

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School and Nursery



Religious Education Policy
2020-2022

SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

“Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and adults. We expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment”.

MISSION STATEMENT

This is our school

Together we worship
Together we learn
Together we belong

With the love of God,
our dreams and ambitions come true.

Rationale

“Catholics believe that Religious Education is not one subject amongst many but the foundation of the entire education process. The beliefs and values it communicates should inspire and unify every aspect of school life.”

(Bishops Conference of England and Wales 1988)

As a Catholic school, we seek to develop an ethos in our school whereby the spiritual, moral, social and cultural needs of all within our school community are supported. This will be expressed through our response to the Gospel call to love.

Spiritual

As a Catholic community we strive to support the pupils in the development of their spiritual life, so that through reflection, pupils will acquire insights and attribute meaning and purpose to their personal existence. We believe that this begins with a personal experiential encounter with the living Christ and that once experienced this needs to be fostered and developed through:

- a) personal and community prayer
- b) a sense of God’s presence throughout the life of the school
- c) liturgies where pupils become aware of entering His presence
- d) hearing His word spoken in Scripture
- e) experiencing the community of the faithful
- f) celebration of the Mass
- g) a varied curriculum that creates a sense of awe and wonder
- h) quiet times of reflection
- i) opportunities to express personal views and insights while searching for the truth together

Moral

At the heart of the Church's and the school's moral teaching lies the understanding that we love because we are first loved by God. We are called to reflect God's love for us in our relationships with others and, since His love is unconditional and freely given, we have the freedom to respond to His love, or reflect Him. How we understand and use this gift of freedom is crucial to our moral development – to our becoming fully human. At Sacred Heart we believe:

- a) love is at the heart of the Catholic understanding of morality
- b) morality touches all parts of the curriculum
- c) every human action has a negative or positive influence on life
- d) individuals are created by God to choose what is right or wrong
- e) we, as a Church, hate the sin but love the sinner
- f) wrongs need to be dealt with but the individual must be treated with respect
- g) pupils should grow in their understanding of what is right and wrong so as to become fully moral beings

Social

God did not create us to live in isolation, but to live in social unity. Therefore, it is part of the responsibility of the school to support pupils, and their families, in the formation of good social attitudes. The school community will nurture our pupils to:

- a) learn about the obligations, constraints and satisfaction that go with membership of a community
- b) become aware of their own identity as individuals and to take account of the feelings of others
- c) participate in a supportive way in group and school activities so as to develop co- operative skills that will help us all live together
- d) learn what it means to be a responsible citizen

Cultural

Cultural development is the increasing understanding and command of those beliefs, values and customs, knowledge and skills which taken together form the basis of identity and cohesion in society. Cultures will grow and change; features of the past influence and present and will shape its future form. Pupils at Sacred Heart will;

- a) be introduced to the values and customs held within our Catholic cultural tradition
- b) become aware of cultures of the past through historical programmes of study
- c) respect the values, customs and cultural heritage of people who belong to other faiths or ethnic cultures
- d) have their cultural achievements outside school acknowledged and valued

Parental Involvement

- a) A termly RE newsletter is produced telling parents what their children are studying that term
- b) Our weekly newsletter has a weekly faith focus to develop their understanding of the Catholic faith
- c) Parents receive a copy of the Wednesday Word with the hope that families share 5 minutes of sharing their faith at home
- d) We hold termly parents afternoons during which we share with parents how their child is achieving in RE
- e) RE is the first subject in our end of year reports demonstrating to parents how important we value RE
- f) All classes lead topic assemblies during the year and parents are invited to these
- g) A weekly reminder of the Wednesday word in the school newsletter with ideas for prayer in the home
- h) Families participate annually with our travelling cribs
- i) 'With You Always' Sacramental programme in which two staff members and our Chair of Governors are catechists

- j) Parents of other faiths have shared their faith with staff and pupils to deepen our understanding

Scheme of work

We use the 'Come and See' programme to adhere to the Curriculum Directory as prescribed by the Liverpool Archdiocese.

Please see our Sacred Heart Curriculum document which is on our website and a paper copy is available from the office for a small charge.

Planning

Teachers are responsible for short term planning. WALTS/WILFS are to include driver words. Planning follows the Archdioceses recommendations.

Delivery

The RE curriculum is delivered by the class teacher, who follows the 'Come and See' programme recommended by the Archdiocese of Liverpool. It is delivered through a variety of teaching methods a cross curricular approach that encompasses drama, music, art, history and literacy.

Assessment

- a) Teachers evaluate pupil achievement at the end of each topic.
- b) Pupils are formally assessed once every term
- c) Children's progress is recorded on O'Track at the end of each assessed unit.
- d) At the end of term, the RE co-ordinator and Head teacher analyse standards for all pupils, by year groups and by gender and for pupils whom speak English as an additional language.

Pupil Parliament

Our Pupil Parliament is elected by pupils, with children electing two councillors from each class. The head teacher appoints an additional pupil and in consultation with our Parish Priest and parish catechists we also appoint a pupil as a Parish representative.

Role of the co-ordinator

The RE co-ordinator will: -

1. Ensure that the RE curriculum is managed in line with the stated Aims and Objectives of the school and of the 'Come and See' programme.
2. Produce an annual action plan that will be monitored throughout the year.
3. Produce a policy that will include aims and objectives.
4. Develop, monitor and review the 'Come and See' programme, ensuring that there is over all continuity and progression, in discussion with colleagues.
5. Promote the subject throughout the school.
6. Be responsible for resourcing the curriculum area throughout the school.
7. Support colleagues and provide for staff development by:
 - a. *Demonstration of good practice;*
 - b. *Induction of new colleagues, including supply teachers;*
 - c. *Providing support for N.Q.Ts.*
8. Provide for Special Educational Needs throughout the school.
9. Be aware of the need for your own professional development in RE.
10. Provide information on RE curriculum development to the Governors curriculum committee.
11. Work with our Governors, pupils, staff, parish community and Parish Priest to promote community cohesion and effective partnerships, including Sacramental preparation.
12. Encourage parental involvement.