

ST. CHAD'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Religious Education and Collective Worship Policy

'Christ in our heads, our hearts, our hands'

December 2023



Religious Education Policy

Rationale

'The Catholic vision of education promotes the dignity and freedom of every person as created in the image and likeness of God.' Religious Education is a core subject in St Chad's Catholic school. It must engage the pupil's intellect, heart and imagination. The beliefs and values studied in Catholic R.E. should draw together every aspect of the life of a Catholic school. Religious Education should also promote tolerance, respect, understanding and knowledge of different faiths.

Pupil Entitlement

Pupils will be taught 10% of the curriculum timetable in Reception, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. This core entitlement will be enhanced by: Sacramental preparation, Whole School Collective Worship, Masses, liturgies and school prayer groups.

Aims of Religious Education:

1. To support every member of the school community on their journey of faith by developing this faith when it is present and to facilitate its emergence when it is not.
2. To promote knowledge and understanding of Catholic faith and life.
3. To develop religiously literate young people.
4. To encourage pupils to be aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.
5. To promote the dignity and freedom of every person as created in the image and likeness of God by making pupils aware of other denominations and faiths.
6. To experience feelings of wonder and awe to the natural world.
7. To develop moral and ethical convictions and ask questions about the meaning and purpose of existence.

Provision

The programmes of study as outlined in the Catholic Directory will form the basis of the scheme of work. The Learning and Growing as the People of God scheme will form the main basis of teaching and learning. Teaching methods may vary but should be pupil-centred starting with the pupil's own situation and experience. R.E. lessons are identified as being special and reflective lessons.

Lessons are based on the four areas of study:

1. Revelation:

- To understand the importance of story in the human quest for meaning and the scripture as expression of how we try to understand the nature of God.
- To consider the personal and the community response to God.
- To consider the sacred writings of other faith communities.

2. Church:

- Belonging to a community at various levels.
- That having been created in the image of the True God we are called to be that community which is the Church.
- Church is a witness to the Good News of Jesus.
- Relationships between the Catholic Church and other denominations and faiths.

3. Life in Christ:

- Values which underpin beliefs and action in the human family.
- Following Christ is a call to holiness.
- Reflecting the values which Christ expressed in his life and teaching.
- Explore the values and way of life of other world faiths.

4. Celebration

- Celebrations which mark the development and growth of each person.
- Spiritual growth and development is rooted in the church's sacramental life which is expressed in sign and symbol throughout the liturgical year.
- The place of prayer in the life of the Catholic Community Knowledge and understanding of prayer in other faiths.

We should always be conscious of the need to foster the partnership between home, school and parish. This partnership should be our hallmark.

Prayer/Collective Worship

Collective worship at St. Chad's takes place on a daily basis either at the start of the day or at the end of the day and generally follows the schedule below.

Monday – Whole school Collective Worship delivering the gospel message from Sunday's Mass.

Tuesday – Whole School or class Mass celebrated in school or at St Chad's Church. Whole School liturgy based on our gospel values or celebrations/themes of liturgical time.

Wednesday – Whole School Songs of Praise and prayer.

Thursday – Child led class liturgy in every year group.

Friday - Whole school Praise assembly/Class-led assembly with RE and citizenship theme.

The aims of Collective Worship at St. Chad's are as follows:

- To recognise and acknowledge God's presence in all we do as outlined in our Mission Statement.
- To pray and worship together, actively involving the children in prayer, scripture reading and songs/hymns.
- To raise awareness of the world around us.
- To celebrate feasts and festivals including those from other cultures.
- To celebrate the success of groups and individuals.
- To share and increase knowledge.
- To display talents of individuals and groups.
- To develop a sense of awe and wonder.
- To develop children's personal, social and moral awareness.
- To ensure that children are contributing to and benefitting from the Catholic life of the school.

Whole school assemblies and prayer services follow the format outlined below:

1. Gather, listen to a scripture reading, respond, go (Enter and leave to music).
2. Start with the sign of the cross and prayer, e.g. Morning Prayer, school prayer, other formal prayers.
3. An opportunity for reflection / personal prayer.
4. There may be a story, a moral tale, work or drama by children. The Gospel of the week is an important focus at assembly.
5. Pupils are asked to be actively involved and fully participating through drama, reading, questions and answers and opinions by leading some aspect of the collective worship.
6. The content of the assembly is drawn together and concluded with a prayer and a hymn.
8. At the end of the collective worship children should 'go out forth' understanding more about how to follow in Jesus' footsteps.

Classroom based Liturgy

Classroom-based worship consists of a gathering prayer, an opportunity for reflection e.g. (Gospel reading) and a focus for the day including a response and 'go forth' which gives an aim of the day. The children are encouraged to plan the class-based liturgies and all classes use the 'Child Led Collective Worship Planner' issued by BDES. Teachers provide support planning liturgies to the younger children. As the children move through the school, they are encouraged to be more independent in planning their own liturgies. A record of the class-based liturgies are kept in each class 'floor book' with the child's plan of the lurgy and class responses.

Mass

Masses are decided in consultation with the Parish Priest but usually it follows the readings of the day. Whole school Mass is every Tuesday and are planned by the identified class and led by children from that class. Class and school Masses are planned by the teachers concerned.

During the season of Lent pupils learn about and participate in The Stations of The Cross. During Holy week, each class create a liturgy based on the events of this week to journey with Jesus. Parents are invited to share in this.

Monitoring/Assessment and Evaluation

Monitoring is carried out by the R.E. Co-ordinator and supported by the senior leadership team. Assessment takes the form of a four-year cycle with the focus on:

- The liturgical Year.
- Scripture.
- Celebrating the Sacraments.
- Living as Christians.

Assessment is completed at the end of every unit and 3 units per year are assessed more formally, with samples of children's work submitted to the R.E. Co-ordinator to check judgements. Whole school moderation of work takes place in staff meetings at least once per year.

Staff are also required to assess the children's R.E. work against the 'Age Related Standards in Religious Education', approved for use in Catholic Schools by The Department of Catholic Education and Formation of The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. Teachers are required to assess a piece of work for one child, from each unit of work completed, against the age-related standards. Copies of this assessment are submitted to the R.E. Co-ordinator and moderated by the whole staff to ensure agreement and consistency.

A self-evaluation form is completed for R.E that falls in line and supports judgements that are required for a CSI inspection.

Sacramental Preparation

In preparation programmes for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation parents have a very vital and important role in supporting their children. We aim to enable parents, priest and teachers to work closely in unison. Parents are invited to attend enrolment Masses and meetings during the preparation period. This is to ensure that they are fully committed to supporting their child and to enable the priest, teachers and parents to share knowledge, experience and faith together appropriate to the Sacramental experience of their children and their own lives. Parishioners support the preparation through prayer, support and interest. Parents are asked to take their children to Mass on Sunday and those who do not do so are continually encouraged to begin again.

Year 3 is the first year when children follow a more specific course of instruction in preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. Parents are asked to take part in the preparation alongside their children, with work being done in their preparation books both in school and at home.

Years 6 are prepared for the Sacraments of Confirmation. Parents are again involved in the preparation. As part of their preparation they are asked to consider how they can work for the church community. Parents and sponsors are asked to attend the enrolment Mass and meeting.