



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Malvern

Religious Education Policy

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Whole School Policy for Religious Education

Our Mission Statement

"Following in the footsteps of Jesus, together we love, live and learn"

St Josephs is a caring community, a family growing in faith and belief with a love of learning.

Our vision is to:

Create a safe and caring learning environment with positive relationships and high expectations, where our uniqueness is respected and celebrated and where we develop skills and confidence for an ever-changing world.

Our mission statement reflects an awareness that every child is a unique individual, created in the image and likeness of GOD. Our job is to nurture every child and encourage them to use their gifts and talents to the full and to celebrate the diversity that this brings to our school. This awareness extends across the whole curriculum and informs everything that we do in the name of the school.

Aims of Religious Education

The first aim of Religious Education in our school is to give the children knowledge, understanding and experience of Catholic life and faith.

We aim to support the personal, moral, social and spiritual development of our pupils through our teaching, pastoral care and activities.

We also aim to promote Community Cohesion through an understanding of the beliefs of others within our own community as well as in the wider world.

How we meet our stated aims

In order to fulfil these aims we make use of the following schemes and programmes of study.

- "Learning & Growing as the People of God" – This scheme provides a framework for the teaching of RE and is supported by a range of other resources and in- school guidance for teachers.
- "A Journey in Love" is a diocesan approved developmental programme that seeks to provide a family life, love and relationships education (there is a separate policy written for this.)
- St Joseph's Parish Programme for Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. This is supported through teaching in the school, with a particular focus for children in Year 3.
- "The Wednesday Word" is an online leaflet distributed to all families every Wednesday and focuses on the Sunday Gospels throughout the year. This also contributes to our framework for collective worship in school by giving a weekly theme to be explored and developed through other resources.

I. Legal Right

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from RE and Collective Worship. Any parent who wishes to do this should speak to the Head teacher.

The Scheme of Work for RE

Entitlement: RE is a core subject within our curriculum and, as such, it is allocated 10% of Curriculum time as required by the Bishops' Conference."

This 10% is in addition to time given to Prayer, Mass, Assemblies, Christmas Plays, Circle Time, PHSE, RSE, Citizenship and Hymn Practice which are not to be included.

R.E. is normally taught over two sessions per week but there may be times of special focus when it is taught in a continuous block or more frequently, for example during Holy Week.

In the Foundation Stage, R.E. is discretely taught through short whole class sessions and focused group activities within the planned curriculum time.

Planning

Long-term Planning

The Long-term plan is based on the Units within the scheme and reflects the particular Liturgical Year. This plan is reviewed annually.

Medium-term Planning

Medium term planning is the responsibility of the class teacher and is completed on a unit by unit basis according to the long-term plan.

Additional resources and guidance are provided on the Staff Shared Network

Planning should be kept on the school system so that appropriate adaptations can be made in the light of on-going assessment and individual learning needs.

Short-term Planning

Short-term planning (weekly planning) is the responsibility of the class teacher and should be completed on a weekly basis. This should highlight any adaptation made for particular groups of pupils and should have reference to the Whole School Teaching & Learning Policy (Available on the Staff Shared Network) This is also stored electronically and refers to the Values and Virtues taught across the year.

Delivering the Curriculum

Teachers should differentiate in a variety of ways to meet the needs of all learners. This may take the form of different levels of questioning, by different tasks, by outcome or by grouping the children to support each other's learning.

The books are monitored termly and should reflect the 10% of teaching time required. Unit markers are used to divide the work in the books and display full coverage of the curriculum. They have been adapted to enable the children to show what they have learnt over the course of the unit. In KS 1 the unit markers are completed in the large class books. These large class books compliment the work in the books. They are also used to capture the catholic life experienced by the class across their time in the school. Examples of this would range from any fund-raising activities, to class collective worship and or any value and virtue work. These large books should be shared regularly with the children so that they have full ownership of them, adding to them themselves by upper key stage 2.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

Assessment for Learning

Marking and verbal feedback should be given in relation to the RE learning outcomes. Marking should give guidance to the child about what they have done well and what they need to do to improve and extend their learning. All work should be marked.

Summative Assessments End of unit Assessments

A baseline assessment of children entering the school in the Foundation stage should be completed.

The RE subject leader selects a strand of RE on which to focus in terms of monitoring and assessment. The teachers are then given a schedule of which three end of unit assessments are to be completed during the year. Using the excel document provided, the teachers complete the end of unit assessment sheets (traffic light sheet) for each child in their class. 1 book from each strand (identified as Velcro Children) will be kept from each year group as evidence of work.

Summative Assessment: Levels of Attainment

The RE subject leader should determine the ability band for the whole school focus in relation to the levels of attainment. The teachers should assess work samples throughout the year for one child from the agreed ability band (this can be the Velcro child). Each piece of work should be assessed against the levels of attainment using the Diocesan proforma from the new assessment framework. A selection of work samples should be moderated. At the end of the year an overall assessment judgement should be made for each of the focus ability group children.

Reporting to parents takes place annually through the end of year report. An interim progress report may also be included at the Parents' Evenings held during the year.

Class and Whole School Prayer

A daily act of prayer is held. This may take the form of whole school assemblies, age group assemblies, class worship, Weekly Mass, or School Services of Reconciliation.

A framework is provided for staff determining the themes for each term and a range of resources are also available to assist staff with planning and preparation.

"The Wednesday Word" provides a key word for focus each week but does not limit additional themes as appropriate to the liturgical season or major feast days.

St Joseph's Day is celebrated every year on 19th March (or on the closest school day to this)

Other Saints days are celebrated as appropriate and the whole school attends Mass on Holydays of Obligation during term time.

A Mass is held to mark the beginning and end of every term and parents and parishioners are invited to attend this.

The Rosary is a focus during October and there are particular themes linking to the main Liturgical Seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost.

Each class has chosen a saint. The children should know about the life and qualities of their chosen saint and may often be a stimulus for the class collective worship.

Prayer focus:

A prayer focus table is maintained within the school hall reflecting the themes of whole school assemblies. Each classroom also has a prayer focus which is used for quiet reflection and daily prayer. Guidance on this is provided for teachers on the Staff Shared Network.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

Our mission statement reflects our desire to celebrate diversity and difference and our Equal Opportunities Policy requires that all pupils have access to the full range of activities and that no pupil will be required to undertake any activity that is contrary to his/her personal beliefs.

Links with the Parents and the Community

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School is an integral part of St Joseph's Catholic Parish in Malvern. There are many opportunities for parish and school to work together, for example the Sacramental Programmes, Children in the Liturgy, Social & Fundraising Activities, Live Simply and others.

Parents are a welcome part of our school life and there is an active PTFA that seeks to involve parents of all backgrounds in Social and Fundraising Activities.

Parents are encouraged to attend class assemblies, Masses and many other school activities.

The Role of the Religious Education Coordinator

The Coordinator role is shared by Mrs T Langford and Mrs C Batten

These coordinators have the responsibility for maintaining this policy in practice, attending training and providing up to date guidance for staff on both the Catholic Life of the School and The Provision of Religious Education in the School. They also maintain links with the Parish and the wider community on behalf of the school.

Health & Safety

Risk assessments are required for all activities that potentially pose a risk to the safety and well being of children and staff.

Candles are frequently used during acts of Prayer and quiet reflection. Only adults may carry the lighter or matches and each adult is responsible for returning it to the school office after the event is over. Children may light candles using a taper under the supervision of an adult.

Link Governor

The Link Governor for this policy is Mr Ed Hogan

This policy was fully reviewed, revised and updated in September 2022. It complies with guidance from the RE Department at the Archdiocese of Birmingham.