

Our Lady's RC Primary School



Religion Policy

Jesus at the heart of our community. Learning with CHRIST.

Our Lady's RC Primary is a welcoming place to learn. With Jesus at the heart of everything we do, we are one community who learn with:

Our Lady's Mission Statement 2023

We welcome you into Our Lady's family.

We know that Jesus is with us and loves us no matter what.

We listen to the word of God and are called to do His good work.

We celebrate the uniqueness of everyone.

We work hard to develop our special gifts and talents so that we can use them to show love for one another.

We work together to care for our 'Common Home' and support our brothers and sisters around the world.

We pray together in good times and in bad times.

We are proud of our faith and try to follow the example of Jesus every day.



'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.' Mark 10:13-16

Curriculum Intent

Why do we teach RE?

We teach RE to give our children the best opportunities to learn and develop their knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith and to keep Jesus at the heart of all they do. RE is key to learn about the Church, why we go to Mass and how we can learn from the Gospels. Our links with our parish priest is pertinent in the teaching of RE and in understanding the importance of the church.

At Our Lady's we see each individual child as a child of God. We want to enable every child and adult to 'have life to the full'; cultivating an attitude of respect for each other among the whole community. We all have a

responsibility at Our Lady's to follow Jesus and help and support each other in our community. We try to be fair, we care about each other and always try to help, including those less fortunate than us and those outside of our community.

Our Religious Education curriculum has been specifically tailored to meet the unique multi-faith context of our school through welcoming, worshipping witnessing, whilst thinking about the welfare of all staff and pupils and ensuring the Word is taught and mastered throughout teaching and Gospel assemblies. The curriculum is designed to be broad and balanced, providing all pupils with the opportunity to master their learning and deepen their knowledge showing a greater understanding of how to answer the big questions in Religion, which helps them to transform our society, putting their faith into action and being like Jesus in all that they do.

Our Religious Curriculum develops links with the Diocesan Hope in the Future and how all the children can grow just like the mustard seeds in the Parable of the Sower. We recognise how to inspire children to celebrate their gifts and talents alongside their uniqueness in all they do, which will help them to put their own faiths into action. We are developing links with the parish community and ways in which we can work together to develop our faith with a multi-modal approach.

As a school we are working on keeping inline with Bishop John Arnold's Laudato Si project. Children are offered a range of activities to complete in order to help reduce the pollution and to save the planet. Our links with Forest School where children plant vegetables and take part in the recycling scheme are all key parts of the curriculum.

As a Catholic school we are deeply committed to developing the faith of all children with Jesus Christ as our inspiration and guiding light. With the school having children from all around the world with a multi-faith background we teach and develop the knowledge of other faiths with children. Our curriculum is being developed to enhance delivery and teaching of different faiths and for children to have a richer vocabulary. The children have a great understanding of other faiths and world religions. Throughout the year children have opportunities to celebrate key celebrations and activities through learning days, assemblies and a range of scriptures.

Within our school, the pastoral team are a key part of developing the faith of our school. They lead in prayer, assemblies and work on how we can develop our prayer and worship in school. The team are working together to plan, develop and live out the prayer and liturgy of our school.

The children are challenged to become resilient, confident and independent learners whilst understanding our ever-changing world. They are encouraged to be respectful in our diverse society and understand the Catholic faith and the other faiths.

We aim to build high levels of competence in the subject specific skills of:

- Knowledge and understanding
- Engagement and response
- Analysis and evaluation

The Come and See curriculum is set out to encourage children in their learning and vocabulary throughout the topics to:

- Explore
- Respond
- Reveal

Curriculum Implementation:

The Religious Education is implemented through (Word; Welcome; Welfare; Worship and Witness) and are encompassed in all that we do.

It is the framework by which our effectiveness and implementation of the curriculum as a Catholic school is assessed. They are implemented as:

- Word (talk) - we talk together as a word of God's community
- Welcome (come) - we come together in welcome
- Welfare (walk) - we walk together as a welfare community
- Worship (pray) - we pray together as a worship community
- Witness (work) - we look at our School mission statement and work together as a witness community

The Religious Education of our pupils is the core of the core curriculum. Each week 10% of the teaching timetable is allocated across all key stages. EYFS and KS1 teach RE for 2 hours and 30 minutes each week, where KS2 the sessions are broken into one 2-hour session and one 30-minute session each week which are separate to acts of worship. The staffing and resources devoted to RE is of the highest standard, reflecting the significance and importance in our school. The requirements of the Religious Education Curriculum Directory are met at all key stages and standards are equal or better than those of literacy at all key stages. RE is delivered as a discrete subject. However, there is a need to encompass the skills learnt in other areas of the curriculum such as English, Music and PSHE.

Our pupils, as part of their Religious Education take part in Praise and Worship sessions where through hymns and meditation and reflect upon how the Holy Spirit can guide us in all that we do to be more like Jesus in our lives. In Advent, Lent and Holy week children are given a wide range of worship, assemblies,

prayers and activities to develop an understanding how the celebrations shape the lives we lead through the key passages and prayer.

Our pupils are inspired by exceptional teaching and consistently high expectations across the school through our bespoke curriculum which encompasses our teaching and the Come and See scheme of work. They are encouraged to deliver the curriculum through a range of teaching styles and to engage with the use of Big questions to challenge and develop the purpose and meaning of life as created and sustained by God. This allows for religious literacy to be developed with the highest level of expectations for all pupils. A rich vocabulary is developed with children to enhance their understanding of the sacraments of the Church. This is alongside in line with the Hope in the Future this year to develop their understanding of the Mass and the importance of the Body and Blood of Jesus.

Our pupils, as part of their curriculum for life, are actively encouraged and supported who work on building a community and ways in which to develop appropriate questioning and decision making. Children develop their understanding of how they can be involved and ways in which they can help people in the local community.

How pupils' learning and progress is assessed?

In Religion assessment of pupil progress is undertaken against levels for Religious Education through the AT1 and AT2 assessment levels. Children are assessed if they are working below, expected or exceeding in each of the individual topics throughout the year. This includes work and assessment pieces for children and whole class assessments that teachers may undertake. The outcomes of these assessments are used by class teachers to evaluate the coverage of the ARE in Religious Education. This informs future planning to enhance pupil progress within a quality provision.

Assessments for learning is highly developed, challenging and empowering pupils to be creative, independent and reflective learners.

Children are assessed as Emerging (WT), Expected (Met) or Exceeding (Met p+) in line with the assessment levels for each topic. These assessments and outcomes are important to measure the impact of the current curriculum and system.

Assessments are carried out in various forms:

- Big Questions
- Assessment grids

- Assessment tasks

Curriculum Impact

The curriculum ensures that God is central to everything that is done throughout our school and we recognise God is with us in every aspect of our lives. All the family of our school bear witness to our Mission Statement which informs everything we do in our community. We are all witnesses to the values of the gospel such as love, forgiveness, respect, peace, tolerance, dignity and justice. We nurture, support and challenge the children to live out and to give witness to the Gospel values in their everyday experience of school life and by developing their sense of responsibility to play their part in caring activities for good causes in the wider community. We are witnesses to our environment and all God's world by being good stewards of Creation.

For RE as a subject to have an impact, there is a need to develop the assessment points of a check in and check out aspect of each unit. This will allow teachers to be able to assess the outcomes of the unit, to celebrate children's work and to look at how children can celebrate their learning through Praise, Worship and coming together. Children need to have a good understanding of Bible passages and work on The God who Speaks which has references which can be used in collective worship. To enhance lessons, and the development of the understanding of prayer and liturgy there is a need for a multi-modal approach to use a range of music, visuals, a range of scripture, art, driver words and artefact resources to build upon the working wall for the topic. All classes need to work on the same topic at the same time to work towards having a whole school celebration to demonstrate the learning from EYFS to Year Six. This will allow for the building blocks and knowledge to develop as they progress through the school.

The Religious Education curriculum is broad and balanced with a range of cross-curricular opportunities which allows pupils to become confident in their learning and understanding of the curriculum. The curriculum offers opportunities for children to enhance their Religious vocabulary with a greater understanding of how they can live to be more like Jesus in all that they do.

Children will:

- Be well prepared for the next stage of their education as confident and enthusiastic learners who are witnesses to Christ in their words and actions.
Be happy, well rounded individuals who can articulate how their Catholic education has impacted on their beliefs and values.
- Have a great knowledge of the Catholic faith and be able to discuss and write about celebrations of other faiths.

- Be able to show an understanding of a range of scripture and psalms and demonstrate this in their reading, writing, singing and dramatic activities to re-enact passages.
- Produce good quality work across religion which they are proud of.
- Achieve consistently well in all areas of Religious Education.
- Develop detailed knowledge and skills across a range of curriculum areas.
- Show compassion, justice, love and forgiveness in their relationships with others.

Equal Opportunities;

We are a Catholic School and we welcome and serve all children in our school community including those of other faiths or no faiths. We invite all to share in getting to know Jesus and to develop an understanding of the Catholic faith.

We also learn about the faiths of others in our school to help us to develop strong relationships and understanding.

All children have equal access to learning regardless of their culture, ethnicity, beliefs, abilities etc.