

# Saint Norbert's Catholic School

## Religious Education Policy

Date Adopted: Spring 2014

Date of Review: Spring 2016



### Our Mission Statement

St. Norbert's strives to nurture and develop the whole child through a

Love of God  
Love of one another  
Love of life itself

*Article 29: Education should develop each child's personality and talents to the full. It should encourage children to respect their parents, and their own and other cultures.*

*Article 14: Children have the right to think and believe what they want, and to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights. Parents should guide their children on these matters.*

## Introduction

The purpose of Religious Education at St Norbert's Catholic Primary School is to nurture the Catholic Faith, and its teachings, in our children. By helping them to live this faith, we hope to encourage our children to develop a stronger relationship with God and others around them. Central to our ethos are the Gospel Values and opportunities for prayer and worship which lie at the heart of our faith. This is reflected in our Mission Statement: Love of God, Love of one another and love of life itself.

We will endeavour to promote and encourage these at every level, together with the skills and attitudes necessary to live out the Christian message in the modern world. Religious Education (R.E) should promote pupils' cultural, mental, emotional, spiritual and physical development and prepare children for the opportunities and responsibilities that are to come. This should be in the context of a moral and ethical Christian framework.

R.E is a core subject at St Norbert's Catholic Primary School. It is delivered mainly through the religious education programme '*Come and See*', but is also encouraged through links with home, the Parish Church, the local community and other subject areas, especially PSHCE. We believe that all aspects of R.E should be woven into the fabric of school life.

We recognise that everyone at St Norbert's Catholic Primary School, staff, children and parents are on their own personal journey of faith.

## Aims

- To provide staff and children with the knowledge, understanding and awareness of the Catholic faith and its beliefs
- To enable staff and children to communicate with God through prayer and scripture
- To enable staff and children to develop their spirituality
- To help staff and children to explore and express their sense of awe and wonder at the world God has created
- To encourage staff and children to respect those holding different beliefs
- To help staff and children grow in awareness of themselves and to develop a positive attitude to their own emotions, life, and learning
- To enable staff and children to grow in their awareness of others and to develop relationships in a secure and supportive environment
- To become aware of issues involving justice and the rights of the individual

## Approach

R.E is a core subject and should cover 10% of the curriculum. This is approximately 2 hours a week of taught RE in Key Stage 1 and 2 ½ hours of taught RE in Key stage 2. The further time is part of Collective Worship (see Collective Worship and Liturgy Policy). This taught RE time can be carried out in several shorter sessions throughout the week or in two longer sessions. This time does not include time spent in collective worship.

The '*Come and See*' programme is used to deliver the curriculum, but other resources can be used alongside it. The programme follows an annual cycle and each following the themes of God as our Creator, God as our Saviour and God as the Spirit are taught. Each Year Group has their own planning book and series of topics to follow throughout the year.

Nine topics will be taught; three each term. There is a whole school approach with everyone covering the topics at the same time. Displays should reflect the current topic with some overlap to allow for quality work to be completed for display. There are also two weeks where 'other faiths' are studied.

### **Planning and Assessment**

Each year group from EYFS to Year 6 has a *Come and See Book* and website login code appropriate to their year group which prescribes each topic in full detail. The RE planning format is available on the G-drive and is supplied to all teachers new to the school on induction. A timetable is distributed by the RE Subject Leader showing the timescale for each topic and important dates and events of coming term, this is also available on the Diocesan website. This will also state the time to be spent on 'Other Faiths'.

All Year Groups have an RE Assessment File. In this are individual pupil tracking sheets. These record the children's achievement in the three main assessment tasks. These assessments are supplied to the staff by the RE Subject Leader in response to direction by the Diocese.

Samples of evidence from individual children are also kept in the Assessment File. These samples are moderated by the staff during staff meeting times. At the end of the year the RE Subject leader collates these to produce an RE Portfolio of evidence of the work produced by children St Norbert's Catholic Primary School.

The RE Subject Leader also takes samples of the Assessment Tasks to Diocesan RE Subject Leader Meetings for moderation to ensure judgements in our school are sound and in line with other Catholic Primary Schools in the Diocese.

Assessment sheets for the end of topics are also on the G-Drive and teachers are to complete these at the end of each topic and keep them in their RE Assessment File. These are then used by the teachers to inform the end of year levelling of the children for entry onto the electronic RE tracking system. To support the teachers in this assessment RE moderation takes place through out the year using an APP style format.

There is an electronic tracking system for RE that is stored on the G-Drive. This is updated at the end of the academic year by the teachers giving a best fit overall level for each child.

Teachers use their end of topic assessments and main assessment tasks to aid and inform this judgement.

Children also take responsibility for assessing their learning and progress in RE. At the start of a new topic every child has 'I can' statements attached to their RE Book for the level they are currently working in and the level they are working towards. During the topic the child and the teacher identify how they are achieving in relation to the 'I can' statements.

### **Monitoring**

The R.E Subject Leader, Head Teacher and Senior Leadership Team will monitor the RE curriculum through lesson observations, book scrutinies, Display/Prayer Corner Scrutinies, Collective Worship monitoring and pupil interviews. This is in line with the school management cycle.

At St Norbert's, whilst we believe that academic rigour is as necessary in RE as in any subject, this should not negate spiritual and emotional development and learning which are not always possible to assess using formal methods, but are an integral part of Religious Education.

### **Equal Opportunities**

We believe that all children are entitled to equal access to the R.E Curriculum. Children with SEND, Gifted and Talented and EAL children should be allowed to express themselves according to their ability, for example by using art/drama to record ideas and thoughts where writing skills are less developed. All work should be valued. We should be aware of children's various cultural, social, and ethnic backgrounds and be sensitive in our approach and the use of materials.

### **Other Faiths**

We believe that learning about other faiths and cultures is essential for a better understanding of their own faith and culture. The emphasis should be on similarities rather than differences. Everyone will study Judaism during the Autumn Term. In the Spring or Summer term (whichever is longer) children will study a different faith according to their year group.

EYFS and Key Stage 1- Hinduism

Lower Key Stage 2- Islam

Upper Key Stage 2- Sikhism

However through topic based learning in other curriculum areas the children will also have the opportunity to learn about aspects of other faiths and cultures either current or historical.

### **Collective Worship**

Prayer is an essential part of collective worship. It is an important way of expressing our faith and talking to God. Helping children to pray, to learn our prayers, explore different styles of prayer and enable children to write their own prayers are all important parts of R.E. Children are expected to participate in all worship that takes place in school or is led by the school. This can also include Masses on Holy Days of Obligation, Sunday Family Masses and Masses for special occasions such as St Norbert's Day. This may include reading, drama and mime, bringing the Offertory, welcoming, dance, the use of instruments, singing and altar serving.

After Lunch each day all children participate in Christian Meditation

\*For further information about Collective Worship see Collective Worship and Liturgy Policy.

### **Other Events**

During other significant parts of the year the school provides other opportunities for the children to participate in prayer and reflection. For example; Rosary Club during the months of Mary, Lenten and Advent Prayer groups.

The school also actively aims to participate in Diocesan events as they arise.

### **Parental Involvement**

A school newsletter is sent home each week and this always contains a quote and prayer linking to our faith or the liturgical time of year. At the beginning of each term an RE Newsletter is sent home to inform the parents of the topics for that term and how they can support their child's spiritual growth, learning and understanding. It also lists important dates and

celebrations. We recognise and value the vital role of parents as the first educators of their children.

Travelling Crib and Lenten Boxes are sent home with the children during Advent and Lent. This provides an opportunity for the children and parents to share in reflection and pray. Diaries of what families have done during this time are kept.

Parents are also invited into school to join in Masses and Class Led Worships, sharing in the learning of their children. They are then encouraged to sign and comment in the visitors book, reflecting on their experience.

During Parent Teacher Consultation Evenings parents are informed about their child's learning in RE. This is also reported in detail on the 'End of Year Academic Report'.

### **Resources**

There is a central storage area for RE resources (at the back of the ICT suite opposite Year 5). Each class also have their own Liturgy Boxes which allow for the children to prepare and lead a morning liturgy. These contain a variety of artefacts that the children and teachers can use for Prayer Tables.

Music CD's are kept in a box in the staff room. Hymn words are stored on the G-Drive in a Hymns folder.

Resources for Mass are kept in a box in the RE resource cupboard and in the Head teachers office.

### **Display**

In the main entrance a focal display is kept. This is refreshed and arranged by the RE Subject Leader.

At least one of the display boards in the main corridor will be of an RE focus. This can either reflect the Liturgical year or RE Topic based work.

Every classroom have an RE display and a Prayer Corner. The RE display reflects the RE learning that has been taking place and once sufficient quality work is gathered this is expected to be refreshed.

The school also has a display board at the St Norbert's Church. This is changed regularly to reflect the RE topics and learning that are taking place in the school.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

(Headteacher)

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

(for and on behalf of the *Governing body*)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

