

# Religious Education Subject Policy

## St. Francis' Catholic Primary School



**Approved by FGB on:** N/A

**Committee Responsible:** Learning

**Next review due by:** November 2023

# Religious Education

## **Intent**

We attach the greatest importance to Religious Education (RE) in the life of St. Francis' School and ensure that all children have equal access to the RE curriculum, regardless of religion, gender, culture or special educational needs. Our Christian values are embedded into our curriculum vision which is expressed and explored in religious education. Our Christian ethos underpins all that we do at St. Francis' School, but the specific teaching of RE is primarily educational and for this reason will be planned, taught, assessed and monitored with the same rigour as core curriculum subjects.

## **Aims**

- develop the child's sense of awe and wonder
- teach RE in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church
- foster religious literacy among pupils, including the foundations for an understanding of the liturgy, prayer and the sacraments
- to help pupils think spiritually, ethically and theologically
- help pupils to grow in confidence
- provide opportunities for children to celebrate their faith
- provide a Christian environment in which everyone feels welcome, valued, respected and secure
- familiarise the children with the Gospel message and scriptures
- foster in all the understanding of God's Kingdom through work in our local and wider community
- ensure the liturgical year is reflected in the life and activities of the school
- help children in their search for the meaning of life through the way in which God reveals himself in Christ
- develop an understanding of other world faiths.

## **Implementation**

- planning and teaching follows the 'revised' God Matters scheme of work produced by the Clifton Diocese. This comprises of ten units and adheres to the Curriculum Directory guidelines and learning outcomes
- RE will account for 10% of the timetabled teaching time
- the ten units are taught annually in every year group but focus and content changes ensuring continuity and progression from Reception to Y6
- unit plans will also incorporate liturgical events and key feast days
- before each unit, an RE Newsletter for parents/carers provides details of how they can support learning at home
- assessment will establish what pupils know, understand and can do. It will not assess spirituality or faith practice
- attainment is monitored by assessing completed tasks (e.g. work in books, class assemblies, displays, role play etc.) and making judgements through observation, discussion and questioning. 'I can' statements are completed by both the children and teacher at the end of each unit to show understanding and to identify next steps

- assessment results are collated by the RE coordinator, entered on the school data tracking sheets and used to measure progress and achievement. Attainment is recorded as EXS (Expected Standard), GDS (Greater Depth Standard) or WTS (Working towards the Expected Standard)
- resources stored in the photocopying room include books, posters, pictures and items for prayer displays/services/daily acts of worship. The school library also has a variety of religious books
- Mass resources are stored in a cupboard in the hall
- each class has a prayer corner reflecting the liturgical season. A set of Bibles can be found in each KS2 class
- prayer stations are located throughout the school and can be used for quiet personal prayer or reflection
- we will provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability or experiences of the children. This is achieved through setting open-ended tasks, tasks of increasing difficulty, offering support to groups/individuals and finding various ways to record knowledge and understanding
- RE is taught as a subject in isolation and, where appropriate, it is linked with other curriculum areas.

## **Impact**

Regular monitoring assists in the self-evaluation process, identifying areas of strength as well as those for development. The quality of teaching and learning in RE is monitored and evaluated by the RE coordinator with support from the SLT as part of the school's agreed monitoring cycle. The RE Coordinator will ensure that the aims and learning outcomes in the Curriculum Directory are identified and fulfilled, and the school RE policy is being implemented. In monitoring the quality of RE teaching and learning, the RE Coordinator will:

- check that the full curriculum is being delivered effectively
- evaluate the success of curriculum planning and delivery
- have an awareness of impact and be able to demonstrate progression and attainment
- have an overview of resource and staff training needs.

Monitoring may be completed in a variety of ways, including:

- learning walks
- analysis and review of data and planning
- work/book scrutiny
- pupil conferencing
- staff interviews/feedback
- lesson observations.

An RE governor has specific responsibility for RE and liaises closely with the staff of the school to fulfil their monitoring duties.

## **Conclusion**

RE is at the heart of what we believe and follow as a school; we will nurture and care for our children, and ensure they are aware of the importance of love and forgiveness. At St. Francis' School, we do not only teach RE, we put into prayerful practice what is taught through our mission statement.