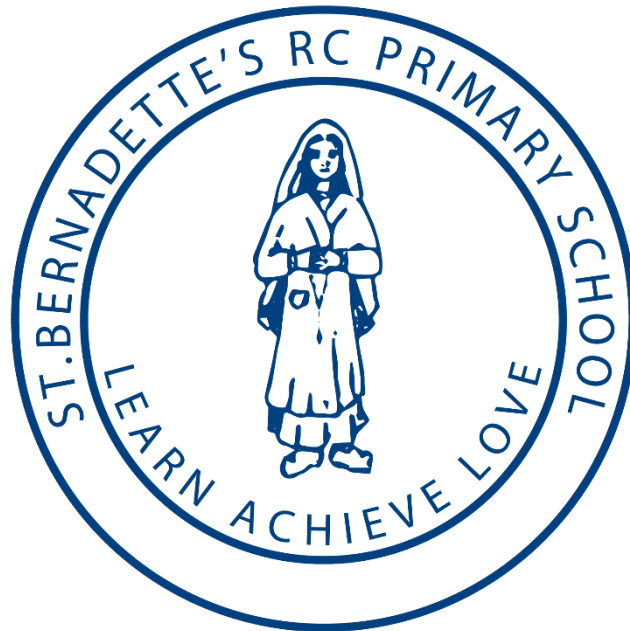


St. Bernadette's RC Primary School



Religious Education Policy

This Policy was last reviewed in April 2025.

By: Mr Proctor (Headteacher), Mrs O'Donnell (RE subject lead)

This Policy will next be reviewed in November 2026.

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.

The school currently follows Come and See for the teaching and assessment of R.E.

We are committed to allowing pupils to explore their own faith and develop their relationship with God and what He wants them to be. Our Mission Statement is also our vision and reflects this.

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 Mission Statement is central to all that we do here at St Bernadette's. The children know the Mission Statement and can explain its meaning, it is said during all forms of Worship and classroom prayers.

Our Motto

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

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.

To worship in a wide variety of ways, including:

- Whole school worship throughout the week, following ‘The Virtues To Live By’ Programme.
- Daily prayers in class; morning, before lunch and at the end of the school day.
- Weekly Collective Worship in class where the children are responsible for preparing their own worship.
- Celebration of the Eucharist in church with the whole school joining the parish on special feasts and Holydays of Obligation
- Special liturgies particularly in Lent and Advent, linking parish and school.
- Quiet spaces that have prayer areas available for personal use by the children.
- To develop an understanding of those who worship in another faith and how they do it.

(see separate Collective Worship Policy)

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, phase and personal development assemblies. 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' 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.

The R.E. Programme

Children currently follow the 'Come and See' scheme. In addition there are elements of study and experience that are included because they have special significance to the school, for example a special interest in Saint Bernadette and Saint Teresa, as we are members of the St Teresa of Calcutta Academy Trust.

We ensure that the curriculum is made available to all children regardless of age, gender, ability, ethnic origin or faith. A variety of teaching styles will be used to impart the curriculum and reference will be made to other subjects where appropriate. The key skills of English will be developed through the teaching of Religious Education. Work with Salford Diocese has further developed the teaching and given it a more creative approach.

Lessons usually end with an opportunity for the children to 'Follow in Jesus' Footsteps' where they can take what they have learnt into the wider world. Challenges are set in purple ink with children responding in purple.

Early Years Foundation Stage cover the Come and See objectives and make clear links with the framework through Understanding the World and Personal, Social and Emotional Development. Evidence of their work is recorded onto the Seesaw online platform.

The RE Programme is supported by 'Life to The Full' scheme of work in RSE.

Teaching of R.E.

Each class teacher is responsible for the teaching and learning of RE in his/her class.

Lessons constitute 10% of teaching time each week. However RE is celebrated and incorporated into the whole of the curriculum. Whole school impact weeks/days will be planned for to link with the liturgical year, such as St. Bernadette's Day, Pentecost, Advent and Lent.

Planning and resourcing

For each Year group, there are medium term and weekly plans which are available through our Sharepoint and 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 and Feedback

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

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 worship, 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 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

Much of RE is a development of personal values and attitudes and can be assessed through the children's attitude and approach to life. We plan 'Check In/Check Out' activities for each topic, this assesses the children's knowledge and progression of a certain topic- the 'Check In/Check Out' logo is used to show assessment pieces of work. Three times a term the children complete the recommended Salford Diocese Assessment. Teachers make a judgement on where children are working at using the children's assessment piece along side the age related phase descriptors. The data is then placed on an assessment grid and saved onto our Sharepoint. In September however, we plan to move to Insight. This assessment will be tailor made to mirror the banding we use at St Bernadettes, 1, 2 or 3.

By utilising our 'Insight' assessment database, we plan to compare children's termly attainment in RE with their performance in other subjects like Reading and Maths. This will enable us to examine our assessment data at a granular level and analyse children's performance across a range of subjects.

Parents receive information regarding their child's effort, attainment and progress in parents' evenings and in a written report at the end of the academic year.

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.

Prayer and Worship

We really value very highly the times when we meet for Collective Worship. At present the following takes place;

Whole School Worship

This takes place every Monday morning as is based upon a 'Virtue to Live By'. The same virtue is chosen for approximately 3 weeks. The virtue is evident in all classrooms and shared spaces during this time- a piece of scripture is chosen for the week which reflects the virtue. The Worship is led by the Head Teacher or a member of the SLT. Children are encouraged to participate in the Worship either by leading prayers or taking part in the The Bible Procession. This is a time of worship for staff and children.

Every Tuesday, classes from different phases across the school come together for our Phase Worship. This is a wonderful opportunity for students of all ages to unite as one school community. During this time, we may focus on a current virtue, exploring its meaning and how we can live it out in our daily lives or the focus may be on a current event e.g Black History Month. We also listen to The Word of God, allowing it to guide our reflections and actions. Phase Worship is a joyful and meaningful way to foster a sense of unity, as we come together in prayer, reflection, and celebration of our shared faith.

Each Wednesday the children participate in a 'Sung Worship' where hymns are Sung based upon the Liturgical Year. This is a powerful and joyful expression of our faith. This special time allows students, staff, and teachers from all phases of the school to unite in prayer and praise. Through carefully chosen hymns and songs, we reflect on the teachings of Jesus, celebrate the values that guide us, and strengthen our sense of belonging and unity. Singing together is not only a way to honour God, but also an opportunity to nurture the spiritual growth of our students and build a deeper connection with each other as a school family. It is a vibrant and uplifting way to set the tone for all the learning, growth, and kindness that follow.

Whilst the 'Sung Worship' is being celebrated, four children from each class are kept behind in class with the teacher/teaching assistant to take on the responsibility of planning, preparing, resourcing, and delivering their own Collective Worship session. This happens the next day (Thursday) at 10.40 am across the whole school.

Each classroom has its own altar and box filled with resources for class worship.

Every Thursday, the children in each class take the responsibility of delivering their own Collective Worship session. This special opportunity allows our students to actively engage in the worship process, encouraging them to think deeply about their faith and how they can share it with others. The children lead the worship sessions with great enthusiasm and dedication, selecting meaningful themes, prayers, and reflections that align with the teachings of Christ.

By taking on this leadership role, the children not only become fantastic ambassadors for our school, but they also serve as true ambassadors for Christ. They have the chance to reflect on the values of kindness, respect, and compassion, and share these values with their peers in a way that inspires others to live according to Christ's teachings. Through their leadership in Collective Worship, our students develop important skills such as teamwork, communication, and empathy, all while deepening their spiritual understanding and connection with God. It is a truly empowering experience that fosters a sense of responsibility and pride, allowing our children to actively contribute to the spiritual life of our school community.

On Fridays we have our 'Celebration Worship' - the aim is to create an atmosphere of praise and reflection and to end the school week in a most fitting way. And what a joyful time of the week it is! We come together as a school community to celebrate and give thanks for the achievements, efforts, and kindnesses of the week. Children are celebrated for achievements at home and school. This special time is an opportunity for students and staff to join in prayer, song, and praise, creating a sense of unity and gratitude among all.

During Celebration Worship, we highlight the successes of our students—both big and small—and acknowledge the hard work, perseverance, and positive attitudes they have demonstrated. It's a time to celebrate individual achievements. Through this weekly gathering, we come together to rejoice in God's goodness, share moments of joy, and support one another in faith.

Each week we award a child from each class as 'The Mission Disciple'- which means they have followed our Virtue to Live By all week- they are rewarded with a Hot Chocolate and treat with the Head Teacher.

Class Collective Worship

Each class participates in a weekly Collective Worship at 10.40am on Thursdays. The worship reflects the Gospel or RE theme for the previous week. Children are involved in planning their Worship on Wednesday as the rest of the school are taking part in the 'Sung Worship'. The children set up the altar for worship, prepare the Scripture/prayers/hymns for the worship- they use the Sharepoint or internet etc to choose appropriate music. Teachers and pupils can use The Wednesday Word as a guide if needed alongside the Ten:Ten resources. Children have opportunities to develop and plan their own liturgical experiences on a regular basis. They are encouraged to use scripture and prayer as a basis for their worship. The children begin preparing for this as early as Nursery and progress throughout their school life.

The daily routine for all classes is:

Morning prayer

Grace before meals

Prayer at the end of the day

(see separate Collective Worship Policy)

Advent

Highly successful and well attended Advent Nativities take place each year for KS1 and EYFS. Its aim is to provide a focus on the importance of getting ready for the Birth of Christ. There are Carol Concerts led by our school choir and these may take place in the school hall or at church. Children are encouraged to celebrate their talents through singing or playing a musical instrument during these services. These have provided a strong link with school, the wider community and the parish.

Lent

The school places the emphasis on thinking about others during Lent and money raising goes alongside learning about those who are less fortunate than us, and the organisations which help in a practical way. We support Caritas through their 'St Joseph's Penny' initiative which helps those in need in our local community, we also raise money for CAFOD to help those overseas eg through The Big Lent Walk. We begin the season with pancakes being eaten Shrove Tuesday to contrast with the solemnity of Ash Wednesday. The Parish Priest conducts a whole school Mass where all members of the school community are given ashes. During Lent Y1-6 visit The Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament in church. Throughout Lent the theme is followed by each class and is reflected in RE lessons and class Liturgies. All children visit Church or stay in the school hall for an interactive 'Stations of The Cross' led by Y3.

Multi faith

We value the importance of learning about and understanding other faiths.

Throughout the year we plan for and deliver whole school Interfaith weeks in which they learn about different beliefs and ways of worshipping. The children make visits to places of worship and invite speakers into school. We have taken steps to strengthen the bonds with pupils of other faiths. The pupils themselves have been actively involved in this process and as a result, our Muslim pupils are sharing their faith with their friends.

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

Differentiation

The school recognises that in any class there will be children of different levels of ability and personal needs. In planning lessons the class teachers will take these needs into consideration and work will be aimed at an appropriate level as much as possible. In RE books Learning Challenges will be open questions to ensure stretch for HA children and support LA children.

Pupil Leadership Groups

At St. Bernadette's we have three Pupil Leadership Groups who each have distinct roles within the school.

GIFT team are made up of Y5 and Y6 children and they lead the Prayer and Worship across the school. They lead whole school Worship and help to plan class worship in all year groups. They are responsible for the altars and checking that they are correct at different times in The Liturgical Year. They lead groups at lunch times and help younger children to develop spiritually.

Our The Laudato Si Team is made up of pupils from Key Stage 2 (Years 3 to 6), inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si, which calls us to care for our common home. Rooted in the Catholic Social Teaching principle of creation and environment, the team encourages care and respect for the environment as part of our Christian responsibility. They play an active role in promoting environmental awareness and sustainability across the school community, helping to nurture a deeper understanding of our duty to protect God's creation for present and future generations.

Caritas Ambassadors, made up of children from Years 5 and 6, have been specially trained by Caritas Salford to lead charitable and social action across our school community. They help support local charities such as St Joseph's Penny and Red Door, playing a vital role in promoting compassion and service. Guided by the

Catholic Social Teaching principle of "Preferential Option for the Poor," our Ambassadors encourage all pupils to reflect on how we can care for those most in need. Through fundraising, awareness campaigns, and acts of kindness, we strive to make a meaningful difference in both our local and wider communities.

Pastoral guidance and support

The teaching and non-teaching staff regard their role as guiders and supporters as an extremely important part of their job. They are always available and very willing to help the children in and out of the class for whatever need. They remain fully professional in their approach and respect each individual. We have a Pastoral Lead who works closely with children to develop SMSC awareness and support children who may need additional help. Our SLT and Office Staff help deal with attendance, punctuality, behaviour and any other issues that our families may face. Our SENCo helps support families and children with SEND and is also our Inclusion Lead.

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 Clare of Assisi
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 worships throughout the year EG, Lent, Advent, VTLBy worships
 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.