

St James' R C **Primary School**

Policy **for** **Religious** **Education**

ST JAMES' RC PRIMARY SCHOOL

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY STATEMENT

This policy was revised in June 2017 by the RE Subject Leader and the staff of St James' RC Primary School. It was approved by Governors in the Summer Term 2017 and should be used in conjunction with the Self-Evaluation Policy, Teaching and Learning Policy and other whole school policies. It will be reviewed Summer 2020.

AIM

At St James' Catholic Primary School, Religious Education is a central and vital part of our school community. The beliefs and values of our faith permeate throughout the day to day life of our school as we walk in the footsteps of Christ together.

Religious Education is fundamental to the purpose of St James' as our Christian faith informs all aspects of our life together as we endeavour to express and reflect the religious dimension of our school through the celebration of our Christian values in word, in action and in sacrament.

Religious Education is taught so that pupils at St James' are inspired to explore, develop and affirm their own faith. It provides an environment in which the children can grow in their knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Faith, developing their own relationship with Jesus. It also allows pupils to value and have the respect for the faith, belief and values of others.

The Religious Education Curriculum Directory states that "the outcome of excellent Religious Education is religious 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."

TEACHING AND LEARNING

At St James' we aim:

- To promote and respect the child's innate capacity of wonder, awe, reverence, imagination, mystery and spirituality.
- To help the children to grow in the love of God.
- To develop knowledge and understanding of the mystery of God and of Jesus Christ, of the church, and of the central beliefs which Catholics hold.
- To develop in the children, positive attitudes of appreciation, reverence, care and respect for others and for nature and property.
- To assist the children in their use of prayer, in all of its forms to develop their personal relationship with God.
- To encourage study, investigation and reflection by pupils.

- To promote mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.

PROGRESSION

Progress in RE can be characterised by:

- Acquiring wider and more detailed knowledge of religious beliefs and practices;
- Deepening understanding of the meaning of stories, symbols, events and practices;
- More fluent and competent use of religious language and terminology;
- Increased levels of skills in responding to questions of identity, meaning purpose, values and commitment.

DELIVERY AND PLANNING

At St James', we follow "The Way, The Truth, The Life" Religious Education programme throughout the whole school; a syllabus is based on the Religious Education Directory for Catholic Schools implementing a scripture-based scheme which develops through the different year groups.

Religion is also taught according to the religious calendar, i.e. the coming of Jesus through Advent, devotion to Mary, the mysteries of the Rosary through May and October, Saint's feast days as they occur throughout the year, the sufferings, the death and the resurrection of Jesus during Lent. The great feasts of the Ascension, Pentecost and the Assumption are given emphasis at the relevant times of the year.

TEACHING OF OTHER FAITHS

At St James' we also recognise the importance of raising our pupil's awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities. It is important that we promote positive relationships for self and others regardless of faith or culture. Therefore, each year group, from Year 2, studies a different faith throughout the year, in order to help foster respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. Reception and Year 1 will focus on special days in different religions.

GUIDANCE ON VISITORS AND EXTERNAL SPEAKERS WORKING WITH PUPILS IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Visitors and speakers are welcome as they make positive contributions to the work of the school. Preparatory work must be carried out before a visit is agreed. It is the school's duty to ensure the well-being and safeguarding of all pupils and robust preparatory work will ensure there is no risk to pupils.

The Head Teacher should be informed of a proposed visit with clear explanations outlining the purpose of the visit and who will be visiting.

The member of staff preparing the visit should ensure the work and values of the organisation represented by the visitor are compatible with the aims and ethos of our school. A checklist must be completed in preparation for a visit by an external visitor or speaker, by a designated member of staff.

SCHOOL ETHOS

What we hope to provide:

- Prayer and worship, which is threaded through daily school life;
- Opportunities for the development of a personal relationship with God;
- A strengthening of spiritual development;
- Familiarisation with traditional forms of prayer used in the Catholic Church;

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- An understanding of good liturgy;
- An introduction to a variety of formal and informal prayer settings;
- A growing knowledge of the person and teaching of Jesus Christ;
- Guidance in social and moral issues;
- Experience of belonging to a Christian community.

SPIRITUAL EDUCATION

Spiritual education at St James is fostered by developing:

- Religious and personal beliefs and developing understanding of how beliefs contribute to personal identity;
- A sense of awe, wonder and mystery;
- Inner resources to help rise above everyday experience;
- A sense of meaning and purpose by reflecting on the purpose of life and responding to challenging experiences of life such as beauty, suffering and death;
- Self-respect and an awareness of oneself in terms of thoughts, feelings, emotions, responsibilities and experience;
- Relationships –recognising and valuing the worth of each individual; developing a sense of community; the ability to build up relationships with others;
- Creativity – expressing innermost thoughts and feelings through for example, art, music, literature and crafts; exercising the imagination, inspiration, intuition and insight;
- Feelings and emotions – the sense of being moved by beauty or kindness, hurt by injustice or aggression, an awareness of when it is important to control emotions and feelings as a source of growth.

The spiritual development of children takes place within the Catholic ethos of the school and thus permeates all aspects of the curriculum. Spiritual education is not seen as being separate from other areas of the curriculum but rather a vital part and inseparable from the whole curriculum. We believe that:

‘Education is about growth and development of the whole person. It should aim to integrate a pupil’s intellectual, spiritual, moral, emotional, psychological and physical development, thus assisting progress towards Christian maturity’.

(Evaluating the Distinctive Nature of a Catholic School)

LITURGY

The children’s understanding and interest in liturgy will be developed through preparation for Masses in the Parish church and in school, and through class lessons about the Mass. The children will be encouraged to understand that we offer ourselves, our work and our lives with the bread and wine and that we receive the Lord himself in Holy Communion.

PRAYERS

Children should be encouraged to make up their own prayers of thanksgiving, of petition, of awe and wonder. Prayers from children and others will be read in class assemblies and at Mass. The pupils also have opportunities to write their own prayers in the St James’ Prayer Book, kept in the prayer area in the hall. They also have time to sit and pray quietly both in the prayer area and in the Peace Garden situated in the Key Stage 2 playground.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Please see Collective Worship Policy.

RELATIONSHIP AND SEX EDUCATION

Please see Relationship and Sex Education Policy.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment in religious education refers to what can be assessed - i.e. knowledge, understanding and to some extent, attitudes. At St James', pupils are assessed at the end of each topic in a variety of ways including discussion, written work and observation.

Staff at St James' are guided by the published scheme of work (The Way, The Truth, The Life) which indicates the expectations for most children undertaking any given unit of work.

The Bishops' Conference publication Levels of Attainment are used to enable increasingly challenging Religious Education to match each pupil's stage of development and ability. The levels of attainment assist in charting each pupil's progress in RE over time so that provision and teaching may enhance deeper levels of knowledge and understanding.

Records of progress are kept in the Red Assessment Folders based on end of term progress and the Classroom Monitor assessment programme is also used to monitor termly progress.

Early Years Foundation Stage

Religious Education at St James' supports the Early Learning Goals:

1. Communication and Language
2. Physical Development
3. Personal, Social and Emotional Development
4. Literacy
5. Mathematics
6. Understanding the World
7. Expressive Arts and Design

SPECIAL NEEDS/MOST ABLE AND TALENTED

At every stage of the pupils' learning, religious education is adapted to age, ability and understanding and circumstances of each child. Teachers offer the opportunity for every child to reach their full potential through differentiated activities tailored to the individual's needs and abilities. We recognise that every child has their own, unique set of gifts and talents and ensure that there are opportunities for these to be developed.

TIME

We aim to provide 10% of RE teaching per week at Key Stages 1 & 2.

CIRCLE TIME and PHILOSOPHY FOR CHILDREN MAY BE LINKED TO RE TOPICS

RESOURCES

- The Way, The Truth, The Life Scheme with associated resources
- RE Topic Boxes

- Books and DVDs are kept in the relevant classes
- Bibles
- Teaching Other Faiths Topic Boxes
- Teaching Other Faiths CD Roms
- British Value resources
- Reflective music (CDs)

Michelle Wilson Subject Leader
June 2017

Review June 2020

THE WAY, the TRUTH and the LIFE

KEY STAGE 1 AND 2

OVERVIEW OF FOUNDATION STAGE AND KEYSTAGE 1 SYLLABUS

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Foundation Stage.	F1 God's World	F2 God's Family	F3 Getting to know Jesus	F4 Sorrow and Joy	F5 New Life	F6 A Church
Year 1	1.1 God's Great Plan	1.2 Mary, Mother of God	1.3 Families and Celebrations	1.4 Following Jesus	1.5 Resurrection	1.6 Miracles
Year 2	2.1 Chosen People	2.2 Mysteries	2.3 The Good News	2.4 The Mass	2.5 Eastertide	2.6 The Church is Born

OVERVIEW OF KEY STAGE 2 SYLLABUS

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Year 3	3.1 The Christian Family	3.2 Mary, our Mother	3.3 The Sacrament of Reconciliation	3.4 Celebrating the Mass	3.5 Celebrating Easter & Pentecost	3.6 Being a Christian
Year 4	4.1 The Bible	4.2 Trust in God	4.3 Jesus, the Teacher	4.4 Jesus, the Saviour	4.5 The Early Christians	4.6 Mission of the Church
Year 5	5.1 Creation	5.2 God's Covenants	5.3 Inspirational people	5.4 Reconciliation	5.5 Life in the risen Jesus	5.6 People of Other Faiths
Year 6	6.1 The Kingdom of God	6.2 Justice	6.3 Exploring the Mass	6.4 Jesus, The Messiah	6.5 The Transforming Spirit	6.6 Called to Serve

Teaching of Other Faiths Curriculum

We recognise the importance of teaching our children about other faiths so that they learn tolerance and recognise the principles shared by all faiths. From Year 2, each year group at St James' will study a faith in depth. The other faith will be studied throughout the year. Reception and Year 1 will focus on special days in different religions.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Autumn</u>	<u>Spring</u>	<u>Summer</u>
<u>Reception & Year 1</u>	Special Days in Different Religions	Special Days in Different Religions	Special Days in Different Religions
<u>Year 2</u>	Judaism Focus: Stories and Prayer Shabbat Abraham and Moses	Judaism Focus: Places of Worship and Holy Book The Synagogue and The Torah	Judaism Focus: Festivals, Belongings and Values Pesach, Yom Kippur
<u>Year 3</u>	Buddhism Focus: Stories and Prayer	Buddhism Focus: Places of Worship and Holy Book	Buddhism Focus: Festivals, Belongings and Values
<u>Year 4</u>	Hinduism	Hinduism	Hinduism

	Focus: Stories and Prayer Krishna and Ganesh Raska Bandan Prayer at Home Puja	Focus: Places of Worship and Holy Book The Mandir Vedas and Bhagavad - Gita	Focus: Festivals, Belongings and Values Brahman Belief in one God. Pilgrimage
<u>Year 5</u>	Islam Focus: Stories and Prayer Mohammad Prayer at Home	Islam Focus: Places of Worship and Holy Book	Islam Focus: Festivals, Belongings and Values Ramadan and Pilgrimage Guidance for Muslims.
<u>Year6</u>	Sikhism Focus: Stories and Prayer Guru Nanak Sikh daily life.	Sikhism Focus: Places of Worship and Holy Book Gurdwara, Langar, Amritsar. Guru Granth Sahib.	Sikhism Focus: Festivals, Belongings and Values Baisakhi, the Khalsa, Mool Mantra. Gidelines for living sewa.