

St Vincent De Paul R.C. Primary School, Knutsford

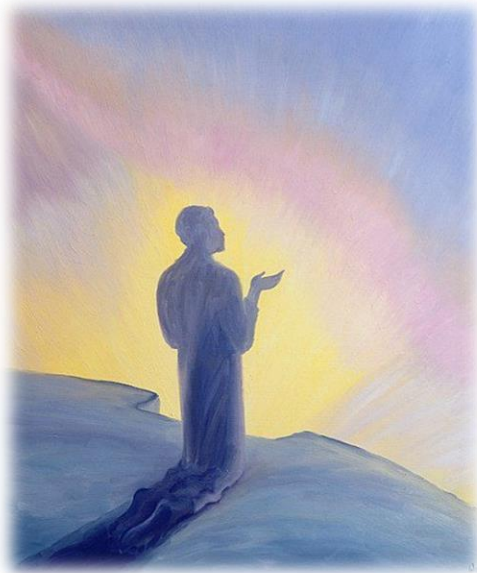
Mission Statement:

Believe, Trust and Be Ready

“That they may have life, and to the full” John 10:10



Religious Education Curriculum



Religious Education Curriculum Design

This document should be read alongside the RE and Prayer & Liturgy policy.

Rationale

“What makes the Catholic school distinctive is its attempt to generate a community climate in the school that is permeated by the Gospel spirit of freedom and love ... It tries to relate all of human culture to the good news of salvation so that the light of faith will illumine everything that the students will gradually come to learn about the world, about life and about the human person” (Gravissimum Educationis Vatican Council 11)

Intent

Religious Education enables children to investigate and reflect on some of the most fundamental questions asked by people. The Religious Education curriculum aims to educate children about the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church. We seek to help children understand our Catholic faith and other world faiths, how to apply the Church's teachings to their everyday life and provide children with a knowledge of scripture. We seek to address fundamental questions concerning, for example, the meaning of life and the existence of a divine spirit and provide opportunities for children to reflect on what it means to have a faith and to develop their own spiritual knowledge and understanding.

Our intent in the teaching of RE are, for all of our children:

- to have a high-quality Religious Education that is encouraged through every aspect of school life and developed in partnership with parents/carers, the parish and the wider community.
- to have the opportunity to celebrate and engage with their faith in Masses, liturgies, assemblies, Church services and in other curriculum areas e.g Art, writing etc.
- to relate the knowledge gained through RE to their understanding of other subjects in the curriculum and ensure that RE will not only focus on the religious lesson – but will pervade through every area of the curriculum.
- to have every opportunity to develop the skills, the knowledge and the attitudes necessary to later play an active role in today's society as a committed Catholic.
- to develop religious vocabulary and ability to construct thoughtful prayers.
- to investigate religious traditions, beliefs and practices and reflect upon the mysteries of life.
- to engage in a systematic study of the mystery of God, of the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, the teachings of the Church, the central beliefs that Catholics hold, the basis for them and the relationship between faith and life through the use of 'The Vine & The Branches', the recommended RE Scheme.
- to deepen their religious and theological understanding and be able to communicate this effectively'.
- to develop self-worth and the understanding that every child and person is an individual and must be respected for whatever they are.
- to have a Religious curriculum which uses 'The Vine & The Branches', as its basis but uses the Liturgical Year, the feasts and celebrations, important national and local projects and the idea of giving to enrich religious formation.
- to have a sure guide for living and the tools to critically engage with contemporary culture and society by presenting an authentic vision of the Church's moral and social teaching.
- to develop an understanding of the religions and worldviews present in the world today and the skills to engage in respectful and fruitful dialogue with those whose worldviews differ from their own, to enable them to appreciate cultural differences and the fact that many people hold different religious convictions and beliefs.
- to develop the critical faculties so to bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture.
- to develop investigative and research skills, in order to hold reasoned opinions on religious issues.

Implementation

Religious Education in a catholic school has four structural elements.

- **Knowledge lenses** are the things we are looking at and they divide the content of the programme of study into four systematic sub-sections for the study of Catholicism and two additional lenses for the study of religions and worldviews, which together comprise the six knowledge lenses of hear, believe, celebrate, and live (the study of the Catholic religion), dialogue, and encounter (the study of other religions and worldviews).
- **Ways of knowing** set out the skills that pupils should be developing as they progress through their curriculum journey. The three ways of knowing are: understand, discern, and respond. They are represented in the

programme of study by icons: head (understand), heart (discern), and hands (respond).

- **Expected outcomes** are a synthesis of the content outlined in the knowledge lenses and the skills described in the ways of knowing. Each age-phase will have a prescribed set of outcomes that will indicate what pupils are expected to know, remember, and be able to do, using the language of the ways of knowing and applying it to the discrete knowledge within each lens.
- **Curriculum branches** correspond to the six half-terms of a school year. The six curriculum branches are: creation and covenant, prophecy and promise, Galilee to Jerusalem, desert to garden, to the ends of the Earth, and dialogue and encounter.
- RE is the responsibility of the school, home and parish.

We base our teaching and learning style in RE on the key principle that good teaching in RE allows children both to learn about religious traditions and to reflect on what the religious ideas and concepts mean to them. Our teaching enables children to extend their own sense of values, and promotes their spiritual growth and development. We encourage children to think about their own views and values in relation to the themes and topics studied in the RE curriculum. Our teaching and learning styles in RE enable children to build on their own experiences and to extend their knowledge and understanding of religious traditions. We use their experiences at religious festivals such as Easter, Christmas, etc. to develop their religious thinking.

- A total 10% is allocated to the teaching of Religious Education. This equates to 2 ½ hours a week in Key Stage 2 and 2 ¼ hours in Key Stage 1.
- We use the Diocese approved scheme of work 'The Vine & The Branches'. The topics in 'The Vine & The Branches' are the same for each year group and are progressive.
- We study one topic per half term.
- Children participate in Masses, assemblies, hymn practice and other liturgical celebrations.
- Collective acts of worship take place every day (either class or whole school).
- Liturgical feasts are covered alongside both schemes of work as are external events e.g. Charity work, Harvest Festival, fundraising etc.
- Cross-curricular aspects to the topics taught are explored wherever possible.
- RE is usually taught as a whole class.

Children are actively involved in the planning and celebration of 'Celebration of the word'. Throughout the key stage children are all encouraged, each term, to plan and lead these within their class/ year group.

Impact

As a result of our Religious Education teaching, our children will:

- Achieve consistently well in all areas of Religious Education and make exceptional progress.
- Produce good quality work which they are proud of.
- Are happy, well rounded individuals who have developed a deep-rooted relationship with God and understanding of their Catholic faith.
- Are ambassadors for Christ who are ready to go out into the world and proclaim the values of the Gospel confidently, building the Kingdom of God through compassion, justice, love and forgiveness in their relationship with others.
- Understand that they are part of the family of God and know how they can play their part in this Global family united by Christ.

Progression

Please see separate progression document for The Vine and The Branches.

Overview of RE units

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
The Vine & The Branches	Branch 1 Creation and Covenant	Branch 2 Prophecy and Promise	Branch 3 Galilee to Jerusalem	Branch 4 Desert to Garden	Branch 5 To the Ends of the Earth	Branch 6 Dialogue and Encounter
Reception	God made our beautiful world and everything in it.	Mary was chosen by God to give birth to Jesus. Advent is a time to prepare for Christmas.	Jesus is God's Son and came for everyone. The visit of the Magi.	Easter is a celebration that Jesus is with us still. Lent is a time to care for others.	Jesus went back to his Father and sent the Holy Spirit to look after us. The story of Pentecost.	Friends of Jesus. Local community.
Year 1	All that is comes from God. Reflect on what prayer means.	The revelation of God in Jesus. God called Mary to be the mother of his Son, Jesus.	Jesus is the light to all nations' and draws people to follow him. Stories from the gospel of St. Luke.	Lent is a time to prepare for Easter. The events of the last week of Jesus' life and the resurrection.	The narrative cycle of the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The mission of the Church begins at Pentecost.	Catholic identity and Christian family. Jewish belief in one God.
Year 2	God's covenant (promise) with Noah. The Sacrament of Baptism. How can we care for God's world?	The Annunciation. The nativity of Jesus. John the Baptist. Advent as a time of preparation.	The nature of God through parables and miracles. The baptism of Jesus. John the Baptist calls people back to God. Sacrament of Baptism.	Holy Week. Lent is a time of reconciliation and forgiveness for Christians. Sacrament of Reconciliation. Easter Vigil Mass.	Ascension of Jesus. Pentecost. Fruits of the Holy Spirit. God is love. Conversion of Saul.	The parable of the Good Samaritan. Christians work together to support their local community. Jewish religious laws, beliefs, worship and life.
Year 3	The story of Creation. Caring for our common home. All human beings are made in the image and likeness of God. Catholic Social Teaching – Human Dignity	Teaching about the Mass. Advent. Annunciation to Joseph. The angel brings God's message. Jesus' birth was foretold by the prophets.	Miracles of Jesus. Understanding parables – Matthew's gospel. The visit of the Magi. The 'Our Father'.	The Liturgy of the Eucharist. The Last Supper, when Jesus celebrated the first Eucharist. Prayers and responses during Mass.	The Trinity. Mass today and Mass celebrated by the first disciples. The importance of Mary. Christians today and sharing the gospel.	Exodus and the Last Supper. How the Jewish festival of the Passover is celebrated by Jews today. Links and connections between some Islamic religious laws, beliefs, worship and life.
Year 4	God's call to Abraham and God's covenant. Virtues of faith, hope and love and how we live our lives.	Prophet Elijah and his significance to the gospel writers. John the Baptist. Advent. Jesus Christ as King. Prophets awaken an expectation of the coming of the Messiah.	Jesus' miracles and healings. Jesus is the Messiah. Jesus is fully human and fully divine. Sacrament of Reconciliation. Sacrament of the Sick.	Events of Holy week – gospel of Matthew. Parables – The Lost Son and The judgement of Nations. God's mercy and forgiveness. Lent – a time to live out the works of mercy.	The resurrection. The story of St. Peter. The work of the Church to continue the ministry of Jesus and build the Kingdom of God. Mary the Mother of the Church and Queen of Heaven.	The mission of St. Paul. Universal Catholic Church and different traditions. Five pillars of Islam.

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Year 5	The story of Moses, the call and the covenant. Covenants throughout history. Ten Commandments. Virtues help us live a good life.	David's life and importance. David was called to be a servant king. God chooses us in unexpected ways. Psalms – part of Church's treasury of prayers	The Beatitudes. Our Father – prayer of petition. Living out Jesus' law. The Transfiguration.	Ash Wednesday readings. Temptation of Jesus in the Wilderness. What is sin? What is conscience? Prayer is turning the heart towards God. The Rosary.	Pentecost and gifts of the Spirit. Sacrament of Confirmation. Mary – an example of discipleship. The Holy Spirit – different names and signs through Scripture.	Old Testament – originates in Hebrew scriptures. Importance of Old Testament for Christians. Jewish beliefs. Shema prayers. Mezuzah and Tanakh (Hebrew Bible).
Year 6	The second account of Creation – Genesis. The Nicene Creed. Laudato Si. Sin. Symbols of Baptism. God as sustainer and source of universe – compatibility with scientific account.	Passages from the Old Testament – importance of women in salvation history. Mary the 'Mother of God'. The Magnificat-song of the Mother of God and of the Church.	Readings from John's gospel and the deeper spiritual meaning. The seven sacraments – their purpose and signs of the presence of God. Parish community – how they hand on the teaching of Jesus.	Holy Week – gospel of John. Jesus as Messiah and how scripture shows His love. Mary – mother of all Christians. Stations of the Cross – prayerful reflection of Christ's journey to the cross.	Understanding of scripture passages - identifying literary forms and authorial intention. Resurrection – work of the Holy Trinity. Links from Baptism to Confirmation and witness to Resurrection. Faith, Hope and Love prayers.	Catholics should promote 'unity and love' among all people. Christians are responsible for promoting the common good. Worldview – meaning. Working together towards common goals. Dharmic beliefs, practices and way of life.