

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



'Learning and Growing Together, Unique in God's Eyes'

Policy For:

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE)

Policy reviewed by Governors: June 2023

Policy reviewed by Staff: June 2023

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Father Gabriel Dobson: RE link governor



*Learning and growing together,
Unique in God's eyes.*

Vision

At SJB our vision is to provide the highest quality education within a Catholic ethos. Through the love of God, we will foster individual uniqueness recognising every child is created in the image of God (Gen 1:27)

Together, with our families, our parish and wider community, we seek to create a safe, happy and inclusive school where children become confident, responsible, caring citizens, rich with the rewards that faith and learning bring to heart, mind, body and spirit. Learning and growing together; Unique in God's eyes.

Mission

We love one another, just as God loves us.

*We are **respectful**, welcoming, and **inclusive**.*

*We **learn** together, using our unique gifts to **achieve** personal **excellence**.*

*We are **active** members of our parish, our community and wider world seizing every opportunity to **make a difference**.*

'Love one another as I have loved you'

John 13:34

Religious Education as a Core Subject

Religious Education is a core subject in our Catholic school; it is central to all that we do. Embedded within our vision and mission is a commitment to ensuring that our children:

- 'Love one another as God has loved us'
- develop an appreciation for the beauty and wonder of God's creation
- learn from the examples we set – how we 'live' the message of the gospel in our daily interactions and through prayer and worship.

Through the Religious Education Curriculum we aim to explore these ideas further with our children, to offer them opportunities to contemplate, reflect, question and ultimately to develop a deeper knowledge, appreciation and understanding of the Catholic faith and of God's love for them.

Aims of Religious Education:

- To deepen children's knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith and its relevance to their lives.
- To foster the development of a meaningful personal relationship with God.
- To develop the ability to listen and reflect; to think critically, spiritually and ethically; and to make informed judgments.
- To foster positive attitudes - respect for truth, respect for the views of others, respect for life.
- To develop awareness of the spiritual, of moral responsibility, and of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.
- To foster understanding and respect for other faiths and cultures, helping children to contribute positively to life in a multi-faith, multi-cultural society.

The RE Curriculum

At St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School we devote 10% of teaching time to religious education each week, as advised by the diocese. Teachers follow the 'Come and See' programme*; three topics of approximately four weeks duration each are covered each term. At the end of each topic there is a 'Rejoice' class liturgy to celebrate the children's learning.

**EYFS follow on the new RED with years 1 and 6 set to move over in the academic year 2023-24 and years 2, 3, 4 and 5 in 2024-25.*

We supplement the 'Come and See' programme or RED with bible stories, teaching about the liturgical year, incorporating major feast days and church celebrations. We also plan learning weeks focusing on 'Other Faiths' – including the study of Judaism and Islam.

Cross Curricular Links

In addition to using the 'Come and See' programme or RED, we make links between RE and other curriculum areas where appropriate. This might include recording using ICT, art, PE or using a religious text as a basis for an English lesson.

Home, School and Parish Links

Religious education begins at home with the sacrament of Baptism. We recognise that parents are the child's first educators and we aim to work in partnership with them to develop and enrich each child's religious experience.

We publish an RE newsletter each term to inform parents about forthcoming topics and invite parents to all masses, liturgies and religious celebrations both in the school and the parish church. Parents receive a detailed account of their child's progress in RE in the annual report at the end of the summer term.

Our school regularly supports parish events and fundraising initiatives including the Catholaiity Bazaar, CAFOD, Advent and Lenten Appeals. We contribute to church displays at Christmas and at various times throughout the year. Our chaplaincy team: Fr Gabriel, Fr Aiden and Brother Anthony are regular visitors to the school.

Teaching and Learning

'What is essential is that any dialogue should evoke thoughtful reflection in which all pupils can be encouraged to take part.' (Black & William, 1998)

At St. John the Baptist Catholic Primary School, we aim to provide the children with enjoyable, interesting and challenging lessons in religious education. We use the diocesan Interim Standards for Primary Religious Education (July 2018 - Arundel & Brighton) as well as the new RED to ensure that each child is being supported and challenged appropriately. We value the importance of questioning and of giving children time to reflect and evaluate their learning. RE books have a special status and children are encouraged to record their learning in a variety of ways.

Teachers aim to make RE lessons special by including some of the following: listening quietly to music, lighting a candle, saying a prayer or spending a few moments in quiet reflection. Children are encouraged to participate by choosing a religious artefact as a focal point or by choosing a prayer.



Assessment and Record Keeping

We aim to ensure progress in Religious Education by using assessment information to plan for further development. Each lesson will have WALT statements and each unit will have the LOs in books and highlighted, used to review progress at the end of each topic.

The areas of RE where we may make assessments are:

- The acquisition of knowledge;
- The external signs of developing and maturing faith;
- Attitudes to prayer and caring for others;
- The perceptiveness of questions and answers;
- The quality of written work.

We currently have the Standards for Primary RE and each child has a copy of these in the back of their RE book. These link the driver words to different areas of the RE curriculum.

Marking and Feedback

All learning in RE is marked according to the school's marking policy (copy of symbols attached). Written comments, linked to the learning objective, should be affirming, encouraging, thought provoking and challenging. 'Green for Growth' comments are used to develop children's thinking – we ensure that children have time to respond to these.

Grammar and punctuation will not be marked in the same rigorous way that it is in English, for example, unless the features of a particular genre is a whole class focus. The correct spelling of key religious vocabulary should always be encouraged however, and also aspects such as ensuring that God's name is always spelt with a capital letter.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The RE co-ordinator and headteacher monitor RE lessons and children's books throughout the year as part of on-going school evaluation. In addition to this, RE lessons and class worship will be observed, including by the St. John's messengers. This is for monitoring purposes and to share good practice with colleagues.

Inclusion

We aim to ensure that equality of opportunity for all members of the school community is central to everything we do. This is closely related to our mission as a Catholic school; we believe that all human beings are created in God's image and likeness and that it is our duty to respect and cherish this. For our school this means, not simply treating everybody the same but, understanding and tackling the different barriers which could lead to unequal outcomes for different groups. It also means that we will recognise, value and celebrate the achievements and strengths of all.

We have consistently high expectations of all pupils irrespective of age, gender, ethnicity, ability or social background. All pupils are encouraged to strive to reach their personal best rather than measure themselves against others. Parents are also encouraged to view their own children's achievements in this light. We identify and support where appropriate:

- Children with English as an additional language
- Children with special educational needs
- Individuals or groups of children who are underachieving
- Individuals or groups of children who show special skills or talent.

Display and Prayer Tables

RE displays are given special focus throughout the school and in each classroom.

Class displays should be updated for each topic and include a mixture of key words, prayers and examples of children's learning. Where appropriate, displays should be interactive, inviting comments or questions.

Prayer tables should also link with the topic and there should be opportunities for children to choose items for the table.

Displays in the school foyer and in the hall celebrate special events or are linked to the liturgical year.

Resources

Each class has the relevant 'Come and See' folder, a log on address to the 'Come and See' website, a copy of the RE teacher's folder and a box of RE resources and artefacts for the prayer table. Other resources are kept in the staff PPA room and a selection of RE books is kept in the library.

Related Policies:

RSHE

Collective Worship and Prayer

*Marking Symbols on next page

Marking Symbols

WALT is marked against with

- / beginning to understand the objective
- ^ working towards understanding the objective
- △ understood the objective
- * △ a greater depth understanding of the objective

T worked with a teacher

TA worked with a teaching assistant

I worked on your own

V adult chatted with you about your learning

✓ **Pink writing is what we are impressed with.**

=> **Green writing is what you can do to make your work even better (sometimes your teacher will ask a question or set you a challenge).**



finger spaces



full stops



punctuation



capital letters



adjectives



conjunctions



read your writing again and check



check your spelling



paragraphs