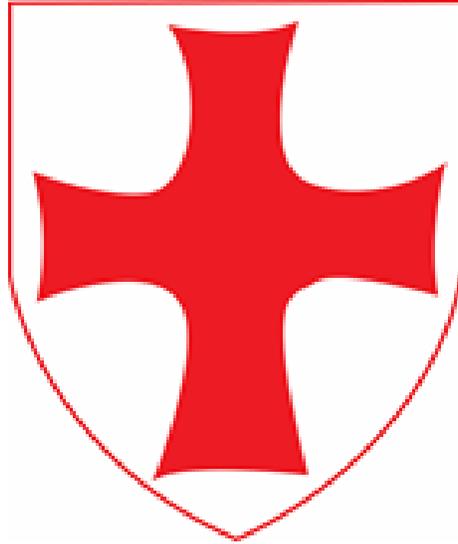


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# **St. Robert Southwell Catholic Primary School**



## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY**

**Approved by staff on**                      **23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019**

**Adopted by governors on:**            **3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019**

**Review:**                                        **December 2021**

*Following Jesus' footsteps and inspired by St Robert Southwell we work hard,  
aim high and treat everyone with honesty and gentleness*



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*Following Jesus' footsteps and inspired by St. Robert Southwell, we work hard, aim high and treat everyone with honesty and gentleness.*

## **AIMS**

R.E. is not one subject among others but is at the very bedrock of our whole curriculum at St. Robert Southwell. "The outcome of excellent religious education is religiously literate and engaged young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills – appropriate to their age and capacity – to reflect spiritually, and think ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life."

(Religious Education Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools 2012)

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

Our mission is to create an educating Christian community which reflects the values of the Gospel within the traditions of the Roman Catholic Church;

- a community which will develop the whole person
- a community which works closely with parents and parish
- a community which values each child as a unique individual with particular gifts and needs
- a forward-looking community which serves its members and the wider society
- a community in which we will lead those in our care to grow in their faith whilst benefiting from an enriching education.



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In the scheme of work, we follow and by using additional teaching resources, including 'Caritas in Action, we are invited to be a part of God's Kingdom; we discover what it is like and how we can become witnesses of the kingdom today. In our study, we deepen our understanding of God who came down to earth to show us the WAY to live kingdom values of justice, love, forgiveness. He teaches us the TRUTH about what is really important for this life and life eternal. He gives us the promise of everlasting LIFE through his own death and resurrection." Vincent Nichols 'The Way, the Truth and the Life' series, Book 6.

### **Programme of Study:**

To fulfil the above aims and to address the 4 areas of study outlined in the Curriculum Directory – Revelation, Church, Celebration and Life in Christ. "The Way, the Truth & the Life" programme is used and supported by other RE curriculum materials. "The Way, the Truth and The Life" programme acknowledges that we live in a multi-cultural and multi-faith society and that R.E. should introduce children to the background and beliefs of other faith families. The aim is to ensure tolerance, respect and understanding between cultures and traditions represented in our school, national and global community.

### **Curriculum time allocation**

In line with Bishops' Conference recommendations, 10% of curriculum time is allocated to Religious Education. This does **not** include Collective Worship.

### **The teaching of other faiths**

As part of the curriculum, the children learn about two other main religions: Judaism and Hinduism, as they represent our local community. This includes visits to our local temples and lessons provided by members of staff. The children are given opportunities to record their work in a variety of ways such as art, design, written responses and ICT.

### **Equal Opportunities**

At St. Robert Southwell our pupils are given access to and confidence in different activities regardless of their ability, sex or socio-economic background. Pupils are valued as individuals and from a young age, they learn to value and respect themselves, others and property.

Teachers need to be sensitive to the needs of the diverse society in which we live. In our school Religious Education as taught through "The Way, the Truth and the Life" which is primarily concerned with building upon life experiences actively promoting our mission of living and learning through Christ.



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Teachers provide opportunities to discuss concepts such as justice, inequality and race in open and non-threatening environments in the course of their studies. Positive images of different ethnic and gender groups are promoted through the provision and use of appropriate resources such as stories, pictures, songs and music. Pupils learn about features of other faiths to enable them to appreciate that many people hold religious convictions and beliefs. We aim, as a school community, to help our pupils develop tolerance towards, respect for and understanding of all the cultures and traditions represented in our local and wider community.

### **Inclusion**

At St. Robert Southwell, it is essential to consider all children with a variety of learning needs and plan accordingly. Multi-sensory approaches may be used and a range of learning experiences including music, different materials, and media will be used. R.E. lessons are best planned when based on sound knowledge of the pupil's abilities. For children with SEND, opportunities are provided to ensure that tasks are suitably planned for different needs, ensuring that all pupils experience success. Able, gifted and talented pupils are motivated and challenged through differentiated activities, designed to develop their higher order thinking skills. EAL pupils are supported with visual prompts and key vocabulary cards.

## **Pupils Assessment, Record keeping and Recording**

### **Planning**

In the 'The Way, The Truth and The Life' programme, we teach one topic each half term. All teachers produce a six-week plan for each of the topics taught. Planning sheets are available to help with planning and teachers are encouraged to plan in year groups. Differentiation is evident in planning and provision is made for the individual needs in the class.

### **Assessment**

Assessment in R.E. is important to monitor children's progress and to record the knowledge, skills, concepts and attitudes that the children are gaining. Assessment grids based on the 'Broad Areas of Attainment in R.E.' have been developed by the diocese. Teachers are encouraged to plan assessment tasks carefully into their topic plan.

### **Monitoring & Evaluation**

The R.E. Co-ordinator has a responsibility to ensure that the 'The Way, The Truth and The Life' programme is being planned and delivered effectively. The co-ordinator will observe and work alongside teachers delivering 'The Way, The Truth and The Life' whenever possible and offer support and constructive feedback if appropriate.



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## **Organisation & Management**

Each class teacher and the pupil chaplaincy Team are responsible for providing the opportunity for the pupils to celebrate, pray, reflect, learn and share together within God's family, as well as guiding and supporting them on their faith journey during different stages.

The Headteacher has had delegated by the governors, the day to day leadership of the school community and is charged with sustaining and developing all aspects of Catholic identity and safeguarding the Church's teaching within the whole learning environment, so that all members of the school staff and pupils are supported in their own Faith journey.

The teaching staff are responsible for whole school assemblies.

The R.E. Co-ordinator will:

- co-ordinate the development of R.E. within St. Robert Southwell School
- co-ordinate with staff regarding religious celebrations (including liturgy)
- liaise with our Parish Priest
- attend In-Service courses led by the Diocese and LA Advisers and make available to colleagues' information from these courses
- ensure that prayer and worship have a place in the life of the school by organising and/or helping others to organise sacramental and liturgical services
- co-ordinate implementation of Bishop's Curriculum Directory

## **Homework**

The children are provided with opportunities to extend their learning through creative homework tasks, set in accordance with the events in the liturgical year or the R.E topic being studied.

## **Staff Induction**

The RE Coordinator and SMT provide formal and informal support. The SLT and RE coordinator work with class teachers to support all new staff in procedures and expectations and keeping other members of staff up to date and in line with new ideas and updates from the diocese. CPD opportunities are available for all staff, including planning topics with external agencies.



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## **Home-School-Parish**

It is through the combined commitment between the home, school and parish that the children are led into a loving relationship with God and one another. The children are initially prepared to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion in their respective parishes. They are supported in school through relevant topic modules, such as Called to Change and Eucharist. Once the children have made their First Holy Communion the school community celebrates Mass together which parents are invited to attend. The Wednesday Word is sent home each week for families with children in Year 3, as they prepare to celebrate for their First Holy Communion. Children in the other year groups share the 'Wednesday Word' in class. Parents receive an overview of the curriculum at the beginning of the school year. Details of the current topics being studied can be found on the school's website. Liturgies and masses in school are planned in co-operation with our priests and parents are invited to share in these celebrations.

## **Resources**

All members of staff have access to the following Resources to support teaching & learning

- The school community, pupils, staff, governors, parents/carers, priests and parishioners. We also welcome contributions from other faith families.
- 'The Way, The Truth and The Life' Programme – for providing a teaching framework and structure for the school year.
- 'Caritas in Action'
- The Catechism of the Catholic Church.
- Broad Areas of Attainment in R.E. – The National Board of Religious Inspectors and Advisers.
- R.E. Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools.
- A range of resources for teaching R.E. is available e.g. reference books, bibles, children's books and artefacts, which are available for use in the classroom.
- Inset will be available for all staff.
- There will be an annual budget for R.E.
- All classes have a prayer focus areas and resources to support class Collective Worship and a prayer resource box



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- A prayer Room

### **Collective Worship**

Collective Worship occurs daily. Pupils gather to worship in the school hall on a Monday and Thursday for liturgy assemblies. On other days this takes place in classrooms. The aim is to promote school togetherness/unity; it is a time when we pray together worshipping God rejoicing through our 'The Way, The Truth and the Life' topics.

When worship takes place in the classroom, children and staff celebrate together as a class through prayer, reflection or songs. This may be led by pupil chaplains. Through the collective worship sessions, we seek to help pupils to integrate all life's experiences and all learning into an ever-deepening appreciation of faith in Jesus Christ.

### **Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Development**

The spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of our children underpins the curriculum and ethos of our school and applies not only to Religious Education and collective worship but to every area of the curriculum and all aspects of school life.

In our Catholic school spiritual and moral education are inter-dependent with Religious Education. In the course of our life and work we seek to promote the well being and freedom of the whole person, understood as created in the image and likeness of God. The beliefs and values communicated in Religious Education inspire and draw together every aspect of the life of our school.

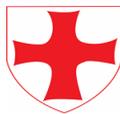
Spiritual development has to do with:

- relationship with God and other people
- our responses to challenging experiences such as death, suffering, beauty and encounters with good and evil
- searching for meaning and purpose in life and for values by which we live.

Spiritual development is about the development of the essence of a unique individual questing for and loving what is true and good. It is this sense of spiritual development that we must question, struggle, suffer, wonder, love, reflect and indeed work.

In our Catholic tradition spiritual development occurs when each person's capacity to reach beyond the limitations of their personal experience, knowledge or imaginations are realised and provided, both in specific curriculum areas and in the everyday life of our school.

Through our Religious Education programme we introduce our children to the person of Jesus Christ and relate his teachings to their experience. It is in this context that the liturgical life of the school assumes its richest significance where opportunities for prayer and relationship with Christ in personal prayer, public liturgy and celebration of the sacraments and thus bring the spiritual life of the school to its most explicit expression.



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### **Moral Development**

In moral education we aim to reflect the values of Christ expressed in his life.

The moral code rooted in our Catholic religion is brought to the fore in the everyday life of the school and incorporated into specific areas including Religious Education History and English. An increasing appreciation of respect of the individual made manifest in honesty and fairness, self respect, self discipline and respect for property form important aspects of our children's development. Each person is given the opportunity to grow in awareness of the demands of living as an individual with others in our Catholic community.

**“Love one another as I have loved you”** John 13:34. Through working for the good of God's creation – loving one another (moral development) we comprehend the extent of God's love for us. This influences our relationship with God (spiritual development).

### **School Self Evaluation**

This is completed as a collaborative effort involving the RE team, senior leaders, governors and staff. This covers the main areas of the Catholic school, such as collective worship, the teaching and learning of RE, its Catholic life and its service to the Common Good. The RE Coordinator is responsible for producing a Development Plan which identifies the priorities for improvement in this area. It includes details of budget, action to be taken, success criteria and time scales.

### **Policy review**

This policy will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed by staff and Governors and will be updated every 2 years or as necessary.

Adopted by Governors: 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020

To be reviewed in December 2021

**Signed:** *F. Montgomery*