

ST. HELEN'S CATHOLIC INFANT SCHOOL



Religious Education Policy

Written by	Date	Ratified by	Date
A. McAuliffe	2024	Governors	2024

To be reviewed	Annually	Every 3 Years
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Reviewed on	Reviewed by	Next review date
		February 2027

With Jesus alive in our hearts, we celebrate each other and learn together as a family.

Subject Intent

Religious Education is central to the curriculum of St Helen's Catholic Infant School

We, in St Helen's Catholic Infant School, believe that through education each child must come to know that they are unique, endowed with special gifts and loved by God. We believe that we can help each child to achieve their own true vocation in life. The organisation of the school, the curriculum, discipline and celebrations take place within this context. We aim to promote and develop an appreciation of and active participation in prayer, worship and liturgy. This is recognised as a gradual process which takes account of the different stages of personal, social and religious growth of our pupils. As a Catholic School, Religious Education is planned, taught, assessed and monitored with the same rigour as other core curriculum subjects.

The aims of Religious Education

We aim to develop within each pupil a trusting, loving and personal relationship with God by giving them a solid background to the whole life and mysteries of Christ. We aim to give each child strong moral and spiritual beliefs, through the Gospel teachings of Jesus. Through the Gospels, children will develop a positive attitude towards themselves and others, developing a strong sense of what is right and wrong and a confidence in sharing their beliefs with others. The Parish Priest, governors, staff and parents are valued members of our Catholic community and as such have vital roles to play in relation to the explicit teaching of Religious Education within the school. Life within the school reflects a living faith in which Prayer, Worship and Religious Education form the very foundation of school practices and permeate all areas of school life. The school community works together to provide an atmosphere in which all pupils are enabled to achieve their full potential. In our daily lives we give witness to the values of God's kingdom- prayer, truth, holiness, justice, love, forgiveness and the celebration of the Mass, liturgies, assemblies and prayer are an integral part of our teaching.

***"The task of handing on the faith to future generations is both the privilege and responsibility of the local Church. Its primary purpose is to bring young people to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ."* Cardinal Basil Hume**

Legislation and Guidance

- Guidance from the Department of Education for RE
- The Education Act 1988 requires that the offered curriculum promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of the children.
- To Know You More Clearly
- Keeping Children Safe in Education – (DFE September 2018)
- Development Matters

Roles and Responsibilities

The Church recognises the fundamental contribution of those charged with the planning and delivery of Religious Education. In what may be called the 'hidden curriculum', the witness, integrity and sincerity of the teacher or staff member will influence the communication of Christian faith, especially as knowledge to be believed and lived. Governors are responsible for the R.E. Curriculum. This is managed by the Headteacher/ RE Leader on a day to day basis.

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Those responsible for Religious Education in St. Helen's Catholic Infant School should:

- be prepared to give living witness to what they teach;
- recognise that they share in the teaching office of the Church exercised in the person of the local bishop and enshrined in the trust deed of the school;
- fulfil their professional responsibilities with regard to all that develops and enhances the life of the Catholic school;
- plan and teach schemes of work that are engaging and accessible so that all pupils may progress appropriately in their knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith;
- ensure that 10% of the curriculum is devoted to Religious Education
- have high expectations of all their pupils;
- ensure that Religious Education contributes positively to the broad and balanced curriculum of a Catholic school through cooperation and dialogue with other subjects;
- take care continually to deepen their own knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith;
- take seriously the duty of every Catholic to form his or her conscience;
- be given opportunities for their own spiritual and professional development as Catholic educators.

RECD,2012

Organisation and Planning

Diocesan Religious Education Programme

- To Know You More Clearly: The Religious Education Directory
- Curriculum Time allocation per week is 10%. This does not include Collective Worship.
- Allocation of teaching time to Other Faiths is 5 hours (2 weeks of R.E. time).

Teaching and Learning

Teaching and learning strategies from across the curriculum can be appropriately adapted to inspire the learning needs of pupils.

Marking

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Work should be marked in accordance with the school marking policy (See school marking policy). Work should be marked in relation to the learning intentions. Key words must be corrected. Comments should encourage children to reflect, analyse and should be interactive.

Inclusion

At St. Helen's Catholic Infant School, all pupils have the right to have access to a differentiated Religious Education. All pupils in our school, irrespective of ability, faith and background will have appropriate differentiated access to the Religious Education programme. Other Faiths are taught from Reception to Year 2 following the programme of study in 'To Know You More Clearly'.

Assemblies and Celebrations

The daily act of worship takes place in many different forms throughout the week (see Prayer and Liturgy Policy).

Prayer and Liturgy and Hymn Practices are led predominantly by the Headteacher and SLT.

All acts of worship in the school are Christian. In addition we hold assemblies that reflect moral values and PSHE topics.

Prayer

Apart from the daily act of worship and hymn practices, there are periods of prayer at lunchtime and at the beginning and end of each day. (See the school prayer booklet for requirements for each year group.) All prayers begin and end with the sign of the cross. Each class should have an area of their room as a prayer focus. Spontaneous prayer, talking to God in their own words, is also encouraged in class celebrations, reflection and prayer time, both aloud and in silence.

Environment and Display

The school environment reflects that we are a Catholic school. Each classroom has a prayer area with a special class candle in a prominent place of the classroom and a display dedicated to current learning in Religious Education. As you move around the school, there are a number of displays showing the children's religious work, statues of saints and prayers.

Monitoring

Assessment

Assessment of standards is carried out at the end of each 6 week unit and reported on Integris. Children are assessed as: Emerging, Expected and Exceeding at the end of each topic, based on evidence gathered throughout the unit along with an end of unit assessment. Progress in RE is reported to parents at consultation evenings and in children's end of year reports.

CPD

Catholic Teachers Certificate (CCRS)

- All teachers are encouraged to secure this qualification in R.E. It is expected that the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and all aspiring to Senior Leadership will obtain this.

INSET

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- Regular Inset each term is allocated to Prayer and Liturgy every year (at least once a year)

Links with Other Policies

- Prayer and Liturgy Policy
- Assessment Policy
- RSHE Policy

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