

Religious Education Policy



St. Anne's Catholic Primary School.
Chertsey

Person Responsible:	RE Co-ordinator/H/T/DHT
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Reviewed by:	Teaching staff, Head Teacher, Governors
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CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



DIVIDENDS FOR LIFE

St. Anne's Mission Statement.

With Christ at the centre of our lives, we live out our call to serve the young;

**"It is not enough to love children,
They must know that they are loved."**

As a Catholic School, we, in co-operation with parents, wish to provide a Christian learning environment:

- where Christ is at the heart of the Community
- where every member of the School Community is valued
- where consideration and co-operation are fostered and developed
- where difficulties are discussed, problems prayed about and solutions sought, success and failure shared
- where the presence of God in Sacrament and Word is regularly celebrated
- where we acknowledge and respect people of other faiths, religions and cultures both within and outside our school and aim to support and encourage them in their own individual where we recognise diversity of background and faith stance of both staff and pupils and aim to support and encourage each other on our faith journey

Thus our School will reflect the values of the Gospel within the tradition of the Roman Catholic faith. Children will be encouraged to develop a loving relationship with God which will result in appreciation, understanding, tolerance, respect and care for each other and all aspects of His Creation.

Working as a team, teaching and non-teaching staff, we aim to:

- implement the National Curriculum, ensuring the development of a curriculum that is broad, balanced, relevant and differentiated.
- provide a stimulating learning environment which will challenge, motivate and excite each child

- foster qualities of excellence, perseverance, self-discipline and independence
- recognise, develop and celebrate the unique talents of all individuals within our community.
- extend the intellectual and creative capabilities of each individual
- encourage responsibility with regard to resources, time, actions, choices and quality work

Dedicated and enthusiastic Members of Staff will help, praise and encourage the children in the process of Christian living and learning. Children will be helped to develop morally, socially and intellectually, according to their age, aptitude and ability, in a Christian atmosphere where love of God and of each other prevails.

Mutual respect will be fostered between:

- Staff
- Staff and Parents
- Staff and Children
- School and Governors
- School and Parish
- Children themselves, irrespective of gender, race, creed, colour, disability.

St. Anne's will foster an atmosphere of welcome and sincere respect - a friendly, caring, happy community in which each person will feel valued.

Thus children will be encouraged to become confident, mature individuals with an increased awareness and understanding of themselves and of their environment - an environment which will enable each to make positive choices and to adapt to an ever changing world.

Introduction

Religious Education at St. Anne's addresses all pupils in our classrooms whether they are from committed Catholic homes or not, whether they themselves practice or not, whether they are from other Christian denominations or other faith traditions.

The Mission Statement

Our Mission Statement is central to the life of the school. It is displayed in all rooms and the main hall.

All the children are encouraged to think of ways in which they can strive to live out the Mission Statement. These is shared, through examples in their daily lives, about how 'lived out' can be achieved.

The Importance of the Role of Parents in Religious Education

St. Anne's Catholic Primary School recognises the central role parents have in the religious education of their children. As the Statement of the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales on Religious Education in Catholic Schools '2000' states, "The first educators in the faith are parents. It is they, above all others, who establish in their children the first sensitivity and responsiveness to the presence of God, to the practice of prayer and to the patterns of life in the community of faith, the parish. By their example in the home and in the participation in the Mass and the other sacraments the foundations of a life-long faith and discipleship in their children are laid down."

The Aims of Religious Education at our School

Religious Education lies at the heart of the curriculum and school life.

We aim to ensure that Religious Education attends to the needs of every pupil who has been admitted to the school and that it will:

- Enable all members of the school community to understand and to live our mission statement: "it is not enough to love a child they must know that they are loved."
- Help pupils recognise and appreciate the religious and spiritual dimensions of life.

- Lead to a deeper knowledge and understanding of the Catholic and other religious traditions and the ways in which they seek to express the value and significance of human life.
- Allow space for searching and questioning.
- Challenge pupils to examine their own life stance, to deepen their personal faith commitment and to respect that of others.

Our Approach to Religious Education at St. Anne's Catholic Primary School

We aim to provide an environment where every child feels secure. We teach the children how to respect and value each other as individuals and how to care for one another so they help to foster a calm, happy and caring community.

We discuss our attitudes and behaviour and how they affect the well being of other members of our school community.

We aim to teach the children and each other, by example, in the daily life of the school.

We pray together, teaching both specific school prayers and how to pray (spontaneously and peacefully)

We gather together for assemblies (see assembly planner) and to celebrate the Liturgy on a number of occasions each term.

Through R.E., assemblies and liturgies we teach concepts, knowledge of the scriptures, the church and moral attitudes.

We follow the Religious Education Programme - 'Come and See'.

We encourage home, school and parish links.

We welcome the visits of the parish priest of St. Anne's Parish and clergy and their involvement in the life of the school.

We work collaboratively with the parish of The St. Anne's, Chertsey in preparations of the children in Year 3 for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

We promote the children's awareness of the local and wider communities by encouraging them to participate in charitable activities and fund raising.

We acknowledge that everyone is equal in the sight of God and we follow a policy of equal opportunities.

We promote the Catholic identity of the School through the Governor's Admission Policy.

The Religious Education Programme at the School

The basis of the religious education curriculum at the school is 'Come and See' (2012), a Religious Education Programme for Primary Schools. This programme follows the Diocesan Syllabus approved by the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales and adopted by the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton.

Using the Programme

The school spends 10% of the teaching week on Religious Education. Therefore in Key Stage One the children receive 2 hours and at Key Stage Two 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours. These timing do not include Collective Worship.

How does the Programme work?

In St. Anne's we are following the 'Come and See' programme which is developed through three themes based on documents from the Second Vatican Council. These themes are: Church, Sacrament and Christian Living.

The whole school explores each religious theme at the same time through different topics following a yearly teaching cycle. The following is the timetable of topics adopted.

The long term plan, seen below, can be found on the school website.

THEMES & TOPICS	EARLY YEARS 1 & 2	YEAR 1 & FS 1	YEAR 2 & FS 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: waiting for the coming of Jesus	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 family	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 [ecumenism]	Sources The Bible, the special book for the Church
Eucharist relating	Gathering The parish family gathers to celebrate 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 Lent 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	Holidays & holydays 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

Each topic in the 'Come and See' programme lasts for four weeks. The programme identifies these elements of the process of Religious Education:

- **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 (*one week*).
- **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 (*two weeks*).
- **Respond:** This is where the learning is assimilated, celebrated and responded to in everyday life (*one week*).

During their R.E. lessons the children learn about the Church Year, the important Feast Days and traditions of the Church. Each class helps to prepare and participate in a Mass at Church at least once a year.

Multifaith Programme

As part of the 'Come and See' R.E. programme (2012) all children will study for two/three weeks of the year other World Religions.

Year

Reception	Judaism	Islam
Year 1	Judaism	Islam
Year 2	Judaism	Islam
Year 3	Judaism	Islam
Year 4	Judaism	Islam
Year 5	Judaism	Islam
Year 6	Judaism	Islam

Teaching Methods Used in the Teaching of R.E. at the School

At St. Anne's Catholic Primary School the children have the opportunity to be taught in different ways:

- Whole class discussion and teaching.
- Group discussion and feedback.
- Differentiated activities according to abilities.
- Partner work.
- Individual research and study.

Teachers are encouraged to be as varied and as creative as possible in the methods they use in the teaching of R.E.

Differentiation/ Special Educational Needs and groups of pupils.

Pupils will be at different levels of maturity and will have different life experiences and very different attitudes and feelings. Lessons should be planned to allow children the opportunity to articulate their views with all contributions being valued and respected.

Assessments from the end of each term will be analyzed by the coordinator and staff will meet with the coordinator to review particular pupils or groups of pupils not making enough progress.

The coordinator will have data for all pupils and groups such as EAL, SEN and Pupil premium.

Marking of Work

Each class teacher is responsible for the marking of recorded work in R.E. books.

The marking is done in accordance with the school guidelines (see Marking Policy).

The marking of R.E. must be seen in the light of the children's response to the subject, to the learning objective given at the beginning of each element of the 'Come and See' theme, and their use and remembering of the key words given with each theme.

Assessment

We recognise that assessment, recording and reporting are a natural part of teaching and are integral to the learning process. They are continuous processes requiring a close partnership between teachers and pupils, and the involvement of others as appropriate. They are the responsibility of all teachers.

We believe that assessment is at the heart of good teaching and does not require highly complex procedures. We further believe that the unnecessary recording of assessments can stifle the creativity of the teacher and thereby hamper the learning process.

We therefore acknowledge that our approach to the assessment, recording and reporting of religious education will be broad in character and will recognise the innate dignity and worth of each individual. We will follow the guidelines offered by the Diocese. Once a term, teachers are expected to assess the whole class but choose one child (Autumn Term - Less Able child, Spring Term - Core child, Summer Term - More Able child) to assess in greater detail. The teacher will look at the children's work in their RE book for the topic. They will then use the 'level of attainment sheet' from the Diocese and the 'Level Indicators' which are at the beginning of each topic in the 'Come and See book'

to attain a level for that child. Once the teacher has obtained a level for that child, they will then fill out the 'Assessment Proforma Sheet' to evidence why they have achieved the level and why they did not achieve the next level up.

The teachers complete an assessment of the children's attainment one topic per term using the 'Come and See' framework. This makes reference to the National Levels of Attainment in Religious Education.

These levels of attainment are recorded on the school's assessment recording system for the core subjects.

Homework

Children are set R.E. homework where appropriate. This can be related to classroom R.E., involve research, or the learning or writing of prayers. Once a term a letter is sent home to parents which outlines the three themes of the term. It also suggests activities that parents can complete with their children.

Display

All classrooms have an R.E. display relating to the current 'Come and See' topic.

All classrooms have a prayer area.

Teachers are encouraged to emphasise and draw attention to the prayer corner with the highest possible standard of display and presentation. The children are encouraged to face or gather around this area during prayer.

We aim to ensure that there is a good balance of RE displays around the school.

Teachers will be given regular updates from the coordinator regarding good practice for these areas.

Each class has a collective worship box which contains a range of items that may be used during these times.

Reporting

There are parent evenings in the Autumn and Spring Term, when parents have the opportunity to talk to the class teachers around their child's progress and to discuss ways in which the home and school are able to support each other. A written report is sent home during the Summer Term.

Monitoring

The Headteacher / Co-ordinator monitor a sample of the children's R.E. books throughout the year. All staff will take part in book scrutinies.

Work sampling is also undertaken on a termly basis by the co-ordinator and the team.

Individual feedback is also given if appropriate.

R.E. teaching is monitored once a year and written feedback is given to staff.

Spiritual and Moral Development

St. Anne's Catholic Primary School seeks to create the atmosphere needed to fulfil our Mission Statement. We try to emphasise the qualities of self-discipline, self-control, perseverance, determination, a sense of fair play and thoughtfulness for others in school, at home and in the wider community.

(See Behaviour Policy, Equal Opportunities Policy and EPR Policy).

SMSC-

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural aspects will be delivered throughout all aspects of life at St. Anne's. In particular, it will be addressed more formally as part of assemblies. SMSC displays will be visible around the school. (See Hall)

Creating a Secure, Stable and Happy Environment

We believe that the way in which we welcome children into our school enables the foundation of a happy and secure community.

Prior to starting in the Reception Class, we invite the children to spend a morning in school with their class teachers.

We stagger our admission days and times to allow the children to become socially integrated and to get to know their teachers.

Children joining other classes are taken on a tour of the school and if possible given the opportunity to spend time in their classes before admission.

We take care to establish a calm, stable, working atmosphere in the school and to establish a routine, as we believe all children thrive if they are confident in the knowledge of what is consistently expected of them.

We view each child as an individual and value each child's contribution to the life of the school. We acknowledge that children learn by example. We consider it essential that each child realises that all staff care for his/her well being and show respect. It is also important that children see adults working alongside each other and co-operating with each other.

We stress the importance of consideration for others and illustrate how behaviour affects other members of the school community. Politeness and good manners are considered essential and are positively encouraged. Good behaviour is praised and used to illustrate the positive benefit it brings to the school community. Misbehaviour is corrected and care is taken to show how it brings unhappiness to others. Each case is handled sensitively and children are encouraged to learn from their mistakes. A readiness to apologise and to forgive is strongly promoted.

To foster continuity and stability, we foster links with our feeder secondary schools with the Year 6 teacher meeting with teachers from the secondary schools and the pupil's visiting their new schools before admission.

Prayer

At St. Anne's Catholic Primary School, we aim to help children value and respect the power of prayer and to use it to help strengthen the children's relationships with God.

We seek to be a praying community. It is important for the children to know 'formal' prayers of the church which we may all prayer (pray) together and which we all hear and say with the parish/family communities outside school.

We all pray collectively at school in the morning (in class or at assembly) before lunch, after lunch and at the end of the school day.

Prayer does not only mean 'formal' prayers. We do hope to help each other to listen to God speaking to us and to respond in our hearts and minds during moments of silence. We also encourage prayer writing by the children themselves.

Each class has a prayer area which provides a focus for prayer in the classroom. Opportunities for Prayer arise from 'Come and See'.

At school the children are taught to know by heart the following prayers:

The Sign of the Cross

The Lord's Prayer

The Hail Mary

The Glory be to the Father

The Morning Offering

The Night Prayer

Grace before / After Meals

During Key Stage 2 children become familiar with and are encouraged to learn:

The Prayer for the Dead

The Prayer of the Rosary

The Act of Contrition/Sorrow

The Responses to the Mass

The Guardian Angel Prayer

The Apostles Creed

As a school/family community we pray together during the months of October and May saying the Rosary before school commences

Assembly and Collective Worship

At St. Anne's Catholic Primary School the daily Collective Act of Worship is an essential element of our School Life.

We value the opportunity to gather so we can pray together, sing together, share sadness together and celebrate good news together.

Children attend separate Key Stage Assemblies led by the Head Teacher/Deputy Head. For Key Stage 1 this is on a Tuesday and Friday. Year 5 and 6 have assemblies on a Wednesday and Friday. Years 3 and 4 have assemblies on Tuesdays. Individual classes in Key Stage 2 take turns to prepare an Assembly that usually takes the form of a play or a celebration of words and songs which can be written by the children. We feel it is important that each child in school has the opportunity to take part. The daily Collective Worship takes place in the classrooms when children are not attending an assembly.

Celebration Assemblies take place on a Friday. Birthday cards are presented to children and reward certificates are issued as appropriate for good work, effort and kindness.

Our assemblies are related to a particular feast day or season in the liturgical year, or are linked with the 'Come and See' themes. Readings from the Bible and stories form an integral part of the assemblies. They are related to the children's daily lives and practical applications are stressed, encouraging the children to put what they hear in the Gospels into action.

Liturgy

At St. Anne's Catholic Primary School we believe that celebrating the Mass is important to the spiritual life of the whole school community. We try to make each celebration of the Mass a community celebration which involves the children, teachers, support staff, governors, parents and parishioners.

Timetable of Masses-

September - Start of a new year. Years 2-6 attend.

January- St. Don Bosco. Years 2-6 attend.

July- End of school year. Whole school mass- held outside.

The children are asked to lead and play a role in each mass as much as possible. In particular:

Readings, singing (choir) Offertory, Music, Liturgical dance, drama, altar Servers.

At the start of the academic year the Head Teacher and RE co-ordinator meet with the Parish Priest to plan the timetable of Masses for the forthcoming academic year.

Sacramental Programme

Children in Year 3 are invited to join the Parish of St. Anne's programme in preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. The school is involved with the programme.

3 members of staff are involved in this preparation outside of school.

In Advent and Lent the local priest visits to minister the Sacrament of reconciliation for KS2.

Staffing

The R.E. Co-ordinator will be responsible for the planning and delivery of the policy and the 'Come and See' programme of work.

All class teachers will be responsible for teaching the 'Come and See' programme of work to the children in their care. Where the teacher is non-Catholic, he/she may share the teaching of R.E. with the Pastoral Care Co-ordinator.

The R.E. and EPR Co-ordinator will offer help and training to staff in the delivery of the 'Come and See' programme and the teaching of sensitive issues as necessary. All staff will ensure that the same language and approach is used in teaching the programme in order to avoid giving any conflicting hidden messages to pupils.

Each term, staff meeting time or twilight sessions will be devoted to in-service training on the Catholic doctrine of the 'Come and See' scheme of work or have a link to religious Education. This will be delivered by the Religion coordinator.

Links with the Home

To provide the best Catholic education we believe that it is essential to establish and maintain links with the parents.

1. Home-School Agreement

On accepting a place at the school parents and carers are requested to sign a Home School Agreement document which acknowledges the catholic identity of the school and outlines the commitment expected of the parents and children as the basis for a good working relationship between home and school.

2. Welcoming Prospective and New Parents

We provide relevant information about the school in the school prospectus which is available to prospective parents.

We show parents around the school, before applications are made, if this is requested.

We organise an evening for parents before admission to the Reception Class, to give the parents the opportunity to meet each other, the Head Teacher, the Class Teachers and representatives of the Governing Body and to find out all they need to know about the school.

3. Regular Information about the Child and his/her Progress and Welfare

The Head Teacher and teaching staff are always very willing to talk to the parents about the education and welfare of their child.

The Head Teacher is always available before or after school to see parents if they have any questions, suggestions or concerns.

Parent Evenings are held in the Autumn and Spring Term, when parents are invited to discuss their child's progress with the class teacher. Written reports are sent home every summer term.

4. Parents Supporting the Work of the Teacher at Home

The School Prospectus contains guidelines on how parents and carers can support their child's learning at home.

There is a home-school reading scheme and a homework policy.

Information about forthcoming topics to be covered in each subject is provided in a termly letter.

5. Providing Information about the School and What is Happening

The monthly Newsletter conveys a wide range of information about the work of the school. Separate letters are also sent home about events.

Collective Worship

6. Each parent is invited to join classes for a celebration of the work that has been done during a topic. These are known as rejoice for KS1 and Prayer Services in KS2.

7. Rosary in October and May

Parents are invited to join us at the front of school during these months to pray the Rosary together.

Links with the Wider Community

We welcome the visits of the Parish Priest of the St. Anne's and other members of the Clergy. We value the clergy's contribution to the Catholic life of our school.

We encourage the children to participate in fund raising for the benefit of the Local and Wider Community.

Induction of New Colleagues

All new members of the staff must read very carefully the R.E. Policy and the R.E. Handbook. They are encouraged to ask the R.E. Co-ordinator for any help in any matter relating to R.E.

Resources

Resources are updated on an annual basis from an allocated budget. Resources are stored in the Resources Room outside the Head Teachers office.