

St Anthony's VC Academy

RE Policy

Live, Learn, Serve



ST ANTHONY'S
VC ACADEMY

September 2021

Policy reviewed and updated: September 2021

Policy due to be reviewed: September 2024



Our STA Mission Statement



“Loved by God, in our faith community, we live and learn together. We serve others, as Jesus served.”

LIVE

All children have a divine origin and an eternal destiny. Each child is unique and is made in the image of God, their Creator.

As co-creators, the education and formation of the whole person is at the centre of what we do.

Parents are the primary educators of their children and our role is to support them wherever possible.

LEARN

SERVE

When we welcome the child we welcome the whole family, whatever form it takes. Jesus Christ is our role model for service and the summons to love everyone. Our school is based on the Gospel values of faithfulness and integrity, dignity and compassion, humility and gentleness, forgiveness and mercy, tolerance and peace, service and sacrifice.



We strive to make this a place where children and adults – staff, parents and visitors alike have an opportunity to experience the Kingdom – a community of love, rooted in faith and presenting a picture of Christ to catch the imagination.

Rationale of Religious Education:

- We believe Religious Education to be 'the core of the core curriculum.'
- We believe Religious Education is central to the educative mission of the Church.
- Aware that evangelisation and catechesis are happening in our school for some pupils, we are clear that the specific contribution Religious Education makes to the Catholic Life of the school is primarily educational and will be planned, taught, assessed and monitored with the same rigour as other curriculum subjects.
- We understand Religious Education to be the systematic study of the teaching of the Church and the mystery of Christ.

'At the heart of Catholic education lies the Christian vision of the human person. This vision is expressed and explored in religious education. Therefore religious education is never simply one subject among many, but the foundation of the entire educational process. The beliefs and values studied in Catholic religious education inspire and draw together every aspect of the life of a Catholic school.....

All pupils have the right to receive an overall education which will enable them, in the light of the faith of the Church, to engage with the deepest questions of life and find reasons for the hope which is within them.
Religious

Education is, then, the core subject in a Catholic school.' (Statement on Religious Education in Catholic Schools – Bishops' Conference 2000)

'Religious Education...is a rigorous academic discipline, and as such it is to be taught, developed and resourced with the same commitment as any other subject.'
(Curriculum Directory. p10)

' The outcome of Religious Education is religiously literate young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills – appropriate to their age and capacity – to think spiritually, ethically and theologically, who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.' (Curriculum Directory p10)

1 Religious Education in Catholic Schools, Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, 2000, para. 7

The Aims of Religious Education as stated in the Curriculum Directory are:

- To present engagingly a comprehensive content which is the basis of knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith;
- To enable pupils continually to deepen their religious and theological understanding and be able to communicate this effectively;
- To present an authentic vision of the Church's moral and social teaching so that pupils can make a critique of the underlying trends in contemporary culture and society;
- To raise pupils' awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities in order to respect and understand them;
- To develop the critical faculties of pupils so that they can relate their Catholic faith to daily life;
- To stimulate pupils' imagination and provoke a desire for personal meaning as revealed in the truth of the Catholic faith;
- To enable pupils to relate the knowledge gained through Religious Education to their understanding of other subjects in the curriculum;
To bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture.⁵

Religious Education in the Classroom and Curriculum Time Allocation:

Since the total curriculum in our school is based on the values of the Gospel and because we see all education as revealing the mystery of God, we recognise two aspects of Religious Education in the school:

- (a) Implicit, or unstructured Religious Education – those opportunities which arise in the course of a school day to lead pupils through curriculum content or through relationships to a religious understanding of their implications. It is the policy of this school to use such opportunities as they arise.
- (b) Explicit, or Curriculum Religious Education – those time tabled or planned periods of time given to an explicit consideration of Religious Education in the classroom. It is the policy of this school to allocate 10 % of curriculum time to Religious Education. This does not include Collective Worship.

For much of the school day the classroom is the children's world and it stresses the fact that God is a vital part of that world the classroom should have reminders of the presence of God and those close to him. Each class should have a clearly defined permanent and prominent area of religious focus. Its form will depend on the space and object/pictures, drapes in the current liturgical colours, flowers, leaves etc., bibles and other religious books.

Programme of Study:

To fulfil the above aims and to address the four areas of study outlined in the Curriculum Directory – Revelation, Church, Celebration and Life in Christ - the 'Come and See' programme is used as recommended by the Diocese.

Process

We teach Religious Education through the process of Explore, Reveal, Respond. This follows the pattern of: the human search for meaning, God's initiative in Revelation and the response in faith. This pattern is outlined both in the Catechism of the Catholic Church and in the Curriculum Directory. As the Directory states: 'Teaching in Religious Education ... should help people be attentive to the meaning of their experiences, illumined by the light of the Gospel, so that they may respond to God more fully. Experience can also make the Christian message more intelligible.'⁶

² ibid, para. 4

3 Religious Education Curriculum Directory, Department of Catholic Education and Formation, Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, 2012, p.3 3

4 Religious Education Curriculum Directory, Department of Catholic Education and Formation, Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, 2012, p.10 5 Ibid p.6 4

Methodology

A variety of teaching and learning strategies will be used from across the curriculum adapted appropriately to the needs and learning styles of pupils.

Inclusion

All pupils in our school, irrespective of ability, faith and background will have appropriate differentiated access to the Religious Education programme.

Other Religions

Two other religions are taught from EYFS to Year 6 following the programme of study in 'Come and See'. These are Judaism, which is taught in the Autumn and Islam which is taught either in the Spring or Summer. One week's teaching and learning time per year is given to each.

Assessment, Monitoring, Recording and Reporting

- Assessment of standards is carried out according to Diocesan guidelines and using the Age Related Expectations. This has been adapted to be year group specific by the St Cuthbert's MAT.
- Each teacher keeps a class record of pupils' progress.
- An in - house moderation meeting is held every term.
- Summative assessments are submitted by class teachers at the end of each term.

The 'Come and See' Religious Education Programme

The Come and See programme asks that three topic are taught each term. Every year follows the same overarching themes but the topic names are unique to each year group.

Autumn Term	Domestic church Baptism and Confirmation Advent and Christmas	Family Belonging Loving
Spring Term	Local Church Eucharist Lent/Easter	Community Relating Giving
Summer Term	Pentecost Reconciliation Universal Church	Serving Inter relating World

It also involves the study of a number of other world faiths, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism (of which we study Judaism and Islam).

6 Religious Education Curriculum Directory, Department of Catholic Education and Formation, Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, 2012, p.7 5

Staff Development

Staff are encouraged to use the Come and See programme but to also adapt the curriculum to the needs of the children, with a particular emphasis on a creative and engaging approach. New staff are supported by the RE coordinator and their phase leader, as seen in our induction support sheet. As a core subject, RE is a standard item at staff meetings and this ensures that the subject is seen as 'high profile'.

Staff also participate in 'Catholic Foundation Stones' termly to support their spiritual development and deepen their understanding of the Catholic Faith (provided by the Trust Chaplaincy Team).

Management of The Subject.

David Barwick, the RE coordinator has responsibility for leading, managing and supporting the delivery of and training in Religious Education. The RE Co-ordinator works closely with the Executive Head, Head of School and School chaplain as part of the school's RE team.

Policy Review.

This policy will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed by the RE team including the Chaplaincy Co-ordinator and the Trust Directors and will be reviewed in three years (2024).

September 2021