Pray, Learn, Achieve and Celebrate Together

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**Religious Education Handbook**

A new commandment I give unto you: that you love one

another as I have loved you.”

John 13:34

Written: March 2021

Review Date: June 2024

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**St Gabriel's Catholic Primary School**

**Religious Education Handbook**

Reviewed and Updated: Spring 2023

Mission Statement

St Gabriel’s Catholic Primary School is a nurturing and inclusive community, united through the love of Jesus and inspired by Christian values to share the Good News.

A new commandment I give unto you: that you love one another as I have loved you.” John 13:34

Our Mission will be fulfilled through the line in our school prayer: “Treat others as you would like to be treated yourself,” and the promotion of Our Core Values:

• Respect: We respect others and their property.

• Love: We are kind, caring and helpful; we think about others and do not hurt other people’s feelings.

• Forgiveness: We ask for forgiveness when we have done something wrong and we do not hold grudges.

• Honesty: We are honest and never hide the truth.

• Courage: We show courage when things are difficult and keep on trying. • Effort: We work hard and do not waste time.

• Responsibility: We take responsibility for our own actions

The Outcome of Religious Education

*‘The outcome of excellent 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.’*

Religious Education Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools 2012

The Aims of Religious Education

The following strategies and aims underpin the effective delivery of religious education in the Catholic School:

* It will be taught discreetly and developmentally.
* Include the deepening knowledge and understanding of key theological ideas and their application to life.
* Provide ample opportunities for children to apply and use their knowledge and skills in cross-curricular studies to deepen their understanding of religious truths and think creatively.
* Engage with their own and others’ beliefs and values to develop good attitudes and dispositions so that children are instilled with a love of learning and a desire to go on learning.
* Engage with difficult questions of meaning and purpose which everyone has to face
* Enable the children to think critically about their own questions of meaning and purpose.
* Offer the children a sense of self worth through their experience of belonging to a caring community and an awareness of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.

Come and See- pg 11

Objectives

The objectives of religious education requires:

* Analysis, reflection and critical appreciation of sources.
* Marked progression through the different stages of education.
* The unequivocal support of the management of every Catholic School.
* 10% of the length of the taught week for each key stage of education.
* The encouragement of investigation and reflection.
* Development of appropriate skills and attitudes, which allow a free, informed response to God’s call in everyday life.
* The use of skills in other areas of the curriculum.

The Religious Education Programme

“To fulfil our aims and objectives we use the ‘Come and See’ programme of Religious Education recommended by the Archdiocese of Liverpool”. We are currently also incorporating the new Religious Education Directory on a rolling year group basis- “To know you more clearly”.

Overview of Content

Each topic taught in each year group includes an overview on the front page of what is to be covered during that theme.

“To know you more clearly” includes an overview of the 6 branches at the start of each unit.

The Process of Knowledge/ Understanding/ Skills and Attitudes

The process for delivering the topics in ‘Come and See’ has three stages- Explore, Reveal and Respond, which enable pupils to develop knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes. Refer to ‘Come and See’ pages 20-22.

The process encompasses a variety of teaching and learning styles, which enable the needs of individual pupils to be met.

The Approach Chosen

At St Gabriels we have chosen the approach whereby each year group will explore the topics set for them in their ‘Come and See’ books. Staff will use the online ‘Come and See’ resources, as these are updated regularly.

Planning

Long-term planning- the themes and topics frameworks set out by ‘Come and See’.

Medium-term planning- this is the overall responsibility of the subject leader- it is essential that teachers reflect on the theme pages at the start of each topic.

Short-term planning- this is the responsibility of the class teacher. The teachers will use the planning model agreed by the school and the diocese.

At St Gabriel’s, the RE curriculum will be adapted and supported appropriately for children with SEND. This is to ensure the development of skills and equal access to the Come and See Curriculum at St Gabriel’s.

In order to ensure pupils with SEND achieve to the best of their ability, the teacher will assess throughout each session and each topic. The children will be provided an accessible activity taken from the provided SEN bank of resources for Come and See.

Assessment

Assessment is focused by the overall aims and objectives of Religious Education ‘Come and See’ and the Religious Education Curriculum Directory for Catholic School and Colleges. In ‘Come and See’, it is related to the concepts, skills and attitudes to be developed through the exploration of the themes and the learning outcome for each topic. Assessment establishes what pupils know, understand and can do. It does not assess faith or the practice of faith. Assessment in ‘Come and See’ emphasises a wide range of achievement.

In our school it involves:

**Teacher Assessment-** this is carried out through observations, discussions, questioning, self & peer assessment, oral feedback. Staff use the guidance from the Come and See Topics, the R.E the learning receipts and Pupil voice. Children are then given a standard that they are working at:

* Working Below
* Working At
* Working Above

This is entered on the class tracking for each topic, and used to support teaching of the next sessions – which is in line with all other subject areas.

The subject leader collects this data termly and analyses appropriately. Any children who are deemed to be working towards are discussed with class teachers during pupil progress meetings. Any children who are expected to be ARE across other subjects are identified with the class teacher and targeted.

Parents are informed of their child’s progress throughout the year, as well as in their end of year report.

Recording

Recording provides evidence of achievement. It involves pupils with self and peer assessment and progress in dialogue with the teacher. This may include:

Notes from observations

Written comments on children’s work

Photographs

Display Work

Drama pieces

Reporting

Reporting is carried out using the following methods:

Comments in books

Verbal feedback

Annual reports to parents

Curriculum Newsletters

R.E Newsletters

Assemblies

The school Twitter

Evaluating of teaching and learning

The guidelines produced in the Monitoring pack provided by the diocese form the basis of the methods of evaluating teaching, this includes briefly:

Observing class teachers

Children’s work

Displays

Discussions

Questionnaires with staff children and parents

Staff Development

The Head and Deputy Head Teacher attend the annual conferences.

The R.E Co-ordinator attends termly co-ordinators meetings.

NQT sessions are attended when new teachers join the teaching staff.

Inset has been provided for the staff in regards to the new assessments

and planning format.

CCRS is provided to staff members.

Staff Induction

It is the responsibility of the R.E co-ordinator to induct new teachers and provide an explanation of the ‘Come and See’ programme.

Any other staff working in school, are provided with the schools mission statement and are expected to adhere to the Catholic ethos of the school.

Resources

Available on the school drive, and in physical form in classes. The R.E Co-ordinator is responsible for the maintenance of resources. Staff may use resources for display purposes. Each class has a copy of God’s Story and Church Story.

Online resources are available via the ‘Come and See’ website which all staff have been given access to.

Prayer and Liturgy

Prayer and Liturgy at St Gabriel’s, including assemblies, reflects the traditions of the Catholic Church, is Trinitarian in character and respects the beliefs and faiths of other cultures. Prayer and Liturgy takes place every day for every year group.

The aims of Prayer and Liturgy for all pupils and staff are:

* To nurture faith development and commitment
* To enrich religious experience
* To stimulate reflection on spiritual and moral issues
* To develop liturgical knowledge and understanding
* To promote shared values, positive attitudes and community spirit.

Prayer and Liturgy takes place two days in the hall and are usually led by the Headteacher/ Deputy head/Assistant head. Every Friday and Monday, staff and children come together for a celebration Prayer and Liturgy. Every Thursday, KS2 children come together for a Prayer and Liturgy led by RE Lead.

Prayer and Liturgies also happen at other times in class, when appropriate.

Each term, every class lead an assembly for the rest of the school to which parents and governors are invited. These assemblies usually reflect curriculum work or special days from that term.

Nursery children do not attend assemblies; however, time is set aside during the week for Prayer and Liturgy. This is similar in Reception until the spring term when the children are ready to participate in whole school Prayer and Liturgy.

Each class plans and delivers a ‘Stay and Pray’ session for their class parents and governors.

Each term the whole school takes part in a mass held in church. Parents and parishioners are welcome to attend.

Spiritual/Moral Development

See RSHE Policy

See Spiritual and Moral Development Policyu

Community Links

St Gabriel’s has strong links with the parish, local and wider community. These include:

**Harvest assembly**: Led by a year group. Parcels are then delivered to the local community.

**Good Shepherd**: Whole school fundraising such as cakes, raffles, sponsored events etc. to raise money.

**CAFOD**: The children undertake fundraising events to support CAFOD, including the Big Lent Walk

**Operation Christmas Child**: For the past number of years the school has supported this by creating and donating parcels.

**Class Assemblies:** As mentioned earlier.

**Nativity Plays:** These are carried out by the Early Years and Key Stage 1 children.

**Christingle Service:** Led by the Key Stage 2 children. This service is held in Church each year.

**Year 6 Leavers Mass:** this is held in school at the end of the academic year.

**Other:** St Gabriel’s children often have many ideas for other charitable events that can be hosted throughout the year.

Sacramental Preparation.

This is organised and ran by the Church. School support as necessary

Self Evaluation Document

See school self-evaluation documentation.

Evaluation of R.E Handbook

This book will be reviewed in March 2024

**Chair of Governors:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Headteacher:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**