

Pray, Learn, Achieve and Celebrate Together



Religious Education Policy

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



St Gabriel's Catholic Primary School

Religious Education Policy

1 The Aim of Religious Education

The aim of Religious Education within St Gabriel's School is to give children the opportunity to understand and develop their experiences of life, in a Christian community, which is committed to the spiritual, moral and social development of all.

The R.E. Programme embraces the religious and educational needs of all our children including:-

- ✧ those from supportive Catholic homes.
- ✧ those for whom school may be their first and perhaps their only experience of church
- ✧ those from other Christian traditions.

The children are all special, our aim is to help them realise their true worth as members of our school community.

2 Principles

The following are the principles we want to underlay all Religious Education in our school.

- ✧ To develop a respect and understanding of fellow human beings.
- ✧ To realise that everyone is important as themselves.
- ✧ To develop a positive attitude towards others.
- ✧ To acknowledge each other's talent/gifts and celebrate them.
- ✧ To respect freedom and peace.
- ✧ To respect home/life experiences.
- ✧ To respect other faiths.
- ✧ To help each child form a deeper understanding of the Catholic faith.
- ✧ To acknowledge our children's level of understanding and maturity.
- ✧ To be fully inclusive of children, families, staff who are not Catholic.

St Gabriel's Catholic Primary School will work with:

- ✧ Pupils and parents
- ✧ School Governors
- ✧ The Parish and its parishioners
- ✧ The local Community and the wider community encompassing the local education authority and the Archdiocese of Liverpool.

3 Learning Intentions

The Learning Intentions of the religious education curriculum in St Gabriel's Catholic Primary School:

- ⤴ To understand the search of meaning.
- ⤴ To promote knowledge and the understanding of the beliefs, values and way of life of the Catholic tradition of Christianity.
- ⤴ To deepen attitudes of awe, wonder, reverence, respect and compassion.
- ⤴ To ensure experience of prayer, celebration, reflection, empathy, discernment and evaluation.
- ⤴ To familiarise the children with the technical terms of religious belief, practices, activities, stories, symbols and rituals.
- ⤴ To support all staff in their own journey of faith and in the delivery of Religious Education.

The fundamental skills, knowledge and concepts of Religious Education are set out in our 'Come and See', a Programme for Primary Schools. It follows a process

- ⤴ Explore
- ⤴ Reveal
- ⤴ Respond

This process helps the teachers to help the children by:

- ⤴ Looking at and focusing on a life experience.
- ⤴ Exploring this aspect of life experience.
- ⤴ Leading children to deeper understanding of life experiences.
- ⤴ The presentation of the Christian understanding of this process.
- ⤴ Celebration in worship
- ⤴ To hold on to what they have understood.
- ⤴ To go back and look again at life experience.

Alongside our "Come and See" scheme, we are also incorporating the new Religious Education Directory framework, "To know you more clearly".

The learning intentions are to:

- Engage in a systematic study of the mystery of God, of the life and teaching of Jesus Christ and the teachings of the Church, the central beliefs that Catholics hold, the basis for them and the relationships between faith and life
- To enable pupils continually to deepen their religious and theological understanding and be able to communicate this effectively.
- To present an authentic vision of the Church's moral and social teaching
- To give pupils an understanding of the religions and worldviews present in the world today and the skills to engage in respectful and fruitful dialogue
- To develop critical faculties of pupils so to bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life and between faith and culture

- To stimulate pupil's imagination and provoke a desire for personal meaning as revealed in the truth of the Catholic faith.
- To enable pupils to relate the knowledge gained through the religious education to their understanding of other subjects in the curriculum

The process consists of 6 Branches of learning that follow the lenses:

- Hear
- Believe
- Celebrate
- Live

- Dialogue
- Encounter

4 Teaching and Learning Strategies

- ⤴ Religious Education is organised on a subject basis outside the main topic framework of the curriculum. We follow a whole school approach to Religious Education as outlined in 'Come and See'. Each year concentrating only on the area of focus identified. At times the school topic and R.E. topics form natural links, and we make sure we take advantage of these, to use opportunities for 'Excellence and Enjoyment'. We are currently transitioning to the "To know you more clearly" modelled curriculum.
- ⤴ An allocation of 10% of curriculum time per week is given to the teaching of Religious Education. This is achieved in various ways depending upon the age of the children. With the longer school days, this equates to 2 hours and 45 mins in KS2 and 2 hours and 30 mins in KS1.
- ⤴ The lessons enable the children to explore in detail their appropriate area of focus, via discussions, practical activities, use of resources and questioning in various forms. The children all have books in which they put some of their Religious Education work.
- ⤴ All teachers teach Religious Education in the school.
- ⤴ Parental involvement is encouraged throughout the school, throughout the curriculum, e.g. invitations are sent out to parents to come to class assemblies.
- ⤴ The 'Come and See' scheme provides the framework, which is supported by a variety of activities in school.
- ⤴ Achievement and individual development are celebrated via:
 - Displays
 - Acknowledgement
 - End of topic celebrations
 - Assemblies

5 Strategies for Ensuring progress and continuity

Planning Religious Education is a process in which all teachers are involved. Regular planning meetings form the main focus of our school planning policy. Communication and consultation take place at all levels and support is given where necessary. Any relevant information and materials are made available to staff. Weekly staff meetings, during the

year give staff the opportunity to discuss and reflect on various aspects e.g. topic, presentation, display, celebration and extended experiences.

6 Feedback to pupils

Feedback to pupils about their own progress in Religious Education is achieved through:

- ✧ Effective marking
- ✧ Verbal acknowledgement- praise
- ✧ Discussion- individual
- ✧ Celebration
- ✧ Scrutinising work together
- ✧ Monitoring work/books

7 Assessment

Assessment is used to guide the progress of individual pupils in Religious Education. It involves identifying what the child has learnt and the next stage to follow. Assessment is mostly carried out by teachers in the course of their teaching via:

- ✧ Group discussions
- ✧ Individual discussions
- ✧ Specific Assessment tasks
- ✧ Using standards of Attainment as measures and recording.
- ✧ Compilation of class portfolios with samples of ability range.
- ✧ Formal Assessment guidance from the Archdiocese

8 Parental/Carers and Community Involvement

- ✧ The school website has information about the R.E. topics through termly newsletters, with hints to parents of how they can help.
- ✧ Parents are very active within the school.

9 Curriculum R.E. and Whole Curriculum

The concern within school to develop each child to their full potential transcends every aspect of our daily life. In the same way we strive to give all our pupils the opportunity to develop their understanding of life. This is undertaken through the carefully planned aims and objectives of our school.

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