

**Our Lady of Perpetual Succour
Catholic Primary School**

Religious Education Handbook



We learn to love everyone as Jesus loves us

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Mission Statement

We learn to love everyone as Jesus loves us

In fulfilling our Mission Statement, we aim to:

- Be a gospel-centred community;
- Provide a loving, welcoming environment where the Christian faith is nurtured;
- Develop potential and celebrate the achievements of all.

Therefore, with the children we will:

- Teach them to love and respect self and others, by following in Jesus' footsteps;
- Enable them to feel happy, safe and valued;
- Help them to work to the best of their ability.

With staff we will:

- Enable them to grow in both personal and professional self-respect and self-confidence;
- Serve the Church through love and service of the children;
- Work together, encouraging one another and sharing good practice.

Our curriculum will:

- Teach the values of the Gospel;
- Be broad and balanced, interesting and stimulating;
- Have a spiritual and moral dimension interwoven within it;
- Provide opportunities for all to succeed
- Enable all to go into the modern world with skills and competences that will allow them to be accomplished and to thrive as followers of Jesus.

The Aims of Religious Education

Our aims are taken from Religious Education Curriculum Directory (3-19) for Catholic Schools and Colleges in England and Wales, 2012

We aim:

- To present engagingly a comprehensive content which is the basis of knowledge and understanding the Catholic faith;
- To enable pupils continually to deepen their religious and theological understanding and be able to communicate this effectively;
- To present an authentic vision of the Church's moral and social teaching so that pupils can make a critique of the underlying trends in contemporary culture and society;
- To raise pupils' awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities in order to respect and understand them;
- To develop the critical faculties of pupils so that they can relate their Catholic faith to daily life;
- 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;
- To bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture.

The Objectives of Curriculum RE

In January 2000, a National Symposium on 'Expectations of Religious Education in Catholic Schools' was hosted by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. The Bishops' issued a statement highlighting the following points.

The objective of religious education requires:

- analysis and reflection and critical appreciation of sources,
- marked progression through the different stages of education,
- the unequivocal support of the management of every Catholic school,
- 10% of the length of the taught week for each Key Stage of education,
- the encouragement of investigation and reflection,

- development of appropriate skills and attitudes which allows for a free, informed response to God's call in everyday life,
- the use of skills in other areas of the curriculum

Expectations of Classroom Religious Education

Classroom religious education in a Catholic school is primarily educational and we strive to achieve excellence in religious education by:

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

The Religious Education Programme

'Religious Education in schools is to be regarded as an academic discipline with the same systematic demands and the same rigour as other disciplines. It must present the Christian message and the Christian event with the same seriousness and the same depth with which other disciplines present their knowledge. However, it should not simply be regarded as one subject among many, but should be the key element in an inter-disciplinary dialogue.'

Religious Education Curriculum Directory

To fulfil our aims and objectives we use the 'Come and See' programme of Religious Education recommended by the Archdiocese of Liverpool, introduced in September 2012 and revised in 2017. This forms the basis of Religious Education within our school.

The aim of this programme is to explore the religious dimensions of questions about life within the Catholic tradition. Links are made with the pupils' own experiences and with universal experiences. Other world faith traditions are also explored and reflected upon.

For all children the programme will raise questions and provide material for reflecting on their own experiences. It will help them to explore the beliefs, values and way of life of the Catholic tradition, and where appropriate, of other faith traditions.

Central to the Come and See programme are three basic human questions and three Christian beliefs that are the Church's response in faith:

- Autumn: Where do I come from? LIFE - CREATION
- Spring: Who am I? DIGNITY - INCARNATION
- Summer: Why am I here? PURPOSE - REDEMPTION

The three doctrines of Creation, Incarnation and Redemption express faith in God as Trinity: Creator, Saviour, Spirit; and personal: Father, Son and Holy Spirit: The Holy One whose love gives life to all (Creation); who makes all holy (Incarnation) and whose purpose is to draw all men and women into one, universal family of God (Redemption).

THE SACRAMENTS AND THEIR PREPARATION

The sacraments are taught and revisited through the 'Come and See' programme each year of a child's school life. The Archdiocese of Liverpool guidance is that Sacramental Preparation takes place in Year 4. To help enable this, guidance materials are shared with Year 3 parents in the summer term, informing every one of the programme of Sacramental Preparation that takes place in the various parishes, beginning in the Autumn Term of the children's Year 4.

RELATIONSHIPS SEX EDUCATION

The governors at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Catholic Primary School have adopted the 'A Journey in Love' programme as recommended by Liverpool Archdiocese.

'A Journey in Love' is a Relationships and Sex Education developmental programme for children in primary schools. This programme highlights the many aspects of human relationships and focuses on the physical, social, emotional, intellectual and spiritual development of each individual. It is grounded in the belief that we are all made in the image and likeness of God and supports the Catholic teachings of our school. 'A Journey in Love' programme is organised through progressive and developmental tasks, activities and reflections. The programme focuses on the social, emotional, physical and spiritual development of the child through their primary years. Further information on the programme for each year group can be found in a parent guide on our website and in the RSHE policy.

Overview of content of the Come and See Programme

In 'Come and See' these big questions are considered in the light of the scripture and tradition of the Church, as expressed in the documents of the Second Vatican Council and the catechism of the Catholic Church which drew its strength and inspiration from that council.

Come and See is developed through three themes based on the Second Vatican Council, which are gradually explored each time at greater depths. They are Church, Sacrament and Christian living.

Community of Faith – Church Themes:

Autumn: Family – Domestic Church

Spring: Community – Local Church

Summer: World – Universal Church

Celebration in Ritual – Sacrament:

Autumn: Belonging – Baptism / Confirmation

Spring: Relating – Eucharist

Summer: Inter-Relating – Reconciliation.

Ways of Life – Christian Living Themes:

Autumn: Loving – Advent / Christmas

Spring: Giving – Lent / Easter

Summer: Service – Pentecost.

Church

The Church themes occur in each season time and each theme gradually builds on the understanding of the previous theme.

Autumn – My story ~ my family ~ **Domestic Church**. To start the year **Come and See** begins with my story: within a **family**. The Church honours the family with the title Domestic Church because it is there that parents ‘by their word and example are the first (teachers) heralds of faith with regard to their children.’

Spring – Our story ~ local Community ~ **Local Church**. After Christmas the children explore the theme of local Church which is our story. The **parish** is where people gather together to celebrate and practice care and love for each other. The **diocese** is the community of the Christian faithful.

Summer – The story ~ the worldwide community ~ **Universal Church**. The year finishes with the story of the **worldwide** community; the universal Church. In the Church, God is calling together his people throughout the world.’¹⁶ ‘The order and harmony of the created world result from the diversity of beings and from the relationships that exist among them’¹⁷

Sacrament

The Sacramental themes occur once in every season time and each theme gradually builds on the understanding of the previous theme.

Autumn – Belonging ~ born into Christ’s life. Following on from an understanding of belonging to a family the theme of **Baptism** introduces the understanding of being initiated into belonging to the Christian Church during key stage 1. ‘The faithful are born anew by Baptism, strengthened by the sacrament of Confirmation, and receive in the Eucharist the food of eternal life.’

At key stage 2 children will learn about the Sacrament of **Confirmation**, whereby the baptised are more perfectly bound to the church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit, the Sacrament of **Ordination** for the service of the Church and the Sacrament of **Marriage**, perfecting the human love of wife and husband.

Spring – Relating ~ God’s love in our lives ~ **Eucharist**. In the Spring time after learning about the local Church community, the Sacrament of the **Eucharist** is explored. This is the Sacrament of communion with Christ and the Church. This sacrament is at the heart of Come and See since it is at the heart of Christ nourishing his people.

Summer – inter-relating ~ service to the community ~ **Reconciliation**. The Sacrament of **Reconciliation** forms part of the work of the summer time when there an opportunity to learn about the joy and challenge of relationships and God’s love

and mercy celebrated in this sacrament. At key stage 2 children will learn about the Sacrament of the **Anointing of the Sick**, which strengthens, forgives and unites the ailing person more closely to Christ.

Christian living

The Christian living themes occur in each season time and each theme gradually builds on the understanding of the previous theme.

Autumn – celebrating life – **Advent Christmas**. The **Advent – Christmas** theme considers the gift of God's love in Jesus. Christmas and our preparation celebrate the wonderful gift of Jesus and offers the witness of loving as a way of life. 'The Word became flesh so that we might know God's love.'

Spring – giving – the cost of life –. In the Spring season Lent **and Easter** are explored, Jesus' love for humankind knows no limit. Jesus offered his life and gave an example of giving as a way of life. 'Easter is not simply one feast among others, but the feast of feasts.'

'The Resurrection ... remains at the very heart of the mystery of faith as something which transcends and surpasses history.'

Summer – serving in love – feasts to celebrate – Pentecost. The study of the Ascension and Pentecost completes the Easter story and shows how the gift of the Holy Spirit strengthens the community and enables Christians to give witness to a life of joyful service. 'In this age of the Church, Christ now lives and acts in and with his Church, in a new way appropriate to this new age.'

Each theme is explored through a different topic in each age group, see overview of topics throughout the year for each year group.

The themes of each season

AUTUMN

The three autumn time themes are developed in the light of an understanding of Creation:

- Family Domestic Church focuses on life as gift, myself as a unique and loved creation, the creative love and care that can be expressed in family groups.
- Belonging Baptism/Confirmation focuses on the call to belong, the creative potential that belonging develops; and Baptism and Confirmation, sacraments of the gift of God's life and friendship.
- Loving Advent/Christmas focuses on the capacity for entering into loving relationships and the perfect gift and revelation of God's love, Jesus, born of Mary, born as one of us.

SPRING

The three spring time themes are developed in the light of an understanding of Incarnation:

- Community Local Church focuses on the people of God gathered in Christ, united in the journey of faith, in care for one another, in sharing their story and in celebration.
- Relating Eucharist focuses on the invitation to know Jesus, to live in communion with him and with one another.
- Giving Lent/Easter focuses on Jesus' loving self-giving on the cross, the Father's love that raises him to new life and the challenge to Christians to follow Jesus' example of self-giving.

SUMMER

The three summer themes are developed in the light of an understanding of Redemption and the work of the Holy Spirit.

- Serving Pentecost focuses on the on-going mission of Jesus Christ in the Church through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Inter-Relating Reconciliation focuses on the love, compassion and forgiveness of God the Father revealed in Jesus and poured out by the Spirit to bring forgiveness and reconciliation in the sacrament of Reconciliation.
- World Universal Church focuses on the same love revealed in the diversity of the world and its people, and in the gifts of the Spirit that bear fruit in love, joy, justice and peace for all people.

OTHER FAITHS

In the autumn term and either the spring or summer terms (depending on which is longer), one week is given to the exploration of another faith. Children are taught to respect people of other faiths and to recognise that God is at work in them. They are introduced to the background and beliefs of people of other faiths so that prejudice and misunderstanding can be overcome at an early age. Come and See provides materials for each year group from Reception to Year 6. Each year children learn about Judaism and on a yearly rota basis the following other faiths are studied. Islam, Hinduism and Sikhism.

At each stage of the 'Come and See' programme there are:

- Clearly stated learning objectives
- Key vocabulary
- Driver words – which allow for pupils to work according to their different abilities.
- A selection of experiences and differentiated activities for each of the learning intentions
- Achievable learning outcomes

The process

'It is necessary, therefore, that Religious Education in schools be regarded as an academic discipline with the same systematic demands and the same rigour as other disciplines. It must present the Christian message and the Christian event with the same seriousness and the same depth with which other disciplines present their knowledge. However, it should not simply be regarded as one subject among many, but rather it should engage in interdisciplinary dialogue.

.....Religious Education in schools underpins, activates, develops and completes the educational and catechetical activity of the whole school.'

Religious Education Curriculum Directory 2012

The Catechism of the Catholic Church addresses the human **search** for meaning, God's initiative in Revelation who comes to meet us and our **response** of faith. This pattern guides the structure of the programme and informs the process of each topic, opened up through; **Explore, Reveal** and **Respond** over a 4-week block.

The Word who is life – this is our subject

Search- Explore

This is the introduction to the topic where the children's life experience is explored, the question(s) it raises are wondered at, shared, investigated and their significance reflected upon.

Revelation- Reveal:

This is the heart of the programme where knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith is revealed through the Word, in Scripture, Tradition, doctrine, prayers, rites and Christian living.

Response- Respond

This is where the learning is assimilated, celebrated and responded to in daily life.

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- Clearly stated learning objectives
- Key vocabulary
- Driver words – which allow for pupils to work according to their different abilities.
- A selection of experiences and differentiated activities for each of the learning intentions
- Achievable learning outcomes

EXPLORE Week 1

The teacher helps the children to begin to look at and focus on the experience within their own lives – concerning themselves, their relationships and their world. In this way the children are led to a deeper understanding, clearer vision and the discovery of significance and value of the experiential events of everyday life.

This will involve:

- Exploring experiences through story, music, drama, dance, art, etc.
- Investigation
- Story telling
- Consideration of the *big* questions

- Discussion
- Becoming aware of the questions raised
- Reflecting on significance of these experiences.

REVEAL Weeks 2 and 3

Reveal is the heart of the process. The teacher and the children together discover the Christian understanding of the mystery of the Trinity; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They explore the mystery of human life as revealed in the person, life and gospel of Jesus Christ Christians. It will involve learning about Scripture, the teaching of the Church, prayers, rites, psalms, hymns and other expressions of Christian faith and the lives of outstanding Christians.

The process of delivery will involve:

- meeting new knowledge of religious education;
- developing an understanding of this new knowledge;
- reflecting on the wonder of the mystery;
- gathering information and collecting facts connected with this knowledge;
- researching, collating and classifying;
- becoming aware of the questions raised;
- working with problems and grappling with puzzling experiences;
- exploring experiences through story, music, drama, dance, art;
- exploring what leads to understanding and meaning;
- asking questions and discussing;
- exploring in creative and practical ways through drama, writing, poetry, song, dance, music, ICT and service of others;
- making links between Christian understanding and the shared life experience;
- valuing life experience;
- acknowledging and respecting difference(s);
- being open to new perspectives.

RESPOND Week 4

Remember is the first part of this section. The children will respond by remembering and celebrating all that they have learnt. This new understanding will enable them to make a personal response in their daily lives. This part begins by reflecting on what the children wonder about. This is followed by providing the opportunity for the children to remember what they have understood and learnt.

This may be done through:

- creating a quiet, prayerful atmosphere for reflection
- looking at and thinking about the work done
- drawing attention to different aspects of this work
- sharing thoughts and feelings.

Rejoice is the second part of the section. There is the opportunity to plan and take part in a celebration. It will be **essential to involve the children** in the choice of material to be used in the celebration.

So we will:

Consider how the children will begin the celebration.

WORD – LISTEN

To some scripture read or enacted

RESPONSE

How will the children respond to all they have heard?

GOING FORTH

How will the children take away the message?

Renew the teacher helps each child to make an individual response, to hold on to and make their own, what they have understood of the topic. In this part the children will think about how they can apply their learning to their lives. Children can be offered the opportunity to write or draw their responses which is captured in the class learning journal. The class learning journal is a reflection of time spent exploring, understanding, introducing and learning about Scripture and or Church Tradition and linking faith to life. The class learning journal could contain for example...

- photographs of group Remembering sessions
- display work
- key topic vocabulary
- class Rejoice planner
- photographs of Rejoice worship and celebrations
- The Renew message used in class or for home?

The class learning journal will follow the class as it moves through the school.

The teacher will undertake an evaluation which will inform future teaching and learning and include assessment for learning.

Planning

The Bishops requirement of 10 percent of the curriculum teaching time is clearly indicated on class timetables. This time does not include time for collective worship and hymn practice. Teachers arrange their own timetable, which is checked by the senior management team.

Long-term planning

The themes and topics framework in Come and See sets out the programme for the year. Within all classes, teachers have regard for the attainment levels when developing activities for children of different age groups and abilities.

Medium-term planning

Medium-term planning is the responsibility of the R.E co-ordinator

The RE Co-ordinator: -

- Uses the overview in Come and See to note the basic question and Christian doctrine for the term;
- Uses the theme pages to note the content and the focus of each theme;

- links to the catechism of the Catholic Church and Religious Education Curriculum Directory 2012;
- Indicate the formal assessment for that term.
- key concepts, skills and attitude;
- Provides a planner for each term's work – the template is supplied by the archdiocese and the co-ordinator populates it making it relevant to Our Lady's School.

The Medium planner contains the following:

- Christian doctrine for the term;
- The three themes and topics through which these will be explored;
- Starting dates for each topic;
- Feast days and holy days;
- Special notes for planning;
- Global dimension;
- Other faith weeks.
- Collective Worship celebrations
- Links to other areas of the curriculum

Short-term planning

This is the responsibility of the class teacher. The teacher uses the planning template provided by the archdiocese. Within the plan teachers populate it with the standard /objective being covered, activities during the lesson and the appropriate differentiation for individuals or groups of children through the use of driver words.

Differentiation

As with all other areas of the curriculum the purpose of differentiation in religious education is:

- To enable children to succeed in the set task or activity and to challenge them to take the next step in learning;(through the use of driver words in planning, teaching and learning)
- To challenge children to be self-motivated and to take responsibility for their own learning;
- To enable children to recognise and celebrate their achievement;

Children learn in different ways, so as with other subjects, we provide a range of learning activities using a variety of media.

Assessment

Assessment in religious education is related to the concepts, skills and attitudes to be developed through learning about and learning from religion. Assessment establishes what children know, understand, and can do and how to get there. It offers support and motivation to the learner. It does not assess spirituality or the practice of faith. Assessment in 'Come and See' emphasises a wide range of achievement.

At Our Lady's school at the beginning of the Explore section teachers will start with the big question for the topic and ask children to record their ideas and thoughts in a mind map through writing or drawing, this then returned to during the Reveal week for children to add their new knowledge. This piece of work is put into the child's Come and See book and is an informal ongoing assessment of each topic.

In EYFS religious education makes an active contribution to the areas of learning outlined in the curriculum for the Foundation stage. The Foundation stage classes have RE Floor Books, where the children's progress is recorded and celebrated. Teaching takes the form of whole class activities, adult directed group work and continuous provision.

Informal Assessment also includes the following:

- Feedback oral or written using driver words to move children onto the next step
- Discussions with the class, group or individuals
- Mind maps pre and post topic
- Observations of pupil engagement during lessons

Formal Assessment:

Each term the Liverpool Archdiocese choose one of the termly topics to be the formally assessed topic. Each formal assessment will be covered by a differentiated activity as provided by the Archdiocesan Education Department. Each theme is assessed formally twice throughout EYFS, key stage 1 and 2 on a 3 year 3 cycle as set out by the archdiocese.

Once the class teachers have completed the assessment they use the standards indicator sheets for each year group provided by the Archdiocese of Liverpool to assess how the children have achieved in the tasks. The teacher will decide if the child is working towards the standard of their year group, at the expected standard or working at a greater depth. At the end of term each class teacher provides the RE co-ordinator with a grade using the schools tracking system. The grade is a combination of the formal assessment as well as the informal assessment over the term. All formal assessments are kept in the RE year group file.

Recording

At Our Lady's we record achievement in several ways:

- All children in Years 1-6 have a Come and See book where all their written work is recorded. Books are marked by the class teacher and commented upon as appropriate in accordance with our marking policy. These books are monitored by the co-ordinator and the head teacher.
- The Reception class has portfolios of work for each topic. Examples of recording in these books may be photographs of role play, group work, drawings or annotated work.
- Photographs are taken throughout topics and may be used on display or collated in individual class portfolios or shared via the school's twitter feed or website.

Reporting

At Our Lady's, reporting is completed in a variety of ways:

- Discussion with the children about their work. This is done by the class teacher and should provide positive comments on their achievement and progress.
- Termly assessment. Our assessment procedures should inform other teachers of the achievement of individual pupils.
- Annual report to parents. This allows for teachers to comment on the progress, strengths and achievements of the children.
- The RE co-ordinator submits an RE termly report to the head teacher and Governors.
- The RE co-ordinator informs the parents of the RE topics and content in a termly RE newsletter.

Evaluation of Teaching

At Our Lady's, teaching is reviewed and evaluated by the teacher at the end of each lesson and recorded on the short term planning sheet. RE is monitored by the Head Teacher and RE co-ordinator.

- The RE co-ordinator and /or Head Teacher observes RE lessons as part of the monitoring cycle. Individual written and verbal feedback is given to each teacher and generic feedback is given in staff meetings. An overall evaluation report is compiled identifying key areas of strength and development to further support the development of Religious Education Teaching.

- The RE co-ordinator also monitors short term planning, pupil books, reviews RE displays, interviews pupils and staff, all as part of the monitoring cycle.
- Teachers update their individual pupil progress during the formal assessment process and all teaching staff take part in reviewing and moderating samples of work.
- After the monitoring process the RE co-ordinator gives feedback to staff.

Evaluation of Learning

Children are encouraged to evaluate every lesson verbally in a plenary. This encourages children to recall points of interest and retain new information. During the Reveal part of the process, the teacher enables the children to recall and review the work done in the topic. The teacher helps the children to hold on to, and make their own, what they have understood of their own experience and of the experience of the Church community during the topic.

Children respond to next steps in their Come and See books through the use of key questions and use of Driver words.

Relationship of RE to the whole curriculum

Our curriculum map at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Primary School identifies the key concepts and skills that contribute to the development of the 'whole child'. The curriculum map makes links to our R.E programme 'Come & See', RSHE policy, PSHE, Science, Equality and Diversity. We have, through this curriculum map, identified how we uphold the statutory responsibility to support pupils' spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development and prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life, underpinned by the Gospel Values of the Catholic Church.

Our Mission Statement commits us to the education of the whole child (spiritual, physical, intellectual, moral, social, cultural, emotional). Furthermore, our school aims state that we will endeavour to raise pupils' self-esteem, help them to grow in knowledge and understanding, recognise the value of all persons and develop caring and sensitive attitudes. Within this document we aim to promote The Common Good, we are able to make real links between the values of our pupils and the lives of others in their community, country and the world in general. This has underpinned this curriculum mapping document that embeds and informs all aspects of learning of our R.E programme 'Come & See', RSHE policy, PSHE, Science, Equality and Diversity and many other cross curricular links.

Collective Worship

Our Lady's Catholic Primary School in its approach to Collective worship endeavours to take into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it.

The Act of Worship is in accordance with rites, practices and beliefs of the Catholic Church. It is the responsibility of the governors. Every child has the opportunity to participate in daily worship.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from worship if they so choose.

There will be daily acts of worship within each class, key stage or as a school.

Opportunities for Spiritual and Moral Development

Children will be given opportunities which will promote their spiritual and moral development not only through the RE curriculum and liturgical celebrations but in all aspects of school life.

We seek to promote a Catholic setting where loving Christian relationships are developed and that we develop all our children to their full potential. To achieve this, we aim to develop an atmosphere where positive relationships are valued and encouraged. We aim to ensure an experience of acceptance and tolerance within school situations and to nurture trust.

This is evident in policies such as Behaviour, Bullying, RSHE, PSHE and through assemblies.

We strongly believe that the Christian perception should permeate the entire curriculum and seek to recognise, affirm and celebrate the gifts and talents of all our children.

Links with Parents

All parents are given a welcome pack containing relevant information about our school when they join Our Lady's school.

Each term the RE coordinator produces a newsletter informing parents of the 'Come and See' topics for the term. We encourage parents to link home life with the topics pupils are covering. Each topic is explained and aims are outlined so that the parents have the opportunity to become part of the Religious Education in their children's lives. Each class has a class page on the website dedicated to the curriculum for their year group including termly leaflets which inform parents of forthcoming topics.

Parents and parishioners are invited to join with our children in all whole school assemblies, school masses, class collective worships and productions throughout the year. Parents are encouraged to attend Parent's and Open Evenings with their child's class teacher and discuss their child's progress across the curriculum.

Parents of children with S.E.N.D are invited into school in order to discuss their child's progress and support plans on other occasions. The school is assisting the parishes with the new sacramental programme, 'With You Always.' Parents of Year 3 (for Year 4 the following year) preparing to receive sacraments were invited to attend a presentation which was led by the parish catechists. This ensures they are fully aware and involved in their children's preparation.

Curriculum and class meetings are held to ensure parents are kept informed of their child's education and any new strategies that may be put into place – for example English or Mathematics initiatives.

Parents are kept informed of what is happening in school through newsletters, which are written by our Head Teacher and staff and are emailed to parents. Our school website is also regularly updated with news, policies and events. Individual classes post weekly pictures on our twitter feed so parents can see the range of activities the children are doing in class and around school.

We also invite parents to become involved in the education of their children in school through helping within the classroom, listening to readers, accompanying classes on trips or helping with costumes for productions.

Links with our parish

Our Lady's Catholic Primary School has close links with the Parish Community of Saint Wilfred's. Members of the Parish are invited to whole school Masses and celebrations. The Parish of St. Wilfrid newsletter is on our website. We have links with other members of our community such as the Knights choir who have joined the school for celebrations such as carol services.

Special Educational Needs

At Our Lady's we recognise that all of our children are special and unique, we aim to provide a broad and balanced curriculum catering for each child's spiritual, intellectual, aesthetic, physical and moral development.

We have a whole school approach to children with Special Educational Needs and we aim to provide a stimulating environment where pupil's interests are aroused and challenged and by providing extra stimulus and encouragement to those pupils with learning difficulties to allow them opportunities to enjoy success.

We aim also to recognise those pupils who need stimulation to challenge them to reach their full potential.

We recognise the vital need for partnership with parents and other agencies. These will include parents, the Archdiocese of Liverpool and Halton LA.

Equal Opportunities

- All children have the same access to RE activities regardless of their gender, race or cultural background.
- Each child is expected to listen to the views of other people, and respect that sometimes there will be differences of opinion.
- In the delivery of the syllabus the children are introduced to the views, beliefs and cultures of other faiths.

Cross – Phase Links

We work hard to ensure a smooth transition for our pupils from class to class and phase to phase. This enables pupils to become familiar with their new teacher and class. The pupils in year 6 visit their secondary School of their choice and staff from the secondary schools visit the children where possible. The children also have the opportunity to attend Secondary School and experience lessons for a day.

When children join our school in Reception they are welcomed by our year 6 in a special Welcome Assembly and receive a certificate and medal of Our Lady. In year 6 the children's leaving is specially celebrated at the end of the year with a Leavers Mass and assembly. We celebrate their achievements and wish them well for the future. They all receive a cross and certificate as a reminder of their journey over 7 years at Our Lady's.

Review

This handbook will be reviewed on an annual basis each September.

Appendix 1 Yearly Overview of Come and See Topics

Themes & Topics	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Domestic Church Family	Myself God knows and loves each one	Families God's love and care for every family.	Beginnings God at every beginning	Homes God's dream for every family	People The family of God in Scripture	Ourselves Created in the image & likeness of God	Loving God who never stops loving
Baptism/ Confirmation Belonging	Welcome Baptism; a welcome to God's family	Belonging Baptism an invitation to belong to God's family	Signs & symbols Signs & symbols in Baptism	Promises Promises made at Baptism	Called Confirmation: a call to witness	Life choices Marriage commitment and service	Vocation & Commitment The vocation of priesthood and religious life
Advent/ Christmas Loving	Birthday Looking forward to Jesus' birthday	Waiting Advent a time to look forward to Christmas	Preparations Advent; preparing to celebrate Christmas	Visitors Advent; preparing to celebrate Christmas	Gift God's gift of love & friendship in Jesus	Hope Advent; waiting in joyful hope for Jesus; the promised one	Expectations Jesus born to show God to the world
Local Church Community	Celebrating People celebrate in Church	Special people People in the parish community	Books The books used in Church	Journeys Christian family's journey with Jesus	Community Life in the local Christian community; ministries in the parish	Mission Continuing Jesus' mission in diocese	Sources The Bible, the special book for the Church
Eucharist Relating	Gathering The parish family gathers to celebrate the Eucharist	Meals Mass; Jesus' special meal	Thanksgiving Mass a special time for saying thank you to God for everything, especially Jesus	Listening & sharing Jesus gives himself to us in a special way	Giving & receiving Living in communion	Memorial sacrifice The Eucharist the living memorial of Jesus' sacrifice	Unity Eucharist enables people to live in communion
Lent/Easter Giving	Growing Looking forward to Easter	Change Lent a time for change	Opportunities Lent; an opportunity to start anew in order to celebrate Jesus' new life	Giving all Lents a time to remember Jesus' total giving	Self-discipline Celebrating growth to new life	Sacrifice Lent a time of aligning with the sacrifice already made by Jesus	Death & new life Celebrating Jesus' death & resurrection
Pentecost Serving	Good News Passing on the Good news of Jesus	Holiday & holidays Pentecost; feast of the Holy Spirit	Spread the word Pentecost a time to spread the Good News	Energy Gifts of the Holy Spirit	New life To hear & live the Easter message	Transformation Celebration of the Spirit's transforming power	Witnesses The Holy Spirit enables people to become witnesses
Reconciliation Inter-relating	Friends Friends of Jesus	Being sorry God helps us to choose well- Sacrament of Reconciliation	Rules Reasons for rules in the Christian family Sacrament of Reconciliation	Choices The importance of examination of conscience Sacrament of Reconciliation	Building bridges Admitting wrong, being reconciled with god and each other Sacrament of Reconciliation	Freedom & responsibility Commandments enable Christians to be free & responsible	Healing Sacrament of the Sick
Universal Church World	Our world God's wonderful world	Neighbours Neighbours share God's world	Treasures God's treasure; the world	Special places Holy places for Jesus & the Christian	God's people Different saints show people what God is like	Stewardship The Church is called to the stewardship of Creation	Common good Work of the worldwide Christian family

Appendix 2 – Driver Words used in Come and See

Standards - Driver words	
- learning about	- learning from
Recognise Labelling, Naming, Matching, Sorting	Talk about
Describe (Retell) Retelling, Sequencing, Discussing, Recalling, Identifying	Ask
Give reasons	Make links
Answering questions, Describing, Making links & connections, Investigating, Reflecting	
Show understanding	Engage and respond
Applying ideas, Comparing, Responding using examples, Interpreting	

