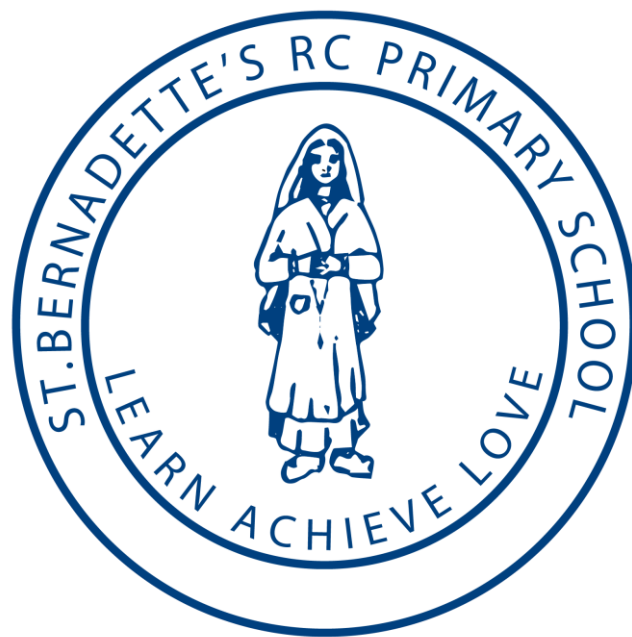


St. Bernadette's RC Primary School



Religious Education Policy

*Together we Learn. Together we Achieve. Together we
grow in God's Love.*

Written: Nov 2022

Next Review Date: Nov 2024

Our Mission Statement

Jesus Christ is very important in our school. He is at the heart of everything we do. Our school is part of the mission of the church- making Jesus known and loved. We try hard to live as Jesus wants us to, so that together we grow in faith, loving each other and loving God. We do all of these things because we want to keep Jesus among us every day at St Bernadette's.

These are some things Jesus likes us to do:

- *If someone is hurt, we look after them.*
- *If someone is sad or sick, we hold their hand and smile at them.*
- *We treat other people just as we want to be treated.*
- *We welcome new children, teachers and families.*
- *We care about people who do not have as much as we have.*
- *We celebrate, pray and play together.*

Our Motto

Together we learn, together we achieve, together we grow in God's love.

Our Vision

St. Bernadette's is proud to be a Catholic school, using the teachings of Jesus as our foundations. We aim to make our school a special place where children can learn, achieve and love through outstanding and innovative teaching. A place where they can build on their potential, fulfil their dreams and grow in faith.

Statement of Intent

Here at St Bernadette's Primary School, our aim is to provide a curriculum that is stimulating, broad, balanced, innovative and creative which enables us 'to learn, achieve and grow in God's love.' It is designed to provide all pupils with the opportunity to be curious and wise in their learning and knowledge and to be attentive and discerning in order to make sense of the world and give purpose as to why we learn about and from Religion.

As a Catholic school, Jesus Christ is at the heart of everything we teach and learn. We are deeply committed to developing children's faith and our shared vision is made real as we put our mission and gospel values into practice and our deep commitment to preparing children for modern life in Whitefield, Britain, and the wider world. We want children to become know and be grateful for their gifts and talents, develop them to the full so they can become generous in the service of the community and the world. Through developing the children's knowledge and understanding of their own faith, other faiths, and world religions the children will become compassionate and loving to all people and the world around them.

We sincerely believe that:

- Christ is our role model and our invisible teacher in every room in this school
- Every child has a right to have the Spiritual aspect of their being developed and nurtured
- Parents, in choosing this Catholic School, have made the decision, on behalf of their child, to have their child brought up in the teachings of the Catholic faith

- The Catholic School is instrumental in fulfilling the baptismal promise made by the Church to support and provide for the child in the catholic faith
- The Children will have a “Family” and sense of belonging in both the Catholic faith and in the parish
- It is our responsibility to provide Children with learning and situations which will enable them to enter into their own personal relationship with God
- It is our duty as a Catholic School to ensure that the children experience excellence in all areas of life and learning and that they have the maximum opportunity to develop their own individual God given talents to reach and achieve their own potential and to “have life to the full”
- It is an education which places values and symbols at the heart of all practices.
- It promotes the highest of values and a love and respect for all peoples and all of Creation.

Implementation

The Religious Education of our pupils is the core of our curriculum and school. 10% RE curriculum time is allocated across all key stages. In Religion we follow the “Come and See” scheme of work which follows the requirements of the Religious Education Curriculum Directory (R.E.C.D) set out by the Bishops of England and Wales. Within the scheme there are opportunities for the children to plan and deliver a form of class worship.

The RE Curriculum is delivered primarily through the diocesan approved Religious Education Programme, ‘Come and See’ - central to this programme are three basic human questions and the three Christian beliefs that are the Church’s response in faith:

- Where do I come from? Life-Creation
- Who am I? Incarnation
- Why am I here? Redemption

Within the ‘Come and See’ programme, these three big questions are considered, in the light of the Scriptures and Tradition of the Church; as expressed in the documents of the Second Vatican Council and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. As part of the ‘Come and See’ programme, comparative religions are taught throughout the year. Judaism is currently our chosen religion.

Religious Education permeates the whole life of the school and is visible in every subject and everything we do here at St Bernadette’s. The whole school will always be exploring the same theme but on different levels and topics depending on age and ability. Progression is evident. The children’s learning journey will first ‘Explore’ the topic relating it to real life initially. Then they will come to the heart of the process where they will reveal the Christian understanding and mystery of God as expressed in person and within the Gospel Values. The children will then respond to their new knowledge by coming together and celebrating as a class, individual or as a whole school. The children will also learn about 3 other faiths throughout the course of year i.e. Judaism, Islam, Buddhism etc as well as celebrating ‘Multi Faith ‘ week.

Teaching also takes place in whole school assemblies on Mondays and Fridays and phase assemblies on Wednesdays. Learning will also be enriched from time to time by visits and visitors and a range of other resources.

We also have a thriving Growing In Faith Together, G.I.F.T Chaplaincy Team who lead us in liturgies and assemblies at key times during the year such as Advent and Lent to

develop the spiritual life of our school. They also deliver workshops for younger children such as praying the Rosary and 'Time with God Tuesdays' where they meet with a selection of children from each year group and teach them about an aspect of faith eg, month of November – we pray for people who have died.

Planning and resourcing

For each Year group, there are medium term and weekly plans which are available through the 'Come and See' website. All the resources needed to teach the scheme are available online. Planning is adapted by the class teacher to meet the needs of all the children.

The children themselves are our central resource in their religious education, their thoughts, ideas, feelings, attitudes, beliefs, relationships etc. The Holy Gospel serves as a primary source as indeed does the entire Bible. The guidelines supplied by the Salford Diocese and the scheme 'Come and See' are the basis for the planning and assessment of the children's lessons and activities. A range of resources, have been acquired and are stored in the Red Room cupboards. A variety of other resources are also utilised including, hymn practice, music, video, story and information technology. There are also resource sheets and power points available for each Come and See topic. Each lesson taught ensures the full involvement of all children. Differentiation of tasks and activities allows the curriculum to meet the needs of individual pupils.

Staffing and Responsibilities

The Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teacher and the RE subject lead will:

- Co-ordinate regularly to ensure Religious Education is placed at the core of our school curriculum in order to develop the children's spirituality and understanding of the Gospel values.
- Formulate a policy and implement the scheme of work, ensuring that this is followed by all teachers.
- Promote and monitor the progress of 'Come and See' throughout the school.
- Advise and support staff and keep them informed about new developments through INSET.
- Keep up to date with current issues through INSET opportunities.
- Monitor the teaching and learning of RE, with the Headteacher, by carrying out lesson observations, learning walks, pupil voice activities and scrutiny of books.
- Develop a bank of RE resources to support RE teaching and to identify and request additional resources that are required.
- Liaise with governors.

Each Class Teacher:

- Helps children to develop their knowledge of God and their relationship with Him through scripture, prayer and reflection.
- Prepares, plans and delivers the RE Curriculum to their respective class of children
- Introduces children to the Liturgical Feasts and Seasons of the Church
- Provides regular opportunity for Prayer
- Will create stimulating and interesting RE displays.
- Will prepare class assemblies once a year.

Monitoring and Reviewing

As part of the school's monitoring programme:

- Lesson observations and Learning Walks are undertaken by the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and RE subject lead (where appropriate).
- Book scrutinies and Pupil Voice interviews are completed by the RE subject lead.
- A report is completed following each of these levels of monitoring and distributed to all staff, HT, and DHT.
- The RE subject lead and HT creates an annual action plan which highlights priorities for the academic year.

Inclusion and Equality

All children regardless of their ability and individual needs are taught Religious Education. Learning opportunities are provided that enable all pupils to make good progress. Staff work hard to meet the needs of the pupils with Special Educational Needs and those with learning English as an additional language. Work is differentiated where necessary and classroom assistants are used to support the work of individuals or groups of pupils.

Marking

In line with the school's marking policy, the marking of children's religious work should always be positive and supportive to encourage the child in his/her faith journey as well as explaining their next steps in learning and addressing key misconceptions and errors.

The Mass and Parish

Whole school mass occurs at the beginning and end of the year and holy days and liturgical preparation days are also celebrated. Masses can take place in church or in our school hall.

We have very close links to our Parish priest Father Steven Parkinson who regularly visits school as we visit church too.

Prayer

Prayer is a special, a personal, a public, a private, a spontaneous and a routine aspect of school life. Opportunities for prayer occur several times each day in whole school assembly, in class, in the children's R.E. in the part they play in worship, in expressing their humanity and in developing relationships in God and Jesus.

Teaching and Learning about Other Faiths

St. Bernadette's is a Catholic school that encourages tolerance, respect and care for all people, regardless of colour, race or creed. While Religious Education is specifically the Catholic tradition, we welcome input from other faiths and denominations. We appreciate how the beliefs and values of other faith communities can enrich our own spiritual existence. Christ asked of us the question "Who Is My Neighbour" in the parable of the Good Samaritan. This question applies at school and Parish. We live in a world with many cultures and faiths and indeed, much teaching and learning about these will take place across the curriculum and through extracurricular interaction and activity.

However, we believe that there is a specific place for the teaching of other faiths within our 'Come and See' programme. We currently learn about Judaism in Autumn term, and then

either of the following Islam, Hinduism and Sikhism as we move towards the Spring and Summer term.

Sacramental Programme

A good partnership is fostered in our Christian family between school, parish and home. The children are well prepared for the Holy Sacraments in a coordinated programme with staff and parish members working jointly on a programme planned in advance. Thus, work done in school supplements, supports and assists that done by those working in the parish on the sacramental programme.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

As in all subjects, assessment is a continual ongoing process. Assessment guidance is taken from the Curriculum Directory and the Standards Framework document.

In consultation with the RE lead advisor from Salford Diocese and Bury Catholic schools working party, an assessment system based on the Standards framework is used in school. Ongoing assessments, linked directly to the Standard indicators assessed and the 'Come & See' unit of work, have been created for use in our school by the RE subject lead. Throughout exploring a Unit in the 'Come and See' scheme, all children are assessed on their knowledge and understanding. These assessments of children's work are kept in the individual child's RE book. Lessons taught correspond directly to the standards being assessed. The children are then assessed as working below expectation, working at the expected level and working above the expected level. This is based upon teacher assessment through techniques such as, observation, questioning and marking. The levels are recorded on a class tracking sheet after every unit has been completed.

At the end of the academic year, a written report is given to the parents which includes an effort grade and a statement of their child's progress throughout the year. The grades are also sent on to the next teacher.

RE and Computing

Information and Communication technology enhances Religious Education, wherever appropriate, in all key stages. The children select and analyse information using the Internet. They also use ICT to present their work. Teachers and children use PowerPoint presentations for class and whole school assemblies.

Marking and Feedback

Purpose: To move children on in the RE learning through a Unit of Work.

- Each piece of work marked – (refer to the Marking Policy)
- Purple pen – the opportunity for responses from the children and further questions posed where appropriate to support and/or challenge children.
- Marking linked specifically to RE objective
- Spelling Corrections focus only on specific RE Vocabulary linked to the unit

- Additional English marking can also be referenced, when using RE pieces of writing to support a child in the development of their writing, as long as the RE LC is also commented upon.

The Role of the RE leader

- To take a lead in policy development and oversee schemes of work to ensure progression and continuity in Religious Education throughout the school
- To support colleagues in their development of schemes of work
- Monitor progress in R.E. and advise the Headteacher on action needed
- Take responsibility for the purchase and organisation of central resources for R.E.
- Keep up to date with developments in R.E. including professional development and disseminate information to colleagues.
- Represent the school at RE diocesan meetings & cluster meetings
- Liaise with the Sacramental Class Teacher re Parish links and the Sacramental Programme

Class Saints

All classes have a named saint for a prayer and discussion focus in their rooms.

Nursery	St Nicholas
Reception	St Francis of Assisi
Year One	St Peter the Apostle
Year One/Two	St Joseph
Year Two	St Anne
Year Three	St Cecilia
Year Three/Four	St Dominic Savio
Year Four	St John Bosco
Year Five	St Gerard Majella
Year Five /Six	St Teresa of Calcutta
Year Six	St Maximilian Kolbe

Home- School Links

Parents of Year Three children are closely involved with the Sacramental Programme. Parents are invited to class assemblies.

Parents are invited to support our fundraising.
Parents are informed of the RE curriculum in each year group.
Parents are welcomed to join us in our whole school Masses throughout the year.

Withdrawal from Religious Education Lessons & / Or Worship

This school will recognise the legal right of a parent to have their child withdrawn from Religious Education lessons and also acts of Worship. However, out of Christian Mission, it would be expected of the Head Teacher to have some dialogue with the parents of such a child to ensure they understand what they wish to withdraw from and its importance and centrality in a Catholic School and can thus make an informed decision – including why they have chosen a Catholic School to send their child to. Any children withdrawn will have alternative learning provided and a log kept.

Impact

We assess impact throughout our newly developed Assessment Scheme which offers a ‘best fit’ initiative over a two-year cycle. Each phase uses age related expectations to assess a child’s knowledge and understanding. These assessments are an invaluable tool for the subject leader to measure the impact of the current system and to help inform the Action Plan in religion for the following school year.

Our Masses and community/parish links are something to be celebrated! Our children, staff and community place Christ at the centre of everything they do. We have a wonderful school who all work together to learn, achieve and grow in God’s love. Religious Education is taught and planned with enthusiasm. One needs to be inspired oneself if we are to inspire our children. We strive to achieve this and are proud of the lively, active, enthusiastic approach taken to Religious Education. In short, it is a way of life at St. Bernadette’s and it is intended to help the children make their faith a way of life for themselves for all of their lives.