



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**

**MAY 2022**

**REVIEW MAY 2024**

# **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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## **Intent:**

As a Catholic school, we are committed to the Catholic Faith, recognising and valuing every individual as special and unique in the image and likeness of God. Religious Education at Holy Cross respects and promotes each child's innate capacity for wonder, awe, reverence and spirituality. Our Religious Education curriculum leads our children to aspire not to have more, but to be more; children are taught about God's love; they learn about their Christian responsibilities; children are provided with experiences of church, Catholic and Christian traditions, as well as being taught to be respectful and understanding of people and traditions from other faith backgrounds. Through Religious Education our children learn about their unique place within the home, school and parish community.

## **Implementation:**

At Holy Cross, we follow the 'Come and See' Religious Education Programme in line with guidance from the Brentwood Diocese. This programme is followed throughout school from Reception through to Year 6.

This programme provides:

- opportunities for celebration, prayer and reflection in implicit and explicit ways.
- children with the language of religious experience - a 'literacy' in religious activities, places, stories, symbols and rituals, people and objects.

- a 'systematic presentation of Christian event, message and way of life' in ways appropriate to the age and stage of development of the child.
- that for its implementation and production it requires the adults involved to understand the underlying theological as well as educational principles.
- appropriate materials about other faiths.
- academic respectability as in other curricular areas – utilising appropriate stages from the National Curriculum.

The programme explores the religious dimensions of questions about life, dignity and purpose within the Catholic tradition. Links are made with the children's own experience and with universal experience. It will raise questions and provide material for reflection by the children on their own experiences. It will enable them to explore the beliefs, values and way of life of the Catholic tradition and where appropriate other faith traditions.

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 a core curriculum area.

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.

## Impact

Our RE Curriculum is high quality, well thought out and is planned to demonstrate progression. If children are keeping up with the curriculum, they are deemed to be making good or better progress. In addition, we measure the impact of our curriculum through the following methods:

- A reflection on standards achieved against the planned outcomes;
- A celebration of learning for each topic, which demonstrates progression across the school;
- Pupil discussions about their learning; which includes discussion of their thoughts and ideas

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

**Each topic has three elements:**

		<b>Time allocation</b>
<b>Explore</b>	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%
<b>Reveal</b>	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%
<b>Respond</b>	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.

## **2. 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.

### **3. 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.

### **4. 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

## **5. 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 are 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 R.E. 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

<b>Assemblies</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Resources</b>
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 children during the past week. Hymn Practice takes place on one morning during the week.	There are a variety of resources in the RE section of the subject resources room
Class Based	These can be either led by the class teacher or children. The following	As above

	<p>format is suggested: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begin with a prayer</li> <li>• Clear thought / scripture focus</li> <li>• Use a short scripture text</li> <li>• A silent moment</li> <li>• A prayer together – formal or informal</li> <li>• Conclusion.</li> </ul>	
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### **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