



ST RICHARD REYNOLDS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

ST RICHARD REYNOLDS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
ST RICHARD REYNOLDS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Religious Education Policy

St Richard Reynolds Catholic Primary School

Policy: Religious Education

Date of publication: May 2016

Date of approval by Governing Body: March 2016

Date of next review: As required

Ethos

Christ is the centre and foundation of a Catholic School. All members of our school community share the responsibility of making the school Catholic. Parents, teachers, governors enable our children to live full lives in Christ and help them to participate in the building up of the Kingdom of God. It is recognised that '...the first educators in the faith are parents. By their example in the home and the participation in the Mass and other sacraments, the foundations of life-long faith and discipleship in their children are laid down.' (*Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, 2000*)

Context

St Richard Reynolds Catholic Primary is a one-form entry school in the parish of St James', Twickenham. Twenty foundation places are allocated with priority given to Catholic children and ten open places are given without reference to the religion of the child.

This policy should be read in conjunction with College policies on Sex and Relationship Education, Equal Opportunities and Special Educational Needs.

The Catholic vision of education promotes the dignity and freedom of every person as created in the image and likeness of God. This vision inspires and encourages the beliefs and values that are lived out in the daily life of the Catholic school. Within this vision, religious education is very much a journey of formation involving every member of the school community, together with a pupil's family and parish community. For our children in St Richard Reynolds Catholic Primary School religious education is a subject in its own right in the school's curriculum. It is a rigorous academic discipline, and as such it is to be taught, developed and resourced with the same commitment as any other subject.

Aims of Religious Education

These aims are taken from the Bishops' Curriculum Directory

1. To present engagingly a comprehensive content which is the basis of knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith;
2. To enable pupils continually to deepen their religious and theological understanding and be able to communicate this effectively;

3. To present an authentic vision of the Church's moral and social teaching so that pupils can make a critique of the underlying trends in contemporary culture and society;
4. To raise pupils' awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities in order to respect and understand them;
5. To develop the critical faculties of pupils so that they can relate their Catholic faith to daily life;
6. To stimulate pupils' imagination and provoke a desire for personal meaning as revealed in the truth of the Catholic faith;
7. To enable pupils to relate the knowledge gained through Religious Education to their understanding of other subjects in the curriculum;
8. To bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture.

The outcome of excellent Religious Education is religiously literate and engaged young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills – appropriate to their age and capacity – to reflect spiritually, and think ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life. *[From the Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools]*

Roles and Responsibilities

All staff who teach RE will

- be prepared to witness to what they teach
- understand that they share in the teaching office of the Church exercised in the person of the local bishop and enshrined in the trust deed of the school
- fulfil their professional responsibilities with regard to all that develops and enhances the life of the Catholic school;
- have high expectations of all their pupils;
- take care continually to deepen their own knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith

The **Principal** will

- Appoint staff suitable and qualified to teach Religious Education
- Provide appropriate resources and opportunities for training
- ensure that 10% of the curriculum is devoted to Religious Education;

These responsibilities may be delegated to the Phase Leader, Emma O'Byrne

The **Governors** will

- Nominate an RE Governor to support and encourage the teaching of RE.
- scrutinise reports on RE and the Catholic life of the school at Community and Stewardship meetings

The **R.E. Co-ordinator** is responsible for

- Monitoring the standards of the children's work and the quality of the teaching in religious education;

- Plan and teach schemes of work that are engaging and accessible so that all pupils may progress appropriately in their knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith;
- ensure that Religious Education contributes positively to the broad and balanced curriculum of a Catholic school through cooperation and dialogue with other subjects
- Supporting colleagues in the teaching of religious education.;
- Being informed about current developments in the subject;
- Providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in the school;
- Updating the R.E. development plan and policy;
- Encouraging the use of appropriate practice;
- Consulting with staff at all levels and ensuring that information is communicated to them;
- Leading staff in INSET;
- Maintaining and updating resources;
- Promoting the use of outside resources and opportunities

The RE Co-ordinator is Rebecca Bennett

The parish-home relationship

We aim to build strong relationships between home, parish and school. We regularly welcome a range of priests to the classroom and to say Mass, including clergy from the local church. Pupils visit St James' Church in all Year groups, as well as regularly visit the school chapel.

The home-school relationship

Parents are the first educators of their children. They are involved in the Catholic education of their children and are encouraged to support the teachings of the faith at home. The Wednesday Word is issued to all families in the Primary school and provides an excellent way to share God's word with families at home.

Content of RE

Our Religious Education programme is based on the Bishops' Curriculum Directory. At St Richard Reynolds we follow the 'Come and See' programme of study for Catholic schools. This was developed in accordance with the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the Bishops' Religious Education Curriculum Directory.

The foundations for this programme of study are outlines in the school's Long Term Plan for Religious Education in KS1 and EYFS.

Other faiths

Other faiths form part of Religious education, both formally and informally. Each year group undertakes two units of study from the 'Come and See' programme on other faiths, one of which is Judaism.

Visits and trips to explore the faith and practise of the wider local community are encouraged in the Primary school. For example, when learning about Judaism, Year 2 visited the local synagogue in Richmond. Also, pupils in school are welcome to share their home faiths with their classes in school, such as Diwali.

Planning

Religious education at St Richard Reynolds is at the centre of the daily life of the school. A minimum ten per cent of teaching time is allocated to RE each week. Other subject areas, such as drama, art and literacy, complement the RE curriculum.

The primary school's long term plan for RE is written collaboratively by the RE coordinator and the KS1/EYFS phase leader in line with the 'Come and See' programme and is available for classroom teachers to reference when putting together their medium and short term plans.

Short term planning is the responsibility of the class teacher. Learning objectives for the week should be clearly labelled on the class weekly plan. Opportunities for differentiation should be clear in planning.

Recording, assessment and reporting

- Written tasks or activities
- Notes from observations
- Written comments on children's work
- Visual evidence
- Assessment tracker grids for each Year group

RE books

RE books should be treated as the most special books the children use. They should therefore be decorated at the beginning of each year by the children, with pictures, coloured paper or photographs. This encourages the children to put a special effort into their RE work.

Assessment is focused by the overall aims and objectives of religious education. In Come and See it is related to the concepts, skills and attitudes to be developed through the exploration of themes and the learning outcomes for each topic. Assessment establishes what pupils know, understand and can do.

The RE subject coordinator keeps samples of children's work in a portfolio. This demonstrates that the expected level of achievement is in RE in each year of the school. Assessment data is also collated and analysed by the subject coordinator and KS1/EYFS phase leader at key assessment points throughout the year.

RE is reported to parents at parent consultation meetings, as well as in the annual end of year reports to parents.

Prayer and Worship

RE is an academic subject but it is closely linked with pupils' growing spirituality and 'the learning of the heart' as it reflects on life's experiences. We seek to foster pupils' ability to respond to God's creation with awe and wonder and to express this in prayer, praise, art and music. We also provide opportunities for pupils to experience the value of stillness and quiet. Pupils will also be helped to join in the prayer of the Church by being taught traditional prayers and having opportunities to experience the sacramental life of the Church.

Prayer and Worship in the classroom

Each day opens and closes with prayer and Grace is said before and after meals. The class prayer table is designed to support the children in their prayers. It usually includes a bible, candles, display on the current topic, children's work and a crucifix/cross. Music is often used to create a prayerful atmosphere. Children are encouraged to pray in adoration, and to speak in their own way to God, as well as to add their own prayer request and individual prayers to the class prayer book.

Prayer and Worship as a primary school community

The primary School comes together in assembly once a week for a whole school assembly. Each half term there is a focus on one of six core values, alongside which the liturgical year is followed and visits from members of the local community, as well as opportunities to celebrate children's successes are included. (See yearly assembly document).

Primary Masses are scheduled once a term and reflect the liturgical season. The children are involved in preparing special work and prayers for the mass and when appropriate Year 1 and 2 pupils are encouraged to participate by reading at mass. Pupils' singing is supported by regular hymn practice on a Friday afternoon.

To encourage and to support pupils' worship at school and at home, school provides 'Wednesday Word' for all pupils in order to encourage and support parents to share the Gospel at home.

Prayer and Worship as a whole College community

The mass and liturgy programme for the College is constructed by the Vice Principal, following the Church's liturgical year. The College comes together at least twice a term to mark starts of term, key liturgical seasons, holy days of obligation and the Feast of St Richard Reynolds. The primary school is seated at the front and plays a growing role in Masses, for example contributing bidding prayers and reading the Gospel Acclamation

	Primary School	Whole College
Advent & Christmas	Advent Wreath Christmas Crib Christmas Nativity Play Christmas Carols Christmas Living Nativity Trip Primary Mass	
Ordinary Time	Visits to St James'	
Lent		Ash Wednesday Mass Whole College charitable fundraising Whole School Liturgy e.g. Stations
Easter	Primary Mass	Pentecost
Ordinary Time		St Richard Reynolds' Feast Day Mass & celebrations Holy Days – Ss Peter and Paul

Review of Policy

The R.E. co-ordinator will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of this policy on an on-going basis.

