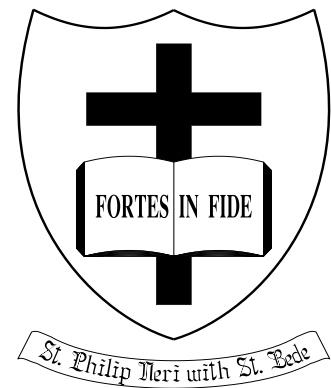


St. Philip Neri with St. Bede Catholic Voluntary Academy

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Head Teacher: Mr W Lewis



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

"We put Christ at the centre of our lives."

The whole school community aims to:

1. Following Christ's example at all times and grow in love, awe and wonder of Him.
2. Make everyone aware that through Christ we take our own place in society acknowledging that our actions affect the lives of others.
3. Give everyone the opportunity to develop their full potential within an atmosphere of mutual respect.
4. Ensure that within a balanced and broadly based curriculum everyone will be given the opportunity:
 - To develop enquiring minds, with the ability to question, argue and think rationally and independently.
 - Use number and language effectively.
 - Develop physical abilities and aesthetic appreciation.
 - Acquire knowledge and skills relevant to adult life, society and employment in a fast changing world.
5. Enrich the spiritual life of the individual through a varied and meaningful liturgy.

"This is what the Lord asks of you: only this, that you act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8)



Diocese of Nottingham
in association with
Nottinghamshire County Council



ST. PHILIP NERI WITH ST. BEDE CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

Religious Education Policy

This is a vital policy in our Catholic school and should be read in conjunction with our Mission Statement and other relevant policies relating to any aspect of equality or need.

Religious Education plays a central and vital part in our lives at Saint Philip Neri with St Bede Catholic Voluntary Academy. We are all members of the Body of Christ and members of a Christian Community and we are all at different stages on our faith journey. Through our Religious Education we will share our lives, our experiences, teaching and knowledge. This journey will help us to reach a deep, living, active and personal faith which will enable us to come to know, love and serve God in our daily lives and for the future.

Aims and Objectives

Religious Education enables children to investigate and reflect on some of the most fundamental questions asked by people, in relation to the tradition of our Roman Catholic faith. At Saint Philip Neri with St Bede School we develop the children's knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith and other major World faiths. Children reflect on what it means to have a faith and to develop their own spiritual knowledge and understanding. We help the children to learn *from* religions as well as *about* religions.

Our aims for Religious Education will be to enrich the lives of our children in the:

- Encouragement of love of God for everyone and everything He has created.
- Understanding the Good News of the Lord, to enable them to respond to His love.
- Promoting a knowledge and understanding of our Catholic faith.
- Creating a caring atmosphere built upon mutual love and respect for others and rooted in true Gospel values.
- Development of prayer and worship.
- Awareness and respect for other Christian and World Faiths and appreciation of the cultural differences in Britain today.
- Promoting the skills required to enable them to make reasoned judgements about religious issues.
- Promoting a partnership between home, school and parish that leads by example.

Inclusion

We recognise and value the worth of every individual both in their own right and as a reflection of Christ, "...as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me." (Matt. 25; 40)

At Saint Philip Neri with St Bede School, we strive hard to meet the needs of those children with special educational needs, those with special gifts and talents, and those learning English as an additional language. We enable all children to have full access to the full range of activities involved in Religious Education.

Multi-cultural

We regard it as essential that our children develop an understanding and respect of other

Faiths; all children, whatever their faith, attend and participate in Liturgies and Masses. Parents also have the right to request that their child does not attend such celebrations. There is a rolling programme of *World Faith Celebration Weeks* planned across the school each year.

Teaching

A variety of teaching styles in the teaching of Religious Education with the opportunity to pray, worship, discuss and present their ideas through written work, role play, art, drama, music and circle time. Whole class, group and individual work are planned according to the lesson objectives and presented in a way appropriate to the children's age and ability.

Planning

The RE subject Leader regularly attends the courses and training at the Diocesan Centre and makes all staff aware of any new issues, developments or materials. A comprehensive *Continued Professional Development* (CPD) plan is also devised each year offering all teachers the opportunity to enhance their own knowledge of the RE curriculum, especially those new to Catholic Schools or new to the Come and See programme.

To ensure continuity and progression within School, we have adopted the Come and See Religious Education programme for primary schools.

We offer opportunities for children of all abilities to develop their spirituality and also their skills and knowledge in each unit, and we ensure that the planned progression built into the scheme of work offers the children an increasing challenge as they move through the school.

In Key Stage One and Key Stage Two we carry out curriculum planning in Religious Education in three phases. Cross curricular links are made where possible.

- Long Term Planning
- Detailed *Medium Term Planning* is based on the Nottingham Diocese Planning provided on the diocesan website and leads into *Short Term Planning* which includes learning objectives, identification of levels of attainment (with reference to driver words), Assessment for Learning activities, differentiation, Statements of Belief, resources and ICT links.
- Completed planning is copied onto the Staffroom Network into year group planning files. This enables anyone to access the planning and allows the RE subject Leader to monitor the planning on a regular basis.

Foundation Stage

As a Catholic school, we have the responsibility of playing a major part in the moral and spiritual development of pupils from the earliest age. We teach Religious Education to all children in the school, including those in the Foundation Stage.

In the Foundation Stage, Religious Education is an integral part of the school curriculum. We relate the religious education aspects of the children's work to the objectives set out in the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum which underpin the curriculum planning for this age range. At the same time specific strands and objectives are taken from the 'Come and See' to ensure appropriate content is covered.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

“The purpose of assessment, recording and reporting in Religious Education is to ensure effective learning, to celebrate growth and achievement and enable further progress.”

NBRIA 1997

At our school we believe that Religious Education is ‘the core of the core curriculum.’

Formal assessment in RE using the two identified strands AT1 – knowledge and Understanding of Religion (learning about Religion) and AT2 – Reflection and Meaning (learning from Religion) to ensure that assessment is given this same rigour as other core subjects.

- Formative assessment is undertaken on a termly basis. Each child completes work in a special assessment book from the assessed topics.
- Levels of attainment are to be given to these pieces of work in relation to the focussed assessment task undertaken by the children relating to a specified strand of AT1 or AT2.
- A portfolio of children’s levelled work is built up and used for moderation purposes.
- Attainment is assessed using the same criteria and is recorded on a child’s Attainment Tracker on EAZMAG.
- Children’s work is also assessed by making formal and informal judgements as we observe them during lessons. We mark pieces of work in accordance with the school Marking Policy and the Religious Education Learning Objective.
- Spiritual development is informally assessed.
- In the Foundation Stage children’s responses are observed and monitored. An annotated portfolio is put together that demonstrates provisions.

Reporting

It is intended that these assessments will form the basis for the annual written report to parents on their child’s progress during the year. Parents are also informed of their child’s progress through discussion at Parents’ Evenings.

They are also given a Parents’ Newsletter at the beginning of each term which tells them of themes and topics to be covered and how they may support their child throughout each unit of work. These newsletters are also available at the Church of Saint Philip Neri, Mansfield, Saint Teresa’s, Market Warsop, Saint Joseph the Worker, Sutton in Ashfield and Our Lady Help of Christians, Kirkby in Ashfield in order that our parishioners can know what the school is covering in Religious Education and any events they may like to take the opportunity to attend.

The Headteachers’ newsletter also informs parents of Masses, celebrations and fundraising events, and welcomes their participation.

Every term each year group sends out a curriculum newsletter outlining topics to be covered.

WORSHIP

Prayer

It is important to ensure that our prayer reflects the essence of our lives; joy and sorrow, a sense of belonging, a feeling of loneliness, celebration and peace, anger and upset.

(Danny Sullivan: R.E. - The Primary Years)

Staff begin morning briefing and evening meetings with prayer.

Children have a natural aptitude for prayer to express their joy and wonder at the world; this is where the Foundation Stage establishes the beginnings of prayer and develops these ideas and relates them to God.

Children are encouraged, throughout the school to express their feelings in spontaneous prayer. In everyday language they bring their problems, worries and joys to God. Sometimes this is in silence, sometimes shared with others. The children are encouraged to think beyond themselves, to others with problems and bring those problems to God. God is not seen as a universal problem-solver but as one who will help and guide us who will care for the sick and be near to them, as one who always answers our prayer but not necessarily in the way we think He should.

The children are introduced to formal prayer, by hearing them said and gradually joining in and by learning by heart; also by focusing on small phrases within a prayer e.g. from the Eucharistic prayers or the Our Father, for meditation. The children are introduced to the gesture of prayer - joining hands, blessing, bowing, genuflecting from the time they start Foundation and these are reinforced throughout the school. Aids to prayer are used, for example, a candle, the Bible, a crucifix, pictures, statues and music, where appropriate.

We pray together at the beginning of the school day, before and after dinner, and at the end of the day. Each class has a focus table which reflects the topic and upon which the children can turn and reflect during the day if they wish.

We also have a Sacred Space and a Spiritual Garden, which can be used by classes, groups or individuals, at any time. The children receive the opportunity to take part in a voluntary decade of the Rosary every day during the months of October and May. During Lent, the Stations of the Cross are reflected upon.

Many displays reflect the RE themes which have been covered in class.

Collective Worship

Collective Worship is an expression of who we are and what we believe. It is part of our faith tradition, naming God's presence in our life. It is recognising that we are a worshipping community of faith, giving praise to God.

Collective Worship takes place in the classroom on those days of the week when there is no school or Key Stage Assembly or Holy Mass. These celebrations may, focus on the Statements of Belief. The above can involve prayer, song, story, drama, poetry, gesture and/or reflection. There is a timetable for these events which can be found on the T Drive under Planning.

Assemblies

Once a week there is a whole school assembly and a Key Stage assembly, which may, for example, focus upon a theme corresponding to the unit being taught in the Come and See programme, a particular seasonal event, or in response to a crisis. When appropriate we always take time to pray for specific people or needs.

Celebration class assemblies also occur weekly whereby parents/carers and grandparents are invited.

There are celebrations of various kinds depending on the time of the year. There are Advent services in preparation for Christmas. There are penitential services in Lent as well as meditations on the Stations of the Cross.

Holy Mass

As we see Christ, his person, his message, his deeds at the centre of our lives, we use the above celebrations to bring us closer to Him, but it is in the celebration of Holy Mass that "builds up the community of the church - for Christ is present when His people worship Him especially when they celebrate the Eucharist and other Sacraments." (Sacrosanctum Concilium)

Holy Mass is celebrated for the whole school every week. The themes of the Mass arise either from the theme of the R.E. topic or from a particular feast which is being celebrated that week following the ORDO. The children are involved as much as possible in the Mass, in the preparation and in the choice of music. They compose the sorry, bidding and thanksgiving prayers and take part in the Offertory. The readings are selected according to the ages of the children and they read and introduce the theme of the Mass. Occasionally drama is used where it aids the Mass, though not too often as we strive to have a prayerful Mass rather than a dramatic performance.

Parents are kept informed of our weekly Masses and other celebrations and are most welcome to join us. Masses are also celebrated at our parish church at least once a term.

Parental Involvement

Religious Education is a partnership between family, who are the first educators, school, and the Parish, which must be strengthened whenever possible. We warmly welcome opportunities for parents to be involved with the religious education we give to their children and where possible and appropriate to give guidance and encouragement to assist parents in the difficult responsibility they have in nurturing the children on their faith journey.

At school we try very hard to make our own, as well as the children's faith active and evident in all we say, do or think. This is very important for all staff as we are looked to as role models and to set the example.

Meetings are held with staff and parents when their children are due to start the Foundation Unit and again when they are due to start in main school, where the approach to R.E. and worship in school is explained and discussed.

Many parents come into school to assist the staff in a variety of ways, e.g. paired reading, art/craft, cookery, display and school trips and receive safeguarding induction.

Community Links

After our Harvest Festival, food is distributed to various charities, and to the wider community. We collect for CAFOD and other specific charities (such the local Catholic Children's Society and Mission Together) in Lent and donations are made to various other local charities who visit us to explain their work. Donations are also taken in relation to a specified appeal. Speakers from World Faiths also visit our school.

Our Year Six children attend a weekend retreat to The Briars; meet with fellow Year 6 children who feed to All Saints School.

Other Faiths

We encourage a spirit of love and understanding, both to others who share our faith and those of other faiths. In the Autumn Term the children learn about aspects of the Jewish Faith and later in the year one other major World Faith on a rotation basis. We take a whole school approach and plan a cross-curricular week so that as many aspects of the faith and culture can be explored and understood.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Headteacher has overall responsibility for the delivery of the National Curriculum that includes Religious Education; to ensure the policy complies with legal requirements and is delivered effectively. The RE Subject Leader since September 2017 is Mrs McCay and under the direction of the Headteacher, has overall responsibility for the RE curriculum that includes:

- Promotion of Religious Education within school.
- To advise re resources and ordering of resources.
- To arrange INSET/lead staff meetings.
- To ensure implementation of the subject through regular consultation with colleagues.
- To use a variety of methods of monitoring to ensure effective delivery of the R.E. Curriculum.

We intend to review this policy annually.

THIS POLICY IS FOR ALL PUPILS REGARDLESS OF RACE, GENDER, ABILITY OR DISABILITY.

January 2019