



St Wilfrid's Religious Education Policy

In our School Mission Statement, we promote:

Belonging to a loving, caring community which promotes learning through respect and sharing for all, through our shared Catholic faith. We strive to follow Christ's example to always do our best.

Religious Education at our School is not just a formal subject- it is regarded with the highest priority. At St Wilfrid's, we strive to include religious values and beliefs in all aspects of school life ; we use Christ's teaching to help us to understand our world and how it affects daily life and all of our relationships whether these be at school or at home. We aim to enable the children to learn to respect God, the environment, each other and the views of others.

We strive to ensure that our curriculum and learning environment provides a Catholic setting in which each individual can fulfil his/her potential, growing in understanding and in the acquisition of skills, attitudes and values.

RE is allocated 10% of Curriculum time as required by the Bishops' Conference.

Prayer, Assemblies, Christmas Plays, Circle Time, PHSE, Citizenship and Hymn Practice are not included in this allocation, however, Mass may be considered the equivalent of half-an-hour of RE, but only once in any week.

(Communicating Christ)

At St Wilfrid's School, we expect KS2 pupils to be taught two 1 hour lessons of RE per week and in Reception and KS1, pupils should be taught two 45minute lessons per week.

During times such as Christmas and Holy Week, work may be taught in a block.

Legal Right

Non-Catholic parents will have discussed with the Head Teacher the importance of daily assemblies and Mass to the children's spiritual development prior to choosing to send their child[ren] to St Wilfrid's school and will have chosen for their child[ren] to take a full and active part in these acts of worship. Parents will have been informed of their right to withdraw their child from the assemblies and Masses and prayers.

LEARNING EXPERIENCES

At our school, we aim to enable the development of religiously literate young people who are given the opportunity to learn about religion, to learn from religion and who have the opportunity for reflection and contemplation. We aim to provide these opportunities through a variety of ways : lessons within the classroom, planned and unplanned opportunities for interaction with others in the immediate, local and wider community etc.

THE RE CURRICULUM.

Scheme of work: At St Wilfrid's School, from Reception age up to Year 6, we use the Archdiocese scheme of work called 'Learning and Growing as the People of God'. The origins of this scheme come from the programmes of study produced in the Catholic Directory written by the Bishops. The scheme offers a rich range of activities to support the teaching of Religious Education. Using this document as guidance, staff develop medium term plans which ensure that, whilst the curriculum is covered, it is in a way that is most relevant to the children within our care. Support materials are available.

Nursery children are taught according to the Early Years Foundation Curriculum document and, whilst they learn about Catholicism, being a non denominational setting, they also learn about other faiths.

The SRE Policy has been agreed by Governors and follows the RE Department's recommended Family Life and Sex Education programme: 'All That I Am'. The policy was created in collaboration between school and home and the policy is shared with parents via our website. Year 5 and 6 undertake a unit of work in the summer term where 'Family Life and Sex Education' is examined. We ensure that the provision is fully consistent with the teaching of the Church and all staff delivering the unit are fully prepared and knowledgeable.

Special Needs: As for other children within the class, Children's individual requirements will be met through groupings, differentiation of work and outcome of planned activities. For less able children, support will be given at all available opportunities and may be in the form of adult support, peer support, scaffolded independent tasks. Work is set at a level at which children can access.

The Sacraments: All the sacraments have the Home/School/Parish partnership at the centre of their programme. From the start of the programme parents are made aware of the preparation that occurs in school, that should occur at home and how this is supported by the parish. During the year when the children receive the Sacraments,

parents and pupils are asked to attend regular meetings led by the school and Parish Priest and to attend specially timetabled Masses.

Year 3 children, in preparation for the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion, follow the 'Learning and Growing as the People of God' scheme. All of the units contribute to the preparation of the two sacraments.

Year 6 children, in preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation also follow the 'Learning and Growing as the People of God' scheme. Again, all of the units contribute to the preparation of the sacrament of Confirmation. The units are covered to fit in with the timing of the celebration.

PSHE and Citizenship: As with all curriculum areas, PSHE and Citizenship is an integral part of Religious Education. As a Catholic School, we ensure that children should be taught to value other people's beliefs and ways of life. Each year, the children are involved in being active citizens in a number of ways, for example:

- Once a week they lead Mass in church
- Once a year they celebrate Harvest Mass and distribute the food that they have donated to the local community
- Once a year they lead a class Mass/Prayer Service
- Once a year they lead a class assembly
- Once a year they welcome the elderly into school with whom they share Christmas Dinner
- They regularly fundraise for chosen charities such as CAFOD, NCH, Fr Hudson's Society, Dr Barnardos, The Catholic Partnership Project in Rwanda
- They welcome parents, families and parish into school for fundraising coffee mornings

Other Faiths: Aspects of other faiths (multi faith provision) are also covered in school through work within the classroom, during assemblies, via trips out of school and through inviting visitors into school. Year groups 1 – 6 carry out one visit per academic year related to a faith other than Catholicism. At present:

YY1 and 2 visit the Jewish Synagogue

Y3 visits the Hindu Temple

Y4 visit the Islamic Exhibition

Y5 visit the Sikh Gurudwara

Y6 visit the Islamic Mosque

This year, for YY1,2,4 and 5, these have been booked to coincide with special times of religious significance for these faiths. For Year 6, the trip to the Mosque has been booked to coincide with their preparation for transition to secondary school where they will begin to interact with the wider community. For Year 3, the trip to the Hindu Temple has been booked to coincide with their 'Prayer' unit. Classes also, at times, choose to find out about aspects of other faiths in addition to their visit out. Other faiths are also sometimes explored as part of the work based on the 'Learning and Growing as the People of God' scheme.

Nursery and Reception children do not take part in this programme of visits though they learn about faiths other than Catholicism throughout the year.

Other cultures: In developing the children's understanding of the community and world being a multicultural society, opportunities are taken to find out about traditions in other cultures. Whilst some classes may choose to integrate multicultural studies in various aspects of their learning, we also include at least one week per year where children find out about how others in different cultures to their own live. The themes for these multicultural weeks vary, for examples, Easter around the world, Christmas around the world.

Special Feast and Seasons: Teachers plan for feast days and special seasons, choosing the most appropriate tasks for the children within their care. Such studies may take place within the classroom during an RE lesson or time of Collective Worship or during a Mass or assembly

ICT IN RE

ICT can be used to support and enhance the teaching of RE as and when appropriate.

Staff are encouraged to share an ICT resources they may be using - there is a collection of resources set up on the 'Favourites' section of the school internet system. This is updated as an ongoing process.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

This takes many forms at St Wilfrid's School.

- **Monday** - Hymn Practice
- **Tuesday** - KS2 Assembly / Reception and KS1 Collective worship in class
- **Wednesday** - School Mass in church
- **Thursday**- KS1 and Reception Assembly / KS2 Collective worship in class
- **Friday** - Whole School Celebration Assembly

Once a year: KS2 Class Mass or Reception/KS1 Prayer Service (theme chosen by class)

Once a year: Reception - KS2 - Class Assembly (theme chosen by class)

Daily: Collective Worship in class in addition to Key stage gathering/whole school gathering/Mass. Prayers are said at the beginning and end of the day and before and after lunch. Children are given the opportunity for both formal and informal prayer.

Each classroom has a specific area devoted to RE; this area forms a focal point for prayer and display. The class teacher is responsible for maintaining these areas.

At present, children in YY2,4 and 6 have one prayer bag per class which children can choose to take home in order to share time of prayer and reflection with their family.

Parents are invited to weekly Masses, class Masses and class assemblies

ASSESSMENT

As a Catholic setting in which we strive to support each individual in fulfilling his or her potential, we hold regular pupil progress meetings in order that we can acknowledge the needs of each individual child regardless of their ability, faith, culture or background.

Assessment of RE: Assessment is an ongoing process. Evidence may be collected in RE books, in class portfolios, via audio recording, via photographs etc and credence is also given to 'non recorded' anecdotal evidence that staff can use in discussion.

For R - Y6 pupils, assessment is linked to:

- The expectations for the unit of work relevant to the year group.(Unit Assessments)
- The expectations laid out in the Levels of Attainment in Religious education in Catholic Schools and Colleges guidelines.

Unit Assessments: Each year, teachers assess units from one area of the RE Curriculum; this is either Sacraments, Liturgical Year, Scripture or Living as Christians. This is a cyclical process and is made explicit, by the RE co coordinator at the beginning of the academic year. This is a recommendation by the Diocese and ensures that a timetable of monitoring that covers each aspect of the curriculum is planned for and carried out. This assessment information is used by teachers in order to feed into future planning and groupings of children. It is used by the co coordinator at timetabled monitoring points throughout the year in conjunction with pupil conferencing, planning trawls, evidence trawls and professional conversations with staff and observation of teaching in order to support the monitoring and evaluation of both content and pitch.

Levels of Attainment in Religious education in Catholic Schools and Colleges: These guidelines are also used by staff in order to support the progression of RE throughout the school. Regular staff meetings (whole staff/small group/one to one) are held in order to share attainment of pupils. This allows staff to evaluate their own teaching and identify priorities within their own classroom and supports the co coordinator in monitoring and evaluation of pitch and progression. This feeds into the identification of priorities to be actioned. One child, per class has been chosen to be assessed, specifically, via these guidelines. This portfolio will then be kept in the year group and the following year a child representative of another ability will be assessed and evidence kept so that, eventually, a portfolio is built up which shows a range of abilities 'typical' to that year group.

For Nursery age pupils, assessment of RE is in line with the EYFS guidelines, although by the end of Nursery, pupils often begin to show evidence of working within certain aspects of a level one of the Levels of Attainment in Religious Education in Catholic Schools and Colleges guidelines.

Work is marked according to our school Marking Policy.

REPORTING TO PARENTS

Reporting to parents occurs at least three times per year - twice a year at Parent Consultation evenings and once a year via their child's end of year report. If teachers need to report to parents at any other time, in addition to this, they may do.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School aims to provide all pupils with equal opportunities. They should have equal access and opportunities within the curriculum, both formal and informal, so that when leaving our school they have the widest possible options available to them, educationally, socially and vocationally.

St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School supports equal opportunities by countering stereotypes and prejudice, reducing the effects of sexual, racial and social discrimination, while at the same time acknowledging the cultural and educational needs of our pupils.

Equality of opportunity for all children is essential, whatever their age, ability, gender, race or background.

As a staff we will remain aware of, and provide equal opportunities for all our pupils in Religious Education. We will take into account cultural background, gender and Special Needs, both in our teaching attitudes and in the published materials we use with our pupils.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Candles

- Matches are kept in a safe place away from the children's reach
- Candles are lit by the teacher, who ensures that there is not a danger of them setting alight to anything else
- Candles are extinguished by the teacher

Going to church

Shawsdale Road is crossed on the way to church :

- At least two adults should go across to church to ensure that the pupils arrive and return safely
- The teacher will inform the office that their class is going to church (if this is an extra visit - ie unnecessary for a school Mass)
- Children wait in a line behind the adult until the adult deems the road to be safe to cross and that there is a clear path for the children to follow
- One adult stands in the road to protect from the danger of traffic
- The children are led across the road by the other adult

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Head teacher's responsibilities: The Head Teacher is the leader of the Catholic faith within the school. The Head Teacher has the ultimate responsibility for the teaching of RE within the school. He must monitor and ensure that there are strategies and guidelines in place for planning and teaching the subject. The head teacher will ensure that staff receive the appropriate training to teach RE. All children must receive their entitlement as set out by the Birmingham Diocese. The Head Teacher must ensure that this is so. They should, in consultation with the coordinator, complete the School Self Evaluation document for RE.

RE Coordinator's responsibilities: The RE Coordinator is accountable to the Governors, the Head teacher and the Senior Management team. It is the Coordinators' responsibility to:

Write policies, provide schemes of work and write action plans

Monitor planning and delivery of RE

Update resources as appropriate

Plan rota for weekly Masses and Assemblies

Oversee preparation of children for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation

Class teacher's responsibilities: Class teachers are accountable to the Head Teacher and Governing Body. It is the class teacher's responsibility to

Ensure that all children are given equal opportunities to access the RE curriculum

Plan and teach from the agreed scheme of work

To inform the coordinator of any resources required

The link Governor for RE is Father Johnny Moore

