

Curriculum Statement for RE at St John's



Intent

RE permeates all that we do at St. John's Catholic Primary School. Our Mission Statement is lived out by all members of our school community daily. It is our intention when teaching Religious Education at St. John's that our children acquire the essential knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith.

It is our intention to immerse our pupils in the wonder of the world around them and to experience awe in the beauty of God's creation; to uplift them by the worship opportunities created daily and for pupils to experience living and working in a faithful, praying school community so that their spiritual and moral development thrive.

Our aim at St. John's is to ensure that every child develops a deep respect for themselves, and others as made in the image and likeness of God. That they are happy, confident, and secure in their own stage of physical, emotional, and spiritual growth.

We aim for our pupils to fully embrace a holistic approach to education, have a profound understanding of what it means to have a vocation and joyfully offer their gifts and talents in the service of others. That they have an excellent understanding of loving relationships and sexual development within the context of a Christian understanding. We aim for our pupils to be alert to the needs of others and to seek justice for all within and beyond the school community. That they all deeply value and respect the Catholic tradition of St. John's School and its links with the parish community and the archdiocese. That our children are able to pray with reverence and reflect deeply with heartfelt response to the Word of God and that they develop the knowledge and understanding of and a deep respect for other faiths.

Implementation

At St John's, for several years we have followed the Come and See programme of Religious Education, recommended by the Archdiocese of Liverpool as our scheme of work. Following much work and reflection, the Archdiocese and the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales, have decided that their schools are to move to using the Religious Education Directory.

From September 2024, to fulfil our aims and objectives we are using the 'To Know You More Clearly' programme from the new Religious Education Directory prescribed by the Archdiocese of Liverpool. This is being rolled out this year across the whole school

For those already engaged in the journey of faith, RE will be a catechesis, and for some children, RE will be evangelisation, the first opportunity to hear the Good News of the Gospel.

Through our programme, our pupils are offered the opportunity to explore scripture as it is there, in the authoritative teaching of the Church, that we meet God's self-revelation in Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Word. Our pupils are taught through Knowledge Lenses of Hear, Believe, Celebrate and Live. These divide the content of the programme of study into four subsections for the study of Catholicism. For the study of other religions and world views we use the Knowledge Lenses of Dialogue and Encounter.

Through these lenses. St. John's children will come and see the wonder of all that is within them and beyond them.

Developing our Faith *We will achieve this by*

- valuing and encouraging the good things in every person
- adults being role models
- fostering positive relationships
- treating everyone fairly
- celebrating difference through our understanding of other faiths and cultures
- using every opportunity to promote spiritual and moral development
- participating in high quality collective worship and enriching liturgies
- following positive class rules and codes of conduct
- reaching out to the wider community
- delivering enthusiastically a well resourced, well planned 'Come and See' Scheme of Work

Nurturing the potential of every individual *We will achieve this by:*

- giving children the opportunity and encouragement to try new things
- recognising that each individual learns in their own different way, making allowances for preferences
- creating a learning culture, classroom community, collaborative and personalised learning
- building self esteem
- delivering quality INSET to continue professional development enhanced by Performance Management for staff
- valuing effort
- using a range of teaching styles to cater for all abilities and learning styles
- embracing all opportunities to experience the joy of discovery, solving problems and being creative
- offering a wide range of extra-curricular activities

Working in partnership with home, parish and the wider community *We will achieve this by:*

- valuing parents as educators
- valuing an open dialogue between school and home by inviting parents to information evenings and pupil progress meetings
- issuing written reports and results
- embracing new technologies to improve home/school partnership
- involving ourselves in community events
- welcoming parents and friends of the school to celebrations, acts of collective worship and assemblies
- supporting the parish in meaningful preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist
- Supporting those less fortunate through fundraising, e.g. CAFOD, Good Shepherd.

The Aims and Objectives of Religious Education

The overall aims of Religious Education at St. John's are:

- To engage in study of the mystery of God, the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, the teachings of the Church, the central beliefs that Catholics hold and the basis for them and the relationship between faith and life.
- To enable pupils continually to deepen their religious and theological understanding.
- Through the Church's moral and social teaching to provide pupils with a sure guide for living and the tools to critically engage with contemporary culture and society.
- To give pupils an understanding of the religions and worldviews present in the world today.
- To stimulate pupils' imagination and provoke a desire for personal meaning as revealed in the truth of the Catholic faith.
- To enable pupils to relate the knowledge gained through religious education to their understanding of other subjects in the curriculum.

These are explored in a manner, which encourages investigation, and reflection by pupils, develops the appropriate skills and attitudes and promotes free, informed, and full response to God's call in everyday life.

In the words of the Religious Education Directory, the outcome of Catholic Religious Education is:

The outcome of excellent religious education is religiously literate and consciously 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 recognise the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.

Our Mission Statement reinforces this message... 'In God's Love we Shine Together'

The staff at St. John's Catholic Primary School will work to give each child the entitlement of a broad, balanced, differentiated curriculum (irrespective of ability) encouraging every individual a sense of self-worth and self-esteem. All teaching and learning is underpinned by the school mission statement.

The intention of St. John's School is to cater for the individual needs of the children and equip them with a better understanding of the world in which they live.

Expectations of Classroom Religious Education

Classroom religious education in a Catholic school is primarily educational.

Excellence in religious education is achieved by:

- clarity of succinct religious learning objectives,
- key content,
- by appropriate methodologies,
- rigour,
- richness of resources,
- achievement of identified outcomes, accurate methods of assessment

St. John's Religious Education is at the heart of the curriculum

- Religious education is the core of the core curriculum and is to be the source and summit of the whole curriculum.
- Religious education is an academic discipline with the same systematic demands and rigour as other disciplines.
- Religious education is to be delivered within a broad and balanced curriculum, where it informs every aspect of the curriculum. Every other subject is to be informed by religious education and have a strong relationship with it.
- In each year of compulsory schooling, religious education is to be taught for at least 10% curriculum time within each repeating cycle of the regular school timetable.