



St. Francis Xavier's RC Primary School

Love one another as I have loved you

Religious Education Policy **Our Mission**

Share God's love with one another
Follow your dreams
Excel in citizenship

Our Mission is to:

- Be a witness to the values, teaching and beliefs of the Roman Catholic Church
- Promote achievement for all
- Expect the best for individuals
- Inspire learning
- Collaborate with the community
- Promote a healthy life style
- Create a sustainable school
- Continually strive to be effective

Catholic schools put into practice the "educational mission of the Church to make 'Christ known to all people' (Christ at the Centre, 2012, p.7). Catholic schools play their part in this mission by supporting parents in the formation of their children as disciples of the One who calls them to life in all its fullness (Jn 10:10)." (RED 2023 Bishops' Conference of England and Wales)

Rationale:

- In a Catholic school, all pupils are invited to encounter Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ as the living person at the heart of their study in a way that respects their individual religious identity. (RED 2023)
- As well as seeking to assist parents with the education and religious formation of their children, Catholic schools strive also to be of service to society. (RED 2023)
- Religious education plays its part in this endeavour by enabling all pupils 'to be confident and secure in their religious faith and knowledgeable and respectful of other religions,' and so play 'a crucial role in building a cohesive society' (Christ at the Centre, 2012, p.9).
- The Religious Education Directory (2023), upon which our Religious Education curriculum is formed, is intended to ensure that the subject of religious faith is studied in the context of the faith community and reflects its missionary character.

The Aims (Intent) of Religious Education:

1. 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
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 to provide pupils with a sure guide for living and the tools to critically engage with contemporary culture and society

4. To give pupils 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
5. To develop the critical faculties of pupils so to bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture
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.

Programme of Study: (Implementation)

We are currently in a transitional phase of enabling staff to move away from the 'Come and See' programme, as adopted by the Archdioceses of Cardiff previously, to the RED compliant resource '**In God's Name**' (by Dr. Margaret Carswell).

During the course of the academic year 2023-2024, all year groups will move to 'In God's Name'. Initially, Years 3, 5 and 6 will adopt the new programme from Autumn 2023, followed by Year 4 in the Spring term and EYFS and KS1 by the beginning of the Summer term.

In God's Name covers the mandated content for all pupils in Catholic Schools in England and Wales and is expressed in End of Phase Outcomes for pupils aged 5-7, 7-9 and 9-11. These outcomes synthesise both the content from the four knowledge lenses and the Ways of Knowing from the RED 2023.

The selection of 'In God's Name' as a resource to deliver the RED content

Aside from the fact that Dr Margaret Carswell, the resource creator, also contributed to the formation of the RED, a strength of the programme of 'In God's Name' is the collaborative and collegiate approach that is required amongst staff.

Teachers in Years 1 and 2, 3 and 4 and 5 and 6 will plan and resource content together. The programme follows the Liturgical Years closely and pupils will have a strong sense of the school's curriculum links with the Church.

Teachers will gain from the strong focus upon staff professional development that the programme offers, with 'Key Information for teachers' enabling adults to know the religious content authentically and thoroughly before it is taught.

Other Religions

When studying Judaism or other religions, teachers will use the structure of the model curriculum section of the RED (2023) which sets out expectations in each year group. Resources, such as 'Come and See' content, will be utilised to deliver the content in a coherent way that covers all objectives. Judaism will be taught in the Autumn term and other religions during the Summer term.

Planning, Assessment, Monitoring and Recording:

- All staff will use the planning and marking will be in line with school policies.
- Each teacher will keep a record of the pupils' progress as part of ongoing formative assessment. Teachers using 'Come and See' will continue to highlight achieved objectives electronically, whilst those using 'In God's Name', will use the term Emerging, Expected or Exceeding on Knowledge Organisers, following planned Pupil Progress Points given as guidance in 'In God's Name'. At the end of a topic in both resources, an overall grade will be recorded on a whole school tracking grid. These grids will be used in pupil progress meetings termly. Teachers and leaders will discuss individuals' progress and discuss strategies to support, challenge and engage pupils at all levels.

- Moderation of units will be completed once a term at staff meetings and the samples of work moderated will be kept in the school portfolio. Teachers will use opportunities to moderate with other schools that are using 'In God's Name' as the year progresses.
- Before each new topic begins, staff will have a CPD session in the preceding term to discuss and reflect upon the KIT and KIP (Key information for pupils and teachers.)
- Lesson observations will take place annually.
- Feedback will be given to staff from book trawls, monitoring of staff displays or prayer foci and courses attended.
- Parents are informed about progression and achievement in RE through reports and parents' evenings.

Outcomes (Impact)

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. (RED 2023)

Article 4 – Religious education as the heart of the curriculum (RED 2023)

1. Religious education is the core of the core curriculum and is to be the source and summit of the whole curriculum.
2. Religious education is an academic discipline with the same systematic demands and rigour as other disciplines.
3. 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.
4. 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.

Management of the Subject:

Mrs. E. Christopherson, Deputy Head teacher, has responsibility for leading, managing and supporting the delivery of the training and monitoring in Religious Education with support from the Archdiocese of Cardiff Education Department.

This policy was reviewed 1st September 2023. The policy was adopted by the Standards and Curriculum Committee of the Governing Body of St Francis Xavier's RC Primary School on 11th October 2023.

The policy will be continually monitored by members of the Senior Management Team and Chair of Standards and Curriculum Committee and will be reviewed in September 2024.

Signed: *Sylvia Cockroft*

Date: 11.10.23

Chair of Standards and Curriculum

Signed: *Diana Pearce*

Date: 11.10.23

Headteacher