



**St Ralph  
Sherwin**  
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



# **St Charles' Catholic Voluntary Academy**

## **'Belong, Believe, Blossom'**

### **RE Policy**

**Date of issue: March 2023**

**Date of review: March 2024**

At St Charles Catholic Voluntary Academy, we support children, to enable them to reach their God given potential, thereby empowering them to be caring individuals, capable of critical independent thought and encouraging all children to reach their full potential to **'Belong, Believe and Blossom'**.

**RE is our core subject with 'Christ being at the Centre' of all our teachings, thoughts and actions.**

### **Guiding Rationale**

In school and lessons, children are taught a systematic presentation (the basics and principles) of the Catholic Faith. Teaching is realistic, has achievable aims and relates to the children's lives, both inside and outside of school. As teachers, we are aware of the diversity of backgrounds, family relationships and faith experiences of our pupils and are sensitive in the way we approach discussions based on these themes. (All Religious teaching is aligned to the Religious Directory of England and Wales, reviewed in 2022).

### **Aims and Objectives**

- To foster a love of God through knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Faith from scripture and doctrine.
- To encourage the development of a personal relationship with God.
- To help our children be aware of and respect other faiths and cultures.
- To encourage children to study, investigate and reflect.
- To develop thinking and listening skills.
- To develop respect for truth and for the views of others.

### **Home/School/Parish Partnership**

- We believe that the school alone cannot undertake a child's religious education. Religious education begins at home usually at Baptism; the parents are the child's first teachers and support the child with his/her first religious experiences. The school works in partnership with parents and parish to enrich the lives of our children.
- We send home a weekly newsletter which reflects the Catholic Life and Mission of the school, with information about parish news. We notify parents of Masses and Liturgies both in the school and the parish. Each half term, parents receive newsletters to inform parents about the forthcoming RE topics and all RE learning planners are displayed on the school website. The school shares regular updates on what pupils are learning in school on twitter, Facebook, Instagram and the Seesaw.
- Our school regularly supports parish events and fund raising.
- Our school attends Saint Charles Borromeo, Hadfield, throughout the year (at least once a half term), through various liturgical events.
- Masses are prepared in school and parents and members from our parish are invited.

In addition, children are encouraged to attend Mass throughout the year. In addition to, the Harvest Festival, Carol Services, Reconciliation, the Easter Prayer Trail and the May Procession. The children have opportunities to prepare readings, hymns, bidding prayers

and the offertory procession for mass. The school supports the Sacramental program with the Parish throughout the year, and the Year 3 communicants attend mass over the year in preparation.

## RE Programme

### Come and See

We follow the '**Come and See**' programme, as adopted by the diocese, using the whole school, two-year cycle of topics. '**Come and See**' is an invitation to explore and a promise of life for everyone. In response to the question; 'Where do you live?' which was asked by the disciples, Jesus invited them to; '**Come and See.**' (John 1:39) The disciples went with Jesus 'and spent the rest of the day with him'. The invitation to **Come and See** is open to all and is there, even if the question has not been spoken. Three topics are studied each term, with each topic lasting approximately four weeks. Children in Key Stage One will receive two hours of RE lessons, whilst children in Key Stage Two we receive two and a half hours.

### Relationship and Sex Education

We have designed our RSE/PSHE curriculum and completed consultation with parents to ensure pupils are taught about sex education, through loving relationships, and respect for each other. Our PSHE learning organisers include, Journey in love, Ten: Ten resources, CAFOD teaching units, Commando Joe Character traits, and statements to live by, to ensure there is a holistic approach to RE teaching. (Please refer to our school's Relationship and Sex Education Policy for further details which is available on the school website).

We support pupils to encounter God, through the many opportunities we enable our pupils to experience and learn about.

### Teaching and Learning in RE

- A range of teaching strategies and learning methodologies are employed depending on the needs and abilities of the children and the nature of the activities being undertaken.
- Work is differentiated in terms of activity or outcome according to the needs and abilities of the children. Approaches include whole class teaching, group activities and individual work. Children have opportunities to work individually as well as co-operatively and collaboratively, developing their own knowledge and expertise, as well as sharing their experiences with others.
- Throughout the course of an RE topic, which usually lasts four weeks, children have the opportunity to develop their understanding across AT1, AT2 and AT3.

-AT1 – Learning about religion/knowledge (Head) – Children will develop their knowledge of beliefs, teachings and sources; celebration and ritual; social and moral practices and way of life. It includes the skills of enquiry, investigation, analysis and evaluation of Catholic Christianity, including how the church relates to other Christian denominations, other religions and world views.

-AT2 – Learning from religion/scripture and living out faith (Heart) – Children will engage in their own and others' beliefs and values, as well as engaging with questions of meaning and purpose. AT2 involves the reflection on their own experiences in the light of learning about religion. It develops children's skills of application, interpretation, evaluation and expression of what they learn about religion. It gives children the opportunity to respond and encounter Jesus.

-AT3 – Wonder and reflection moments (Cloud) – Children will be encouraged to wonder and reflect upon what they've learnt/studied in RE.

- All work involves thought provoking reflection and discussion, encouraging the children to develop their moral and spiritual consciences.
- Teachers are encouraged to make cross - curricular links when planning RE, incorporating opportunities for ICT and extended writing where appropriate.
- Pre- and post-learning is used where appropriate to ensure learning is well paced and pitched.
  - A schedule for this teaching and learning is written and provided by RE SLT. A mixture of Old and New Testament stories are used in order to strengthen children's Biblical knowledge, developing their understanding of scripture references and links. These stories are explored further in collective worship.

### **Other Faiths and Cultures**

- Pupils study other faiths. The whole school focus is on one particular faith for one week.
- All children study Judaism at a level appropriate to their age. In addition children will learn about a variety of festivals from other faiths.
- Where possible, people from other faiths are invited into school to talk to children and celebrate their faith.
- The school will seek opportunities to learn about other faith festivals and 'special days' for example, Diwali, Eid etc.
- The school will encourage pupils from other faith background to celebrate their own faiths through special collective worships.

The school ensures there are opportunities for pupils to visit other places of worship and visitors from other faiths and cultures are invited into school.

### **Assessment and Record Keeping**

- It is impossible to assess the level of a child's personal faith and it should not be attempted. However, we are able to assess a child's knowledge, skills, concepts and attitudes that have been taught in RE. Since the beginning of September 2018, we have moved away from levels, using the Diocese End of Year Expectation documents to assess children. Their knowledge and understanding can be demonstrated through discussion with the child, through written work and through general day to day work such as role plays and drama.
- A formal assessment task – produced by the diocese - is given to each of the pupils once a term. The results are collected in by the RE coordinator each term.
- The teachers enter a teacher assessed level on Insight. This data is then tracked and summarised by the RE and SLT, and is reported back to the governors termly.
- Pupil progress meetings take place three times a year to set targets and to determine intervention groups.

- Every September a baseline assessment is carried out by the Reception class teacher to find out what religious knowledge, what religious vocabulary and what religious experience the children already have upon entering school in the Foundation Stage.
- Marking is undertaken in accordance with school Effective Marking and Feedback Policy. However, it is essential that all the Key Words for each topic be corrected so that children can learn and use these words effectively.
- Written comments should be: affirming, encouraging, thought provoking and challenging. Above all, they should be sensitive to the children's needs and be made in relation to the learning intention of the lesson (and level descriptors).
- Comments relating to RE are made for each pupil on their annual report. The reports comment on progress, whilst also providing children with a target for which to focus on in future learning.

**Pupils will be encouraged to be part of the assessment process by assessing their own work and other's work.**

### **Monitoring**

- In order to monitor RE teaching and learning, the RE SLT collect RE planning throughout the school once a term. Criteria for monitoring and any resulting targets for improvement are shared with staff at the first available staff meeting.
- The RE SLT observe RE teaching at least once a term, across the whole school. Any common points for improvements are shared at the first available staff meeting and individual feedback on observations is given to teachers.
- The RE SLT and class teachers carry out a work scrutiny and report their findings at the first available staff meeting.

All RE learning is celebrated and shared on Seesaw.

### **Equal opportunities and Inclusion –Equality Act 2010**

- A central message of the Catholic faith is: 'God loves each and every one of us equally'. This is regardless of cultural background, faith, gender or academic ability. It is therefore vital that we recognise and cater for the individual needs of children, acknowledging that all children have different gifts and talents and that these should be celebrated.
- Learning tasks should be matched to the abilities of the children to enable them to achieve success, helping them to develop to their full potential and to develop a positive self-image.
- We aim to ensure that resources do not reinforce any kind of stereotypes and that they do reflect our Mission Statement (for all the school community to: **Belong, Believe and Blossom**).
- It is important that the children are provided with images, which reflect the multi-cultural society in which we live; enhancing their awareness and knowledge of other faiths and cultures, whilst respecting the rights of the individual at all times. This is essential in preparing children to take their place in a multi-cultural society

## Display and Prayer Focus

- Classroom RE displays are changed often they should reflect the Liturgical Year and be linked to one of the recent topics taught.
- Each class has a prayer area to stimulate and facilitate reflection and prayer, linked with the topic and the liturgical season.
- Other displays around the school celebrate RE work done in each Year or Key Stage group.

## Extra-curricular activities

- Mini Vinnies meets regularly. The children plan liturgies and assemblies.
- Sharing and living the statements to live by
- Annually reviewing the school's mission for everyone to 'Belong, Believe and Blossom'.
- Fundraising and charity events for example, cake sales for CAFOD and letter writing to our school in Zambia.
- Lay chaplains visiting classes daily and saying prayers.
- Reconciliation services in Advent and Lent.
- Rosary Club takes place during October.
- November Remembrance Service and prayers.
- Harvest Festival.
- Collecting for the local foodbanks and providing warm hubs for the local community.
- Mission Days.
- The Choir leading masses, assemblies and singing in the local community.
- Carol Singing in the local community and visiting old people's homes.
- Celebrating feast days of our house saints.
- Celebrating St Charles' Borromeo Feast Day.
- Celebrating St Ralph Sherwin our trust patron saint.
- Going to mass as often as possible.
- Promotion of Catholic Social Teaching and being steward's for God's beautiful world. The principles of Catholic Social Teaching include: Solidarity, Care of God's Creation, Human Dignity, helping the Poor and Vulnerable, Protecting the Rights and Dignity of the Workplace, looking after the Family and Community.
- The promotion of Bishop Patrick's themes of Encounter, Discipleship and Missionary Discipleship.
- Learning about and celebrating Holy Week and Easter activities.
- Participating in visits and retreats organised by the Nottingham Catholic Youth Service.
- Carol services, scripture assemblies and Key Stage One Nativity annual performance.
- The school supporting Sacramental Programme, the May Procession and developing strong links between the school and parish.

## Resources

- Each class has the relevant Come and See login and access to all resources, all other resources are kept in the RE cupboard.
- Bibles are stored in the classrooms and library.
- Resources for our other Faiths topics are pooled into Resource Boxes which are reviewed and updated annually.

Further resources can be found on the Collective Worship trolley.

## This policy is aligned to the Collective Worship Policy

SEND Policy

Behaviour Policy

Anti-Bullying Policy

Effective Feedback and Marking Policy

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Equality Act 2010

Signed: ..... (Chair of Governors)

Date: .....

Signed: ..... (Headteacher)

Date: .....