particular important occasions through the liturgical year.
- ✓ To worship in a wide variety of ways, including;
 - Whole school worship at the beginning of the week.
 - Key Stage and class worships on a weekly basis.
 - Daily prayers in class each morning, lunch time at home time.
 - Regular celebration of the Eucharist in school.

The R.E. Programme

The school follows the scheme recommended by Salford Diocese, "Come and See". Both the Teacher Handbook and online resources and teaching materials are made readily available to each class teacher.

Teaching of R.E.

Each class teacher is responsible for the teaching and learning of RE in their class.

Lessons constitute 10% of teaching time each week.

Grouping will vary according to the content and style of the lesson and will be decided by the teacher.

Teaching and learning experiences will be planned and delivered in as many ways as possible to appeal to different learning styles.

The minimum requirement is for two pieces of written work to be evidenced in the children's books on a weekly basis in Key Stage one and two.

Resources

The resources are available to all staff and are kept in school storage and individual classrooms.

There are Bibles for both Key Stages and a collection of prayer books, posters, crucifixes, rosary beads and other religious symbols and artefacts which we use to enrich the teaching in Religious Education. Resources are also in school to aid the teaching of other world faiths.

Assessment

Teachers are responsible for their own record keeping and assessment. We assess children's work in Religious Education by making informal judgements as we observe them during lessons. We assess them orally, and through their own writing and drawings. Teachers attempt to elicit a personal response from children, so that knowledge of God will help them to understand themselves and the consequences of their actions.

We mark a piece of work once it has been completed and follow the school marking policy. Pupils will be assessed in each four-week unit of work in relation to the levels of attainment, the level is decided upon by the written assessment and through class work and discussion. Formal assessment is recorded each term. Children's progress informs future planning. Children's progress is reported to parents twice a year at Parents' Evenings and in an end of year report.

Prayer and Worship

As stated in the aims of Religious Education we value very highly the times when we meet for collective worship. At present the following takes place;

- ✓ Whole School Assembly each Monday, largely based on the Gospel reading of the Sunday.
- ✓ Weekly KS1 (including Reception) Worship and KS2 Worship, teacher led.
- ✓ Class Worship where children facilitate in the planning and delivery of Worship.
- ✓ Good News assemblies highlighting and celebrating the positive aspects of school life,
- ✓ Daily prayers said each morning, lunchtime and afternoon
- ✓ Regular Hymn Practice
- ✓ Prayer Focuses in each classroom allowing children and staff to remain focused while praying and reflecting.

- ✓ Masses held in school regularly
- ✓ Christmas Nativity celebrations, Advent and Lent Liturgies, Easter Story performance, Harvest and feast day celebrations.

S.E.N.D (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities)

At St Antony's we firmly believe in the value of each individual as a child of God. The school therefore, welcomes pupils with Special Educational Needs. The school recognises that in any class there will be children of different levels of ability and personal needs. When teaching RE, we ensure that we provide learning opportunities matched to meet the needs of children with learning difficulties and the gifted.

Social Teachings of the Church and implementation of the British Values

Through our curriculum, extra-curricular activities, teaching and learning our school will promote British values. By doing so, we will ensure that all learners understand the values that have traditionally underpinned British society. The teaching of these values will promote cohesiveness within our school and community. We will prepare pupils for life in England where the population has an increasingly rich diversity of backgrounds, origins, beliefs and cultures by promoting the values on which our society has been built. By teaching pupils these values we will help all to become good citizens of Great Britain.

The CARITAS Guide to Catholic Social Teaching and its seven topic areas:

1. Dignity of the Human Person
2. Family and Community
3. Solidarity and the Common Good
4. Rights and Responsibilities
5. Option for the Poor and Vulnerable
6. Dignity of Work
7. Stewardship

Cross Curricular Links

As religious education is an integral part of school life, RE incorporates other curriculum areas. Children are encouraged to see the 'Awe and Wonder' of God's Creation throughout their school years. Clear cross-curricular links should be made by class teachers.

Equal Opportunities

The school teaches mixed gender and age. We are committed to providing equal educational experiences to every pupil.

Pastoral guidance and support

The teaching and non-teaching staff regard their role as guiders and supporters as an extremely important part of their job. They are always available and very willing to help the children in and out of the class for whatever need. They remain fully professional in their approach and respect each individual.

Monitoring and Reviewing

The RE Coordinator alongside the Head Teacher is responsible for monitoring the standards of children's work and the quality of teaching in RE. She is also responsible for supporting colleagues in the teaching of RE, for being informed about current developments in the subject, and for providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in the school.

