

St Anne's Catholic Primary School **Religious Education Policy**

St Anne's Religious Education Policy sets out the meet the religious and educational needs of all its children, those from supportive Catholic homes and those for whom the school may be their first and perhaps only experience of the Church. Religious Education is not limited to formal R.E lessons but penetrates the life of our school community. Just as our Mission Statement states:

'Christ's Light shines through our learning'.

Introduction

At St. Anne's we recognise Religious Education as a core subject of the curriculum and we take the duties and obligations placed upon us as teachers in a Catholic School very seriously. We recognise the unique position of a Catholic School within the Church and wider community. Religious Education is not limited to time tabled R.E. lessons but permeates the life and curriculum of our school community.

Aims

At St. Anne's, we aim to promote:

- Knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith
- Knowledge and understanding of the response of faith to the ultimate questions about human life, its origin and purpose
- The skills required to engage in examination of and reflection upon religious belief and practice.

We realise the importance of:

- Basing our teaching within the children's own experiences
- Building on the experience within our own families and providing for others their only experience of Church.
- Exploring the beliefs and values and way of life of the Catholic tradition
- Giving the children knowledge and experiences of other faiths and imparting the values of religious tolerance
- Leading the children to an appreciation that faith is not just for learning but for living!

Religious Education in the Curriculum

As a school we are implementing the 'Come and See' programme provided by the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales.

We use 'Come and See' on a whole school approach; each class follows the same theme through a yearly cycle, exploring it at a different level of conceptual development thus providing progression and continuity within the explicit R.E. curriculum.

Each teacher has a specific book dedicated to their age group. The focus for each term is explored within various themes:

- Community of Faith – Church
- Celebration in Ritual – Sacraments

- Way of Life - Christian Living

Each theme is explored within three topics each term and is developed progressively through the school.

The Programme identifies three aspects of the process of R.E. These are: Explore, Reveal, and Respond.

- Explore focuses on an aspect of everyday life.
- Reveal presents the Christian understanding of a theme/topic. It explores Scripture and Christian values through a range of Learning Focuses.
- Respond is separated into Remember, Rejoice and Renew, which enables children to reflect on the themes within the topic, to celebrate and evaluate their own learning.

Alongside the 'Come and See', children also learn about seasons and celebrations within the Church year. They are made aware of special feasts and learn about the lives of various Saints e.g. St. David and St. Patrick. They are also introduced to aspects of other faiths, particularly Judaism and Islam. The school has artefacts from these faiths which are used in accordance with the 'Come and See'.

Planning and Assessment

Staff have the opportunity to get together to reflect on the 'Before you Begin' element of the programme. It is a time to pray and share ideas and resources. This is usually led by the R.E subject leader, although all members of staff are welcome to lead this important time of prayer and reflection.

Children are formally assessed three times a year through tasks set by the Diocese. This enables class teachers to obtain a Level for the children in their class by the summer term. The Assessment sheet for attainment is highlighted by class teachers and is kept with copies of children's work within their individual portfolios.

At the end of each topic, every teacher is responsible for collating evidence for their class and the R.E subject leaders ensures that all the work is collated within the school's R.E portfolio. All members of staff are required to store a copy of their planning on the Q drive. This is monitored by the subject leader and the Head teacher.

Literacy and Numeracy Framework (LNF)

The National Literacy and Numeracy Framework (LNF) is designed to help teachers embed literacy and numeracy into all subjects for learners aged 5 to 14.

Teachers will be able to use the LNF to:

- develop curriculum content to ensure that all learners have opportunities to develop and refine the skills set out in the LNF
- integrate literacy and numeracy into their teaching – whatever the subject matter
- inform discussions with parents/carers, learners and other teachers about learner performance
- help learners with their own self-assessment activities and planning for learning
- monitor, assess and report on individual learner performance

- Identify learners who may benefit from intervention or who are working beyond age-related expectations.

Special Educational Needs

Children from the Resourced Provision are taught Religious Education within their appropriate mainstream class, where work is clearly differentiated. The SEN teacher does have a focal point within the classroom and continues to ensure that children have time for prayer and reflection throughout their time in the Provision.

EAL

Children with English as an additional language also follow the 'Come and See' programme. Activities are clearly differentiated to ensure they have good understanding of different themes and topics. We currently do not have any EAL families that disagree with the scheme in Religious Education.

Personal and Social Education

The recommended Diocesan policy and Education for Personal Relationships scheme have been adopted by the governors. The school has implemented the All that I Am programme for RSE including a Governor approved (parent permission required) video and opportunity for discussion with PHSE Coordinator. (There is a separate Co-ordinator for PHSE)

Information Technology

Children will be given opportunities where appropriate to develop and apply their I.C.T. skills in their study of R.E.

Curriculum Cymreig

a) *A Christian Heritage of Wales:*

Wales has a rich Christian tradition, which can enrich our children's experience. The particular Welsh dimension to Christianity can be recognised in the following:

- 1) Pilgrimages and places of worship.
- 2) Special festivals and customs
- 3) Welsh Saints.
- 4) Welsh Christians of note.

All of these areas provide valuable material with which to supplement our R.E. programme.

b) *Welsh Language:*

It is the policy at St. Anne's to promote the use of the Welsh language in R.E. by the following:-

- 1) Including Welsh hymns, prayer and music in the celebration of formal and informal liturgies.
- 2) Using Welsh translations of traditional prayers e.g. 'Hail Mary', 'Our Father' and the 'Sign of the Cross'.

Collective Worship

Throughout the year, children will experience a variety of celebrations whereby they come together to worship.

- Mass
- Liturgy
- Harvest
- Penitential Services
- Assemblies
- Seasonal reflections

It provides the opportunity for the children to explore the emotions and feelings of young children – joy, happiness, friendship, sadness and loneliness. Families and parishioners are always invited to share these special times.

In addition, there will be regular daily and weekly acts of Collective Worship.

There is an implicit spiritual dimension to all forms of Collective Worship culminating always in prayer and although not all the time, will include song, music for reflection, a reading from scripture and a focal table.

Teachers are required to plan for all forms of worship. There is a general planning sheet for all staff and these are kept in files in the Staff room.

Prayer

Children are encouraged to develop an active participation in prayer through a gradual nurturing process which may begin in the home. For some, children and adults, St. Anne's provides the most important experience of faith community and we endeavour to reach out to parents through children's prayer. A sense of belonging is an essential foundation for prayer and is fostered throughout the child's years at St. Anne's. Opportunities for prayer are created through formal and informal settings, allowing the child to explore a variety of methods of spontaneous, private and group prayer.

We promote an appreciation of prayer and participation in prayer through: Music, Silence, Scripture, Images, Singing, Visual artefacts and dance.

Our Prayer Garden is an important feature within our school grounds and is used by children throughout the school, for prayer and reflection.

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To enable children and adults to grow confidently along their journey to know God, we invite Jesus into our lives especially at prayer time when we create time and an atmosphere for praying together.

Sacramental Preparation

Children at St. Anne's celebrate the Sacraments of First Forgiveness and First Holy Communion in Year 3. The children are presented to the Parish, at the start of their Sacramental preparation, where they receive medals and the Parish is asked to pray for the

children leading up to their special day. The school and Parish work together to support the children in their preparation.

The children receive the Sacrament of First Forgiveness in the Church where parents are invited to attend. First Holy Communion takes places on a Sunday in Church, which is followed by a celebration. The children are encouraged to return to Mass in their Sacramental clothes the following Sunday to celebrate with the whole Parish.

Charity

The children of St. Anne’s are very generous and are always encouraged to be aware of the needs of others in our community and in the world. The school supports ‘Mission Together’ and ‘Cafod’, along with other charities, and are proactive in giving generously to the community at Harvest.

Inset and Training

The Staff attend whole school Diocesan Inset Days. The Head and the R.E subject leader also have regular meetings with the Diocesan team and other schools to discuss attainment and new initiatives. NQT’s have the opportunity to attend a course to familiarise themselves with the ‘Come and See’.

Spiritual and Moral Development

The Spiritual development of pupils at St. Anne’s is about “the development of the essence of a unique individual”. Through the life of the school, through the Religious Education curriculum and the provision for Collective Worship and children’s liturgies, St. Anne’s enables all children to develop spiritually. The school sets out to provide a secure, caring and warm atmosphere in which people can learn to develop good morals, kindness, consideration and co-operation, Emphasis is placed on respect, good manners, care and responsibility for our actions.

Signed _____
Mr Roy Dolan – Chair of Governors

Date _____

Signed _____
Mrs C Priest-Jones – Head Teacher

Date _____

Signed _____
Miss E Davies – R.E Subject Leader

Date _____

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