



***Our Lady and St Philomena's Catholic Primary School
Religious Education (RE) Policy***

Approved by:	Governing Body
Last reviewed:	September 2024
Next review due by:	September 2025

Our School is Christ Centred where Gospel values permeate our daily lives.

We extend our hand of friendship to the wider community in the spirit of love, peace and justice.

We create opportunities to celebrate the uniqueness of every child and nurture them through a stimulating and enriching curriculum.

At Our Lady and St Philomena's Catholic Primary School aim to

- To help pupils develop a personal relationship with Jesus, and to experience the Good news of the Gospel.
- Develop care and respect for others, their faith and culture
- Provide a warm stimulating learning environment
- Promote quality teaching and learning
- To enable the pupils to grow in their awareness of what it means to be a member of the church. To encourage our pupils to reflect on their lives and on society in the light of the gospel.
- To support the parents and the parish in creating a Christian community built on the experience of Liturgy and Prayer
- Encourage cohesion between home, school, parish and the local community
- To increase pupils knowledge, awareness and respect of other religious traditions and cultures.
- To create a warm and welcoming atmosphere where politeness and respect are shown to all.
- Create and foster an environment, which reflects the teachings of Christ within the Catholic Faith
- Provide a rich curriculum suitable to the different learning styles of all children which supports all in achieving their potential
- Provide quality leadership and management at all levels

At Our Lady and St Philomena's we hope to achieve our aims in Religious Education by

Fostering an environment which reflects the spiritual teachings of Christ within the Catholic Church

- Celebrating liturgies of the Catholic Faith at various times throughout the school year
- Participating in Prayer Liturgy, in class and as a whole school community
- Developing relationships with God through prayer and celebration of the sacraments



Developing care and respect for others their faith and culture

- Providing equal opportunities for everyone in the school community
- Promoting and studying other faiths and cultures

Provide a welcoming safe stimulating environment

- Ensuring everyone entering Our Lady and St Philomena's School are made to feel welcome and all enquiries are dealt with accordingly
- Ensuring adequate safety systems are in place for the safety of all
- Celebrating the achievements of children and staff in the life of the school through assemblies, display, local acknowledgement
- Promoting children to take responsibility for the environment in the many roles and clubs that are available to them
- Ensuring standards of behaviour are high at all times

Promote high standards of achievement in all aspects of school life

- Providing good examples as role models for children
- Ensuring high expectations for all
- Providing wide range of extra curricular activities
- Celebrating achievements through rewards, and Friday Good News Assemblies

Provide quality teaching and learning

- Organising resources appropriate for all learning styles, and deliver quality teaching
- Continually monitor evaluate and assess the quality of teaching and learning
- Providing opportunities for continuing professional development for all staff
- Ensuring Assessment recording and reporting policies are adhered to
- Regularly informing Parents / carers of planning and attainment
- Recognising and sharing quality practice and achievements with each other

Develop strong community cohesion links between home, school, parish and community

- Continually inform parents / carers each half term what is being taught through newsletters, notice boards etc
- Dealing with parents / carers and visitors in a welcome manner and by dealing with requests queries and queries accordingly
- Having continuous liaising with outside agencies, school visitors, Governors and the whole community to events in school
- Holding Parents / carers evenings throughout the year, and sending home written school reports
- Supporting events and activities organised by the Parish
- Supporting the preparation of children in the community for the Sacraments



Provide a rich and meaningful curriculum, which supports and challenges all to reach their full potential

- Providing a broad and balanced curriculum suitable to the different learning styles of all
- Developing Educational visits, school clubs, school committees and responsibilities which children can be part of.
- Having high expectations of children
- Expecting homework policies to be adhered to
- Providing advice and support for children through interviews and target setting
- Celebrating our Gifted and Talented achievements

Provide quality leadership and management at all levels

- Communicating to disseminate information at all levels
- Holding regular staff meetings and INSET days
- Nurturing each individual by providing appropriate training
- Promoting a strong team ethos
- Recognising each others gifts and talents

Planning For RE

Our Lady and St Philomena's Catholic School delivers Religious Education in accordance with the "Come and See" Programme from Years 4-6, as outlined by the Archbishop of Liverpool. Early Years – Year 3 follow the new directory scheme "To Know You More Clearly. "

EYFS-Year 3 follow the same topics at the same time through the new RE directory scheme. Years four to six explores each religious theme through the same topics at the same time. We allocate at least 10% Curriculum time to the teaching to R.E.

We aim in the delivery of Religious Education to develop strong community cohesion links and to promote home school parish links. We strive to do this with planned Class Masses, held in church, at which the community, parish and home are invited; Church Masses which school attend and Class Assemblies when home, parish and family are invited in order to celebrate together.

We plan for music to be an integral part of our celebrations to add to the quality of our liturgical celebrations.

Inclusion and Differentiation

We respect pupils' unique starting points and we teach Religious Education to all children, whatever their ability and individual needs. Religious Education forms part of our school curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced education for all our children. Our teachers provide learning opportunities that are matched to the needs of children with learning difficulties. We strive to meet the needs of all pupils with special educational needs, disabilities, special gifts and talents, and of those learning English as an additional language.



When the performance of a child falls significantly outside the expected range and they have special educational needs, we assess the needs of each pupil and take action to enable the child to learn as effectively as possible. We follow the whole school approach of maintaining the same learning objectives, but differentiating appropriately with support, additional resources, and time for activities.

Other Faiths are included in our planning as recommended.

Teachers Long/Medium/Short Term planning will be a collaborative process which assists continuity and progression.

All teachers will use the agreed planning document.

All planning will identify specific assessment opportunities for each topic which will be integrated into our teaching.

FEAST DAYS AND LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS

Alongside “Come and See” and “To know you more Clearly” we aim to extend the children's knowledge of the following important feast days and occasions for celebration so that they become familiar with the structure of the Church's year:

Autumn Term:

Harvest
Holy Rosary
All Souls Day
All Saints
Advent
Christmas

Spring Term:

Epiphany
Ash Wednesday/Lent
Easter

Summer Term:

Ascension
Pentecost
Trinity
Corpus Christi
Peter and Paul

Prayer

Prayer is a fundamental part of our school life including formal prayers and children's own informal prayers.

The prayers introduced during Class lessons and assemblies follow the “Come and See” and “To know you more clearly” programme.

Additional prayers in KS 1 & 2 include prayers at beginning and end of school day and prayers before meals.

Informal prayer has a very important place in the spiritual life of the children and should include the everyday language of praising, thanking, asking and saying sorry.



Informal prayer should encourage reflection by all pupils on their everyday life.

Marking

Marking will be consistent with the school policy, therefore as often as possible children's work should be marked during the lesson and children will receive live feedback. This should celebrate their success and further steps should be known as 'even better if.' This will allow children to become reflective learners and from this can deepen their learning.

Assessment

"The purpose of assessment, recording and reporting in religious education is to ensure reflective learning, to celebrate growth and achievement and enable further progress" NBRIA (1997)
We recognise that assessment recording and reporting are a natural part of teaching and integral to the learning process. They are continuous processes requiring a close partnership between teachers and pupils, and the involvement of others as appropriate. They are the responsibility of all teachers.

We believe that assessment is at the heart of good teaching and that our approach to the assessment, recording and reporting of religious education will be broad in character and will recognise the innate dignity and worth of each individual.

Assessment therefore should be daily and clearly marked during every lesson in children's own books and teacher record book.

Monitoring of RE

This will take place regularly in line with the school monitoring policy and will provide feedback to teachers and governors.

Assemblies

Special liturgical services are planned to celebrate feasts of the Church's year.
Prayer Liturgy is supported by focal areas where the children can reflect and pray.

Focal Areas

These are set up in each classroom and are changed regularly to reflect changing topics. The children may be involved in the design and content of the Class Focal Area and are encouraged to make use of the area throughout the day. Room is left for the children to bring in items from home to add to the display and they can be reminded to place questions or captions on the display if they wish.

Useful items for an attractive display include:

Brightly coloured fabrics,

Artefacts.

Pictures

Statues

Photographs

Candles

Book stands

Bibles

Pebbles

Class prayer books/Books for intentions etc.



School Mass Kit

Artefacts and books linked to other Faiths / Religions

(These resources are constantly being added to and updated.)

Focal Prayer tables always reflect the topic being studied at the relevant process. Core vocabulary are added to the displays at the topic is studied.

We also have a focal table in the staffroom which staffs are responsible for. Staff are responsible for the table and add adult related resources to deepen our own faith.

Resources:

Resources for RE are kept in a centralised area and are accessible to all staff.

Resources (including artefacts, icons, books etc.) are constantly reviewed and updated and they reflect the multi-cultural nature of our school's intake.

The list of resources are always added to, upon recommendation by Religious Education Advisors from the Archdiocese.

Religious Education Co-ordinator

- The Religious Education Co-ordinator attends regular Co-ordinator in service meetings, regular training days and information is then disseminated to staff at regular staff meetings
- Class mass, class assemblies and church mass dates are drawn up in September for the forthcoming year
- Courses, training days and topic days are available on a rota to ensure all staff are given opportunity to attend and to be updated.
- The R.E. Co-ordinator regularly views the Sharepoint for updated information which is then disseminated to the EHT / HoS and Staff.
- The monitoring of planning, books, lessons, Prayer Liturgy, displays and assessment on a rolling program.
- Organising the teaching schedule for the year, setting dates for the allocated topics and allocating dates in the calendar for the teaching of other faiths.
- Supporting new staff members and ECT's with the teaching and delivering of the Come and See programme as well as Prayer Liturgy
- Ensuring that the allocated 10% of the teaching time table is given to Religious Education.
- Checking that Prayer Liturgy is being carried out with all children every day, whether during Whole school assemblies or class teaching.

Sacramental Preparation - WITH YOU ALWAYS

Children in Year 4 receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist Preparation is provided by Our Lady and St Philomena's teachers. Meetings are held in school. School supports this process by encouraging participation and reminding families of dates and times of meetings. Staff also attend the preparation meetings and sacrament services to offer support to the families and catechists. The Religious Education Self Evaluation Document is reviewed each year initially by the RE co-ordinator and Executive Head Teacher and then overseen by staff to ensure that all developments and targets are agreed upon.



Knowledge of other cultures and world religious beliefs can be useful in many jobs where you are working with the public or communities.

People who have studied Religious Education at further education often find a career in the following areas of employment:

- Religious Writer: provides just the right opportunity to get involved in the literary way. Write about historic, religious events, ideas, and more for any number of print and online media establishments
- Outreach worker: In this career field, workers are employed by government, religious, and other organizations to provide much needed aid and resource assistance to those in a particular community.
- Missionary: traveling to target locations and assisting the local population in any way possible as well as spreading their religious ideas.
- Teacher: here are many, diverse teaching opportunities to be had when this degree is in your pocket.

Skills and qualities - from studying Religious Education

- Problem solving: identify a range of possible solutions and then assess and decide the best way forward.
- Patience: You'll need to be able to tolerate waiting, delay, or frustration without becoming agitated or upset.
- Communication: to write or give speeches and presentations
- Analytics: collecting and examining information in detail to arrive at a solution, to answer a key question or make an informed decision.
- Interpersonal skills: You'll need listening and speaking skills, as well empathy to build friendships and ensure good working relationships.