



All Souls' Catholic
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Religious Education Policy

“Christ is our light”

September 2022

All Souls' Catholic Primary School

RE curriculum Policy

At All Souls we follow Christ's light in all that we do.

"Christ is our Light."

Mission

We believe that all that we do at All Souls Catholic Primary School should be done in and through the person of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Sacrament - We share in the Sacraments in order to meet Christ and take part in a journey towards wholeness and holiness

Prayer - We encourage everyone to have a living relationship with God in Jesus

Faith - We teach and practise the Catholic faith so that the whole school community can know and experience the love

Academic excellence - To develop children's God given gifts we enable all individuals to inspire to a love of learning and a desire to continue to learn and achieve, which encourages individuals to fully develop their unique talents and skills

Witness - We strive as a community to be witnesses to God's love in the world as understood by the Catholic Church

Moral Life - In reflecting Christ's unconditional love for us, we enable all members of our school community to grow in self respect and self worth

Our teaching of RE and the Catholic Curriculum supports our mission statements and provides our children with opportunities throughout their journey here to grow in the light of Jesus Christ.

Introduction, Rationale and Whole School Aims.

At All Souls, we believe that Religious Education is not one subject among many but the is the very foundation of the entire educational provision we provide for our children. The beliefs and values it communicates inspires and unifies every aspect of our school life and is our reason for existing. It delivers the context for, and significantly shapes the school curriculum whilst offering the children a living experience of the life of Faith.

The Catholic vision of education promotes the dignity and autonomy of every person as created in the image and likeness of God. Religious Education is a core subject at All Souls Catholic school. We aim to always engage the children's intellect, heart, and inspire creativity. The beliefs and values studied in Catholic R.E. should draw together all aspects of the life of our school. Religious Education should also promote the British Values of our society including tolerance, respect and understanding of different faiths.

Aims of Religious Education

At All Souls we strive to ensure that the following aims are met in the teaching of our Religious Education Curriculum:

- To provide at least 10% of teaching time to be set aside for the Religious Education of all pupils as required by the Bishops Conference.
- To provide opportunities for daily collective worship.
- To provide a caring, inspiring and creative environment.
- To plan creative and stimulating lessons based on the Birmingham Diocese Curriculum directory which is inclusive for all.
- To impart religious knowledge and understanding of; beliefs, teachings and sources, celebration and ritual as well as social and moral practices and way of life.

- Teach children to learn from religion by reflection on meaning through engagement with their own and other's beliefs and values and engagement with questions of meaning and purpose.
- Develop the spiritual life of the children through provision of a Sacramental programme, in partnership with the parish and parents, that is inclusive and in accordance with the rites of the Catholic Church.
- Teaching and providing opportunities for Holy Mass and other Christian celebrations.
- Providing times for prayer and teaching different mediums of prayer.
- To help children grow in their faith by providing opportunities through celebration, prayer, learning and reflection
- To provide a moral education bringing about the realisation of who we are, who we ought to be and the actions we ought to perform.
- Provide an understanding of Vocation and what It means to be made by God and called by God to serve others
- To guide the children to respect themselves and all others because we are all made in the image and likeness of God and know that everyone is redeemed through Christ Jesus.
- To ensure the living out of the Gospel values which are linked in with the Commandments of Christ and his Church
- To teach the children that through their ministry, they are mirroring Christ and therefore are encouraged to explore and use their talents, live holy and prayerful lives and to be a witness and proclaimer of the Gospel

The outcome of providing and pursuing these aims results in religiously literate and engaged children who have the knowledge, understanding and skills – appropriate to their age and capacity – to reflect spiritually, think ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.

Entitlement and Provision

As previously stated, RE at All Souls is a core subject it is be afforded this status, the same as English and maths, it is allocated at least 10% of Curriculum time as required by the Bishops' Conference. This is timetabled for all year groups from Reception to Year Six. This 10% is provided each and every week of the school year and does not include time committed to other activities such as assemblies, hymn practice, PSHE, RSE or preparation and attendance at Mass. Careful consideration is given to the time of day allocated to teaching RE as well as RE being taught over two separate lessons a week not just in a single block in every year group. Within the All Souls EYFS RE is again afforded the same status as maths and English and is taught in our Reception, two afternoons a week and in our Nursery (morning-only sessions) it is taught two of the mornings. RE is taught as a completely discrete subject and is not subsumed into the rest of our curriculum, this is the case in our EYFS as well as the rest of our school.

The Scheme of Work for RE

Our school follows the Diocesan strategy for Religious Education 'Learning and Growing as the People of God'. The strategy covers the following four areas:

1. Revelation: teaching about God's self-revelation
2. Church: about the Communion of life in Christ
3. Celebration: about living the Christian Mystery in worship and prayer
4. Life in Christ: about the search for holiness and truth

In addition to this we also engage in the Catholic School Pupil Profile, a comprehensive schedule for learning and living out the values and virtues of our faith. We also undertake a full curriculum with a focus on Catholic Social Teaching developed from Caritas in Action, focusing on an area of Catholic Social Teaching every half term (two in Spring Term One). Although living out these values, virtues and Catholic Teaching all year round, they have dedicated additional times in the school's year where specific areas

become a focus. We also have our teaching and learning of other faiths and religion which take place in addition to the diocesan strategy within the year, in all year groups.

The teaching of vocations is also additional to the Diocesan strategy. Our vocation is something that is given through the Sacrament of Baptism and is nurtured throughout our lives and through this nurturing each of us is called to his or her unique vocation, whether that be the vocation of work, family life or a vocation to the Priesthood, Diaconate or Religious Life. At All Souls we are helping our children to become aware of their own vocation and support them to realise that God has made them for some definite service. We do this through praying for vocations, assemblies, vocation projects throughout the year, visits to places of importance such as Saint Chad's, Alton Castle and Harvington Hall as well as having visitors into our school community to discuss their own vocation.

Sacramental Education

We provide support for all pupils who are preparing to receive the Holy Sacraments, in close partnership with the parish and parents. Staff within these year groups, liaise closely with the Headteacher, Subject leader and our parish priest to ensure a high-quality, reflective programme of preparation for each sacrament is in place. Meeting with the parish priest, deacon and catechist occurs early in the year to set out a schedule of support through meetings, masses and commitment services to ensure that we are all supportive of the process and aware what provision is going to be provided for our children. We also encourage parents to take an active and leading role in preparing their child for the Sacraments. Regular support and information meetings for the children and families in Year 3 and Year 6 occur within the first month of school with a commitment form sent out by the Parish Priest confirming the commitment of the children and parents as they begin this next step on their journey of faith.

Our parish Priest, Father Paul, uses a mixture of high-quality materials to support this programme and gifts the children with a prayer book and a Confirmation or Holy Communion YouCat book on their first meeting. One Saturday evening, every other month the children and their families join together with Fr Paul and staff from school to participate in preparation classes. They also celebrate a commitment mass where they make a public commitment to faith with the support of the school, parish, and their parents.

Within the year groups that do not specifically prepare for a sacrament we endeavour through the curriculum to keep the sacraments alive by teaching and offering opportunities for the children to partake and support the Sacramental celebrations. Each year we provide time where every child in Key Stage 2 has the opportunity for reconciliation and to regularly receive the Holy Communion. All of our sacramental work is regularly supported and is overseen by our link Governor and Parish Priest, Father Paul.

Other Faiths and Religions

Religious Education at All Souls introduces children to the background and beliefs of people of other faiths so that prejudice and misunderstanding can be overcome from an early age – we seize each opportunity as it arises to ensure tolerance, respect and understanding between all the cultures and traditions represented not just in the school or our immediate locality but in the world as a whole.

We promote this through teaching the children that we are all created in the likeness of God and through the teachings of Christ. At present, elements of other faiths can be seen in our curriculum plan (attached in the appendix).

EYFS – Key celebrations of other faiths

Year One – Hinduism

Year Two - Islam

Year Three – Sikhism

Year Four – Judaism

Year Five – Hinduism

Year Six – Christianity and understanding other faith views on key question areas

We have made links with local places of worship and plan visits to these to give our children real life experiences of places of worship different to their own

EYFS – All Souls Church and other local Catholic Churches

Year One - Sanatan Dharm Hindu Temple

Year Two – Iqra Centre

Year Three – Guru Nanak Parkash

Year Four – Solihull Synagogue

Year Five - Sanatan Dharm Hindu Temple – with Year One

Year Six – As many additional places of worship of other religions they can get to within the year

We encourage all children of different faiths, cultures, and no faith to take part in the religious life of School. It is part of our mission to follow Christ's light and we do this through teaching acceptance, as Jesus did in the Gospels.

The Catholic Curriculum

As stated previously we engage and live out the Catholic School Pupil Profile, the vocations curriculum, and our Catholic Social Teaching curriculum in addition to the diocesan expectations of the curriculum directory. In addition to this, we also engage with Charty Outreach Curriculum. Every year group chose, organise, and participate in two acts of raising and one act of service every term. This can be raising money or raising awareness for charities in our locally, national, and global communities. Charities and causes are chosen by our children with the guidance of the teachers within school. Sometimes, when a cause is of importance to the whole school, we take on a whole school act of service or raising, for example, 'Hats on for mental health' or the CAFOD family fast days. We feel we have a duty as a school to provide children with direct awareness and experience of how we should be living out our faith. Whilst the curriculum provides the theological and Biblical reasons behind this, we feel the best way to learn is by serving others in reality.

Planning

Long-term Planning

At All Souls we use the diocesan template for our Long-Term planning. It is the responsibility of the RE Subject Leader to complete this and keep it updated each year. This document indicates which units are to be taught, when and for how long. Teachers must follow the Long-Term Plan at all times. A copy of the Long-Term Plan is on the shared drive and is accessible for all, teachers are encouraged to meet with and discuss their plans with the RE subject lead to ensure they are confident and lessons are in line with expectations as well as ensuring all content is covered.

Medium-term and Short-term Planning

Teachers are responsible in planning the scheme of work for the unit using the curriculum directory (as directed by Father Jonathan). They then plan each lesson on a planning document for that term. The term plan provides sufficient areas for inclusiveness and to show progression and continuity. Teachers are encouraged to annotate plans throughout the term in order to improve or suggest other ideas.

Equal Opportunities & SEND

At All Souls, we ensure that the RE curriculum inclusive to all members of the school community. Pupils with SEND are supported and encouraged to participate fully in all that we do.

Marking, Feedback, Assessment, Recording and Reporting

At All Souls Catholic school, we believe assessment is central to ensure good quality teaching and learning to take place. We are always looking for new ways to make assessment effective, productive, and beneficial to all involved in the process. At present assessment takes on several forms:

Baseline Assessment

A baseline assessment is carried out to determine on entry whether our reception intake is below in line or above expectations. We adapt the diocesan baseline format to make this judgment.

Marking & Feedback

In RE, we follow our whole school policy with giving the children a grade for their work completed but it also expected that, where necessary, next steps or written or verbally given and effective questions are posed to encourage deeper thought on this area of knowledge. We also promote assessment for learning which include:

- Learning objective and related success criteria
- Effective verbal questioning
- Self/Peer assessment opportunities, where appropriate
- Effective feedback- Providing a next step in learning or an area to improve.

As the children progress through the school, it is expected that children will respond to marking independently and will give response to any questions posed.

End of Unit Assessments

The Monitoring and Assessment Focus follows a four-year rolling programme, set by the Diocesan Education Service on the following themes:

The Liturgical Year

Scripture

The Sacraments

Living as Christians.

End of Unit assessments are carried out by class teachers three times a year as identified in the Assessment schedule. we record these assessments on the Excel documents provided by the DES. It is the Class Teachers responsibility to complete these assessments and the responsibility of the Subject Leader to ensure these are accurate, monitored and analysed. These data sheets and all assessment information is stored on our shared drive.

Age Related Standards

Three focus children are chosen every year for each year group, and they are assessed using the age-related standards documents provided by the DES in every unit they are taught across the year. These children are chosen based on their attainment within RE; One child who exceeds expectations, one who is meeting the expectations and one who is below expectations.

In addition to this, every child is assessed on the three focus units for each year based on the assessment focus provided by the DES.

Reporting to parents

Parents are incited in once a year to look at the children's books and have a consultation with the class teacher, RE attainment, progress and engagement is always part of this consultation. At the mid-point of the year report cards are sent out and RE attainment, effort and progress are commented on before other core subjects. Similarly, in the end of year reports, the parents received a detailed report with RE being reported on with an attainment grade, comment, and target to work on.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Senior Leadership Team in-conjunction with the RE subject leader make judgments on pupil's standards and achievement in RE by referring to the assessment information, the monitoring of books, planning, lesson observation, learning walks, and through talking to pupils. A monitoring schedule is in place which shows the monitoring of all curriculum subjects throughout the year. Due to the regard in which we hold RE, it is a subject area that is monitored coherently throughout the year to ensure SLT, governors and the RE Lead are well-informed of progress, achievements, and areas of improvements across the school. At times throughout the year, the Governors play a central role to this monitoring and whilst being supported by SLT and the RE Lead they complete their own monitoring activities based on areas they feel need further development or areas identified in the School Development Plan or CSED documentation.

Findings of the monitoring activities are shared with Governors at the next Governor meeting to when the monitoring was completed, Governors provide challenge of areas monitored and evidence is shared to support judgements. Where needed, Governors provide support in areas in need of improvement to aid the school in the next steps to be taken.

The monitoring schedule is regularly updated based on findings from monitoring and can be found on the shared drive.

Resources

Religious Education resources are controlled and provided by the RE Lead, in consultation with colleagues. All children and staff are invited to make suggestions for purchases. Prayer books, other religious reference books and visual aids are stored in our centralised RE resource area. Age-appropriate Bibles, religious artefacts, statues and any relevant prayer and story books have been distributed throughout the Key Stages. Each class has a prayer box which supports with prayer time within the classrooms. All resources are reviewed annually to ensure replacements are made when necessary.

RE Displays

In order to highlight the importance of Religious Education and the Catholic Ethos of the school, displays of a religious nature should be evident in each classroom throughout the year. An RE display board and prayer focus area forms an essential part of the classroom. This area should have appropriate liturgical colour, a crucifix and a candle. Statues, artefacts and posters should be prominently displayed, when appropriate, and changed on a regular basis. The boards in the hall will have a focus on the celebration of sacraments, our talents, additional experiences and our prayer friend programme.

Staff Development

Teachers are encouraged to attend appropriate courses to develop their knowledge. Time is given to the curriculum leader to contribute to the school improvement plan, lead staff meetings, review policy, update teachers of any new developments, lead INSET, monitor the subject and meet with the RE Link Governor. The RE Lead is expected to attend all RE Cluster meetings provided by the Diocese and report back to governors and SLT about the information shared at these meetings.

Links with Parents and the Parish

Parents

We believe that if our RE curriculum to be effective, we must, at each stage, seek to involve parents and give them the confidence to play their part in the formation of their children. The school supports and develops the primary task of parents as the first teachers of their children in the ways of Faith. We aim to involve parents by: -

- Providing the school newsletters to inform parents of services and Mass at Church and in school
- Inviting them to celebration assemblies
- Inviting them to celebrate Holy Mass and Reconciliation services at different times during the school year

- Inviting them to parent meetings when Religious Education is discussed e.g. as their children enter school in Reception, at Open Evenings and as they begin their immediate preparation for the Sacraments.
- Inviting them to special celebrations e.g. Christmas Play, Welcome Mass, Leavers Mass, Easter and Christmas celebrations
- Encouraging them to bring their children to the Holy Mass for on Sunday mornings.
- Encouraging them to support the Religious Education lessons by helping their children complete homework tasks, when needed
- Providing information evenings on the Sacramental programme and RSE
- Encouraging the engagement and use of prayer bags when these are sent home with their children
- 10. Inviting them to share their views through curriculum evenings, pupil progress meetings,
- Sacrament meetings, RSE meetings and through questionnaires.

Parish

The relationship between our school is a supportive partnership with open communication and the children viewed as the vital next generation of our faith. We aim to involve the parish in all that we do and are incredibly lucky to have parish priest who shares in our school vision for our children and families. We involve the parish by:

- Meeting regularly with the priest, deacon and catechist to plan school masses, sacramental preparation and school events
- Inviting the parish priest into school to talk to the children in class groups or as a whole school assembly
- Regularly visit the church for mass, worship, events like stations of the cross, reconciliation and benediction
- Regularly communicate about fundraising events and support we can provide to the Church in these
- Involvement in parish events such as gardening in the parish gardening, May procession, Harvest festival events
- Involvement in sacraments of our children, families, and those in our community, including supporting funeral services with our choir, celebrating First reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation as well as singing for ordinations that have occurred in our parish.

The Role of the Religious Education Leader

The role of the RE Lead, with the support of the governors and SLT of the school, is to:

- Monitor and evaluate provision for RE within the school
- Monitor and evaluate standards and achievement of RE within the school
- Monitor planning, teaching and assessment of RE
- Work with the parish priest to monitor and renew the Sacramental Programme.
- Monitor and evaluate the provision for RSE.
- Plan a curriculum vision for RE at whole school level
- Be familiar with each year group of 'Learning and Growing as the People of God'
- Be available to individual teachers for guidance and support and keep staff informed of current thinking in RE and any new materials / publications
- Distribute relevant assessment proformas
- Attend courses and encourage other members of staff to do so. Information gained from such courses should be shared with other staff
- Arrange any training to meet needs of staff
- Monitor the progress of the diocesan RE programme and assessment in line with Diocesan expectations
- Provide information and support Sacramental preparation and meetings with parents

Health & Safety

Health and Safety issues are particularly relevant to practical activities including the use candles, the outdoor environment including our prayer garden, visits to our Church and other places of worship, or other relevant trips. All our staff work in accordance with current Health and Safety guidelines (see Policy for further details).

Legal Right of Withdrawal

All Souls is a Voluntary Aided school, therefore parents of pupils are permitted, by law, to request that their child is withdrawn from receiving all or part of religious education and/or prayer and liturgy given at the school and any such request shall stand until such time that the parent's request is withdrawn.

Link Governor

Father Paul Burch, our parish priest and member of the Catholic Ethos Sub Committee, is the link governor and in regular communication with the RE subject lead to challenge and support the provision of RE across the school.

Policy Monitoring and Review date

This policy is monitored by the RE Lead and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors annually. The policy is ratified and reviews at the Catholic Ethos Sub-Committee with the Foundation Governors, in particular, playing a most important role.

Appendix

Long Term plan 22-23

September				October				November				December		January				February			March			April		May			June				July		
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	God's Family 4 lessons 4 weeks																																		
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	Holy Week 3 lessons 3 weeks																																		
	Easter 3 lessons 3 weeks																																		
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Religious Education: Subject Vision Statement

2022-23

Intent:

At All Souls Catholic Primary School our every decision is made with the understanding that every person is a child of God. We follow the mission statement '*Christ is our light*' with the genuine commitment to do all that we do through the very footsteps of Jesus. Like Jesus, we value every person for who they are, make decisions driven by compassion and love as well as living to serve others. At their baptism, parents promise to raise the children in the practice of the faith by loving God and their neighbour; our school is committed to the fulfilment of this promise in collaboration with parents. Christ is at the very heart of everything we do, which is reflected in the fact that our ethos, vision and RE curriculum strive to meet this at all times. We believe that through having the courage to embrace our uniqueness in our approach, we provide children with a broad, rich curriculum that celebrates the faith of our school and the faith of others. As a foundation for our curriculum vision, we use the values instilled through scripture so that children make good choices, treat others with respect and listen to and actively seek their call from God. Children arrive at All Souls' with unique foundations of faith and we celebrate this together, embarking on a journey of spiritual, moral, cultural and ethical development as followers of Christ. Our holistic approach develops children's ability to look beyond themselves, question, justify and understand the world. They are then ready and passionate disciples of Christ, as living witnesses to the Gospels and able to spread the message of Christ beyond our school and local community.

Implementation:

Our RE Curriculum is introduced from the very beginning of the children's journey in the Early Year Foundation Stage. As directed by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, RE is allocated to cover in excess of 10% of the curriculum teach time. This means for all year groups that RE should be taught twice a week in 1-hour sessions. Teachers use the objectives and learning intentions set out in the diocesan strategy 'Learning and Growing as the people of God' as a starting point for lesson planning, with an emphasis on providing children with opportunities to develop in knowledge, understanding and deepening spirituality in the Catholic faith. Our Long-Term Plan for RE shows how the strategy units are implemented and developed as the children move through the school.

Pupils record their learning in specific RE exercise books from Nursery onwards, when reaching Year Six the children have two separate workbooks: one for the RE curriculum and one for their Confirmation preparation. The children receive new books every year as they move forward in their spiritual development and curriculum content. As part of the strategy there are complementary units as the children move through year groups to build on previous learning outcomes in former years. Teachers are mindful of work provided within these lessons to ensure it is a reflection of the child's RE skill and development and not their abilities in English written language.

Lesson delivery takes a multisensory approach, through role play, dramatization, reflections, poetry, freeze frames, prayer, collective worship, meditation and guided activities. Questioning is a key part of the learning process in RE and involves suitable reflective questions being posed with the children expressing their own personal and individual responses. Lesson typically follow a staged process of gather, teach, apply and reflect. In this approach, we begin with a prayer or focus on Biblical scripture, process of teaching which includes modelling and exposure to a new element of the RE curriculum, applying the knowledge learnt in the teach to a specific task and then as an end point, reflecting on the knowledge in a personal time of reflection. This reflection can be as a consequence of a question asked, as addressed previously, or it could be in a time of quiet thought or prayer.

Assessment occurs in all units for focus children within every year group, these children are identified using the diocesan criteria. End of Unit assessments are carried out by class teachers three times a year, established by the Diocese, and work to gain clarity on the teaching and learning process. The focus for assessment follows a four year rolling programme based on the following themes: The Liturgical Year, Scripture, The Sacraments and Living as Christians. The assessment schedule identifies which units are to be assessed by each year group and are used in conjunction with the relevant class record sheets. These assessments should be completed based upon the understanding and recognizing that no two children are the same and therefore assessment is child specific in terms of lesson outcomes. Teachers then ensure that individual children's needs are considered, planned for and met throughout the units to follow. This ensures that there is a constant focus on children's development in all aspects of the curriculum especially in the key focus areas of knowledge and understanding, engagement and response and analysis and evaluation. The teaching of RE stretches far beyond lessons facilitated within the classroom in their allocated time. The RE curriculum is the very reason we exist as a Catholic school, it is the fundamental understanding of our faith and crucial to our ethos. We live out our RE curriculum daily and through doing so we implement the foundations of our faith into all that we do.

Impact:

The children at All Souls know that they are loved, this is displayed all around and can be seen in every aspect of school life. This includes classroom and corridor displays, altars in each classroom and corridor areas, the way the children interact with each other, staff and visitors. Our school environment provides a safe space for children to grow in moral, social, spiritual, vocational and cultural development. Our children know that they have a responsibility towards each other and the need to take care of this God given world. This is reflected in the positive impact they display through their living out of the Catholic faith, in their responses to charitable outreach, their contributions to the Liturgy of the school and parish and in the reflective work they produce in their RE books. The children leave All Souls and move to further education with a firm understanding of their faith and a full insight into what this means for them as Children of God.