



Jesus is the centre of our lives,
our learning and friendships,
in a safe, happy and caring community,
where all are welcome.

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PRIMARY ACADEMY

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

FEBRUARY 2021

REVIEW FEBRUARY 2023

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

At Holy Cross Catholic Primary Academy, we believe that Religious Education embraces both the child's life and the life of our school. It provides daily opportunities to explore through different mediums, in a cross-curricular approach, ways to develop and enhance our Christian community.

At the core of our Policy for Religious Education is our School Mission Statement

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1. Aims of Religious Education

The primary purpose of religious education in a Catholic School is to draw pupils into a systematic study of the teaching of the Church, the saving mystery of Christ which the church proclaims. (Bishops Conference 2000). Its aim is to enable the development of religiously literate young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills - appropriate to their age and ability - to think spiritually, ethically and theologically.

At Holy Cross Catholic Primary Academy, we believe that our aims in RE should be:

- To foster the religious growth and development of our school community
- To provide members of the school community with a comprehensive understanding of the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- To provide members of the school community with an understanding of other faiths.
- To develop social cohesion through understanding of other faiths.

More specifically our aims are:

- To continue developing in the children a knowledge, and the opportunity to experience in their lives, the love of God and Jesus Christ
- To encourage a love of others
- To develop an awareness of their uniqueness and value as individuals
- To encourage an appreciation of the wonders of creation
- To provide the children with occasions and opportunities to experience love, care, concern, co-operation, respect, trust, honesty and truthfulness
- To provide, as a school community, an example of Christian witness and, through this, respect for each other
- To develop opportunities for contemplation, reflection and the growth of a personal prayer life
- To help the children to explore the beliefs, values, way of life of the Catholic tradition - the origins of the Faith, most specifically Jesus Christ, the Bible, the Liturgical Year, the Mass, Sacraments, traditional prayers, the lives of the saints and other people who have made a difference in the world because of their faith
- To foster links with the children's families to encourage commitment to the Catholic faith

This will take place through timetabled lessons, liturgy, other forms of worship and assemblies and pervades the whole curriculum. Discrete RE lessons account for 10% of curriculum time and this subject is regarded as core.

We recognise that our children and staff come from a wide range of experiences and backgrounds and we make every effort to take individual's religious needs into account.

RE is a collaborative activity which reflects and promotes the child's innate capacity for wonder, awe, reverence and imagination for the spiritual.

We acknowledge the difference between religious education, catechesis and evangelisation. Religious Education is to do with learning about and from religion, not faith development. However, we plan opportunities to enable faith development to take place. We also acknowledge that for many of our children and parents, our school is the only experience of 'Church' that they may have and we therefore accept the unique responsibility that we have to give a positive experience; one which may even lead to faith development – evangelisation.

As Christians, everything we do should be done for the love of God and for our neighbour. Jesus is the centre of the Come and See programme and everything we teach must be related to Jesus and to God.

2. Content of the Religious Education Curriculum

The content for RE is provided in the Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools (2012) which is itself based on the Constitutions of the Second Vatican Council and the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

The Curriculum Directory distinguishes four principal Areas for Study:

Area of Study	Content
Revelation	God's Self-Revelation
Church	Communion of life in Christ
Celebration	Living the Christian Mystery in worship and prayer
Life in Christ	The search for holiness and truth

The scheme used to deliver the content of the Curriculum Directory is 'Come and See.' Christ is at the heart of the programme. 'Come and See' is an invitation to exploration and a promise of life for everyone. We use a whole school approach to the implementation of Come and See. The invitation is open to all. 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 that day with him.'

The children are helped to understand all that He means to us and how we live as his followers. 'Come and See' is supplemented, however, by other materials. The resources in the school are continually up-dated and extended.

Come and See is planned in themes:

Autumn	Spring	Summer
Domestic Church	Local Church	Universal Church
Baptism/Confirmation	Eucharist	Reconciliation
Advent / Christmas	Lent / Easter	Pentecost

RE planning is related to Attainment Targets for RE and the Come and See programme provides a framework for teaching this. However, we acknowledge the importance of supplementing the programme to enrich the experience for our children.

Each term, three topics are covered from the Come and See programme.

The topics are:

THEMES & TOPICS	EARLY YEARS 1 & 2	YEAR 1 & FS 1	YEAR 2 & FS 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6
Domestic church family	Myself God knows and loves each one	Families God's love and care for every family	Beginnings God at every beginning	Homes God's dream for every family	People The family of God in Scripture	Ourselves Created in the image & likeness of God	Loving God who never stops loving
Baptism/confirmation belonging	Welcome Baptism; a welcome to God's family	Belonging Baptism an invitation to belong to God's family	Signs & symbols Signs & symbols in Baptism	Promises Promises made at Baptism	Called Confirmation: a call to witness	Life choices Marriage commitment and service	Vocation & commitment The vocation of priesthood and religious life
Advent/Christmas loving	Birthday Looking forward to Jesus' birthday	Waiting Advent a time to look forward to Christmas	Preparations Advent; preparing to celebrate Christmas	Visitors Advent: waiting for the coming of Jesus	Gift God's gift of love & friendship in Jesus	Hope Advent; waiting in joyful hope for Jesus; the promised one	Expectations Jesus born to show God to the world
Local church community	Celebrating People celebrate in Church	Special people People in the parish family	Books The books used in Church	Journeys Christian family's journey with Jesus	Community Life in the local Christian community: ministries in the parish	Mission Continuing Jesus' mission in diocese [ecumenism]	Sources The Bible, the special book for the Church
Eucharist relating	Gathering The parish family gathers to celebrate Eucharist	Meals Mass; Jesus' special meal	Thanksgiving Mass a special time for saying thank you to God for everything, especially Jesus	Listening & sharing Jesus gives himself to us in a special way	Giving & receiving Living in communion	Memorial sacrifice The Eucharist the living memorial of Jesus' sacrifice	Unity Eucharist enables people to live in communion.
Lent/Easter giving	Growing Looking forward to Easter	Change Lent a time for change	Opportunities Lent; an opportunity to start anew in order to celebrate Jesus' new life	Giving all Lent a time to remember Jesus' total giving	Self discipline Celebrating growth to new life	Sacrifice Lent a time of aligning with the sacrifice already made by Jesus	Death & new life Celebrating Jesus' death & resurrection
Pentecost serving	Good News Passing on the Good news of Jesus	Holidays & holydays Pentecost: feast of the Holy Spirit	Spread the word Pentecost a time to spread the Good News	Energy Gifts of the Holy Spirit	New life To hear & live the Easter message	Transformation Celebration of the Spirit's transforming power	Witnesses The Holy Spirit enables people to become witnesses
Reconciliation Inter-relating	Friends Friends of Jesus	Being sorry God helps us to choose well Sacrament of Reconciliation	Rules Reasons for rules in the Christian family Sacrament of Reconciliation	Choices The importance of examination of conscience Sacrament of Reconciliation	Building bridges Admitting wrong, being reconciled with God and each other Sacrament of Reconciliation	Freedom & responsibility Commandments enable Christians to be free & responsible	Healing Sacrament of the Sick
Universal Church world	Our world God's wonderful world	Neighbours Neighbours share God's world	Treasures God's treasure; the world	Special places Holy places for Jesus & the Christian	God's people Different saints show people what God is like	Stewardship The Church is called to the stewardship of Creation	Common good Work of the worldwide Christian family

Each topic has three elements:

		Time allocation
Explore	This is the introduction to the topic where the children's life experience is explored, the questions it raises are wondered at, shared, investigated and their significance reflected upon.	25%
Reveal	This is the heart of the programme where knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith is revealed through the Word, in Scripture, Tradition, doctrine, prayers, rites and Christian living.	50%
Respond	This is where the learning is assimilated, responded to in daily life.	25%

Planning sheets reflect the importance of the REVEAL section of Come and See, constituting one half of the topic.

At the end of each Come and See topic, the RESPOND section allows for celebration and reflection.

3. The role of the RE Team Leader

The RE team leader is responsible for the following:

- The co-ordination of all RE work throughout the school
- Overseeing all aspects of the National Curriculum with reference to religious education
- Policy review and Scheme of Work for RE
- Analysis of assessment data to ensure that children are making appropriate progress
- Support for staff in planning
- Preparation of staff INSET
- Updating of resources
- Management of the RE budget
- Liaison with: Parish Priest
BRES
Secondary School
Other agencies
Representatives from other faiths.
- Keeping abreast of topical issues
- Supporting staff with planning liturgies
- The development of parental interest, understanding and involvement in RE when appropriate.

4. Time allocation for RE

This is defined as 10% of curriculum time, 2 hours weekly in Reception and Key Stage One and 2 ½ hours weekly in Key Stage 2.

Apart from the daily act of worship and hymn practices, there are periods of prayer at the start of each day, at lunch time and at the end of each day.

5. Assessment, Reporting and Recording

Teachers observe, assess and record, knowledge, concepts, skills and attitudes which have been taught and learned in R.E. each term. Assessment is made with reference to the Statements of Attainment in R.E.

Termly reports to parents reflect assessments made against the levels associated with these targets.

The statements are:

Attainment Target 1	Knowledge and Understanding (Learning about religion)
Attainment Target 2	Engagement and Response (Learning from religion)
Attainment Target 3	Analysis & evaluation of Religion

6. Home, School, Parish Links

The school sees itself as being in equal partnership with home and parish. It is important that all partners realise that they cannot exist in isolation and cannot function effectively without the support and co-operation of the others. Whenever possible, parents are invited to join the Clergy and the children in celebrating Mass, assemblies, and class celebrations.

School

As well as following the R E programme, the children take part in school and class assemblies, Feast day masses, Penitential Services and Christmas and Easter Celebrations. Parents and parishioners are invited to those celebrations where appropriate.

A welcome assembly and Mass is celebrated each September to welcome children and staff who are new to the school.

A Leavers' Mass is celebrated each July for those children moving into secondary education and for staff who are retiring or changing jobs.

A mini-Vinnies group has been set up with children from Years 5 & 6. The children organise and take part in a range of spiritual activities which are shared with the school and the wider community through the school newsletter.

Parish

The majority of the pupils come from the parishes of Holy Cross and St Luke's, while other children are from smaller parishes across and from outside the catchment area. We welcome the parish priests into our school to celebrate mass and to speak to the children in their classes.

The parish are responsible for the sacramental programme, though the school supports this through its RE scheme and the school ethos. In particular there are strong links in the Year 3 curriculum as this is the usual age when children receive their First Holy Communion.

Home

The school supports parents and children in the practice of their faith and in the preparation for the sacraments. Parents, whenever possible, join their children in religious celebration.

The school endeavours to create an atmosphere in which it works with parents in partnership in the religious development of their children.

Other Faiths

We have a comprehensive programme for teaching other faiths and are well resourced to enhance our teaching. Please refer to the appendix for our multi-faith programme. We make every effort during our multi-faith weeks to invite members of other faith communities to our school to make the experience more real for our children. Parents are invited to these assemblies.

Reconciliation

Reconciliation is celebrated twice a year during Advent and Lent and is organised by the RE Team Leader.

Hymn Practice

Separate Key Stage One and Two Hymn Practice allow children to learn and practice hymns that they can use in other celebrations such as Mass or Assembly.

Assemblies

The daily act of worship takes place in many different forms throughout the week:

- Whole School
- Class Based
- Guided Meditation

Assemblies	When	Resources
Whole School	We begin and end each week with a whole school assembly at which the school comes together to pray and celebrate news of achievements by the	There are a variety of resources in the RE section of the subject resources room

	<p>children during the past week. Hymn Practice takes place on a Tuesday morning.</p>	
Class Based	<p>These can be either led by the class teacher or children. The following format is suggested: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin with a prayer • Clear thought / scripture focus • Use a short scripture text • A silent moment • A prayer together – formal or informal • Conclusion. 	As above

Programme for teaching other faiths

Autumn term

Judaism for all year groups

Spring term

Year 3: Hinduism

Year 4: Sikhism

Year 5: Buddhism

Summer term

Islam for all year groups