

**St. Peter's Catholic Primary School**  
**Whole School RE Policy**



Policy	Religious Education
Date	September 2018
Date of review	May 2020
Signed Chair of Governors	<i>George Lopez</i>
Signed Headteacher	<i>Clare Scott</i>

***We, the family of St Peter's, united in faith by God strive to learn and grow together to be the best we possibly can every day.***

## **The primary purpose of Catholic Religious Education**

The primary purpose of Religious Education is to come to know and understand God's revelation which is fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. The Catholic school is 'a clear educational project of which Christ is the foundation.' In the person of Christ, the deepest meaning of what it is to be human — that we are created by God and through the Holy Spirit united with Christ in his Incarnation — is discovered. This revelation is known through the scriptures and the tradition of the Church as taught by the Magisterium. Religious Education helps the pupil to know and experience the meaning of this revelation in his or her own life and the life of the community which is the Church. Hence 'the promotion of the human person is the goal of the Catholic school.'

*BRES-Feb 2015*

## **Religious Education is central to the curriculum of St Peter's**

St Peter's Catholic Primary School acknowledges that Religious Education is a lifelong process and recognise that the primary years are significant in the lasting impression they make upon our children.

Religious Education in our school is concerned with children understanding mankind's search for meaning, value and purpose in life. The religions of the world are classic expressions of this search and, for many people, provide the context within which the experience is to be understood. Through his or her understanding of this search, the child is helped towards a deeper awareness of their identity enabling him/her to grow and develop freely in a world of divergent beliefs and values.

Education is concerned with the development of understanding. Religious Education is concerned with the development of the understanding of religion as a significant area of human experience.

"Understanding" is used in a wide sense, being concerned with feeling and empathetic insight as well as an intellectual grasp of certain information. The child is not simply learning about religion, they are learning from it.

## **The aims of Religious Education**

- To present engagingly a comprehensive content which is the basis of knowledge and understanding of 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 outcome of Religious Education**

The outcome of Religious Education at St Peter's Catholic Primary school is religiously literate and 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 are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.

*“The task of handing on the faith to future generations is both the privilege and responsibility of the local Church. Its primary purpose is to bring young people to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.”* **Cardinal Basil Hume**

## **The Religious Educator**

The Church recognises the fundamental contribution of those charged with the planning and delivery of Religious Education. In what may be called the 'hidden curriculum', the witness, integrity and sincerity of the teacher or staff member will influence the communication of Christian faith, especially as knowledge to be believed and lived.

***As you know, the task of a teacher is not simply to impart information or to provide training in skills intended to deliver some economic benefit to society; education is not and must never be considered as purely utilitarian. It is about forming the human person, equipping him or her to live life to the full – in short it is about imparting wisdom. And true wisdom is inseparable from knowledge of the Creator, for 'both we and our words are in his hand, as are all understanding and skill in crafts' (Wis7:16) .Benedict XVI***

## **Those responsible for Religious Education in St Peter's should:**

- be prepared to give living witness to what they teach;
- recognise that they share in the teaching office of the Church exercised in the person of the local bishop and enshrined in the trust deed of the school;
- fulfil their professional responsibilities with regard to all that develops and enhances the life of the Catholic school;
- plan and teach schemes of work that are engaging and accessible so that all pupils may progress appropriately in their knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith;
- have high expectations of all their pupils;
- ensure that 10% of the curriculum is devoted to Religious Education;
- ensure that Religious Education contributes positively to the broad and balanced curriculum of a Catholic school through cooperation and dialogue with other subjects;

- take care continually to deepen their own knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith;
- take seriously the duty of every Catholic to form his or her conscience;
- be given opportunities for their own spiritual and professional development as Catholic educators.

### **Governors**

Governors are responsible for the R.E. Curriculum: This is managed by the Headteacher on a day to day basis.

### **The role of RE Co-ordinator**

The RE co-ordinator is a practising Catholic.

### **Our Religious Education Programme**

As recommended by the Bishop's Conference, the RE Curriculum Time allocation per week is 10%: Nursery-1h, Reception and KS1-2h15, KS2-2h30. This does not include Collective Worship. The allocation of teaching time to Other Faiths-Islam and Judaism is 5 hours (2 weeks' R.E. time).

### **Process for delivery of R.E.**

To fulfil our aims, we use the '*Come and See*' programme of Religious Education as recommended by the Brentwood Diocese. (See Appendix ii) Religious Education is taught through the process of *Explore, Reveal, Respond*. This takes account of "what to believe entails": the human **search** for meaning, God's initiative in **Revelation** and the individual's **response** in faith.

### **Teaching and Learning**

Teaching and learning strategies from across the RE curriculum are adapted appropriately to inspire the learning needs of pupils.

### **Marking**

Work should be marked in accordance with the school marking policy (See *school marking policy*). Work should be marked in relation to the learning intentions. Key words must be corrected. Comments should encourage children to reflect, analyse and should be interactive.

### **Inclusion**

All pupils have the right to have access to a differentiated Religious Education.

## **Assessment**

Assessment of standards is carried out according to Diocesan guidelines using the criteria set out in Levels of Attainment in RE agreed by Bishops' Conference.

In each topic a minimum of four pieces of work should be recorded, this can include the pupil topic evaluation. At the end of each topic the teacher completes a class assessment sheet. Progress in RE is reported to parents at consultation evenings and in the pupil's annual report.

## **Assemblies and Celebrations**

The daily act of worship takes place in many different forms throughout the week (see *Collective Worship Policy*).

### **1.ASSEMBLIES:**

Day		Year Groups	Lead	Location
Monday	Whole School or Class Assembly	All	Headteacher or Class Teacher	Infant Hall
Tuesday	Phase Assembly	Y1, 2 & 3 Y4, 5 & 6	Teachers Teachers	Infant Hall Junior hall
Wednesday	Chaplain led collective worship	KS1 KS2	Mrs Barnes & the chaplains	In Class
Thursday	Hymn Practice	All	Headteacher or SLT	Infant Hall
Friday	Celebration Assembly	All	Headteacher or SLT	Infant Hall

Infant and Junior Assemblies and Hymn Practices are led predominantly by the Headteacher each week.

While the majority of acts of worship in the school are Christian, we hold assemblies that reflect moral values and which reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and in the wider community.

### **2. The Celebration of the Eucharist**

The celebration of the Eucharist is central to our lives as Christians, and so plays an important part of worship at St Peter's. On Holy Days of Obligation and the feast of St. Peter and St Paul, Mass is celebrated by the whole school in St. Peter's Church. During the year, Reception and KS1 have an act of worship led by the parish priest. KS2 pupils have a class Mass in the chapel of St Peter's Parish Church. Preparation for the sacrament of the Eucharist is led by the Parish.

### **3. The Celebration of Reconciliation**

Reconciliation at St. Peter's Primary School is explored each year during the spring term in the 'Come and See' topics:

Services of Reconciliation (Y3-6) are led by the parish priest during Advent and Lent.

#### **RE In-service**

Catholic Teachers Certificate (CCRS): All Teachers are encouraged to secure this qualification in R.E. It is expected that the R.E. Co-ordinator and all aspiring to Senior Leadership at St Peter's will obtain this.

Annual in-service for all staff: It is recommended that one day's in-set is allocated to the Catholicity of this school.

#### **PRAYER**

Apart from the daily act of worship and hymn practices, there are periods of prayer at lunchtime and at the beginning and end of each day. (See the school prayer booklet for requirements for each year group.)

**All prayers begin and end with the sign of the cross.**

Each class should have an area of their room as a prayer focus.

Spontaneous prayer, talking to God in their own words, is also encouraged in class celebrations, reflection and prayer time, both aloud and in silence.

#### **Environment and Display**

From the moment you enter St Peter's, the school environment reflects that we are a Catholic school. Each classroom has a prayer area with a special class candle in a prominent place of the classroom and a display dedicated to current learning in Religious Education. As you move around the school, there are a number of displays showing the children's religious work, statues of saints and prayers.

#### **Resources**

Each class has an altar table with fabrics suitable for all seasons of the liturgical year.

RE resources are stored in The RE cupboard and Prayer Room.

Each class has 'Come and See' planning resources and access to the bank of interactive resources.

Posters

Class Candle with their class photo

CAFOD materials

Bibles and bible storybooks

Jewish and Islamic ritual objects, books and videos

Collection of RE reference books on a variety of topics

### **Prayer focus in classroom**

Each class has an area for prayer focus, which should be in an area where all children can see it when they pray. The theme of the prayer focus should relate to the season of the liturgical year.

The holy area should feature a cloth reflecting the liturgical year or a feast day and some ritual objects. Drapes for the holy areas in each class reflecting the liturgical year are kept in each class.

**Colours:** purple for penance, red for Holy Spirit and martyrdom, white, gold for important feasts, green for the ordinary times of the year, blue is associated with Mary.

#### **Other special focus times**

Some months of the year have special foci.

**October** is the month of the Rosary – blue

**November** is the month when the Holy Souls (the deceased) are prayed for especially,

**May** is the month when Mary is especially remembered – blue

**June** is the month of the Sacred Heart when we remember especially the great love Jesus has for us.

Ritual objects may include pictures, icons, stones, bibles, flowers, bark, holy water, rosary, seashells or candles.

Cloths and ritual objects are stored in each classroom in the R.E. chest and are the responsibility of the class teacher.

### **RE websites**

See Appendix ii

***Let us all remember this: one cannot proclaim the Gospel of Jesus without the tangible witness of one's life.***

*Pope Francis*

Appendix i

**Come and See**

**Overview of the Year 2018-2019**

A week on Judaism and a week on Hinduism have been included in the Autumn term.

Autumn	<p><b>Domestic Church</b></p> <p><b>Early Years - MYSELF</b> - God knows and loves each one</p> <p><b>Year 1 - FAMILIES</b> - God's love and care for every family</p> <p><b>Year 2 - BEGINNINGS</b> - God is present in every beginning</p> <p><b>Year 3 - HOMES</b> - God's vision for every family</p> <p><b>Year 4 - PEOPLE</b> - The family of God in Scripture</p> <p><b>Year 5 - OURSELVES</b> - Created in the image and likeness of God</p> <p><b>Year 6 - LOVING</b> - God who never stops loving</p>	<p><b>Judaism</b></p> <p><b>Early Years</b> - Hannukkah</p> <p><b>Year 1</b> - Abraham and Moses</p> <p><b>Year 2</b> - Shabbat</p> <p><b>Year 3</b> - Synagogue</p> <p><b>Year 4</b> - Torah</p> <p><b>Year 5</b> - Passover</p> <p><b>Year 6</b> - Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur <i>(2/3 pieces of evidence)</i></p>	<p><b>Baptism/Confirmation</b></p> <p><b>Early Years - WELCOME</b> - Baptism: a welcome to God's family</p> <p><b>Year 1 - BELONGING</b> - Baptism: an invitation to belong to God's family</p> <p><b>Year 2 - SIGNS AND SYMBOLS</b> - Signs and symbols in Baptism</p> <p><b>Year 3 - PROMISES</b> - Promises made at Baptism</p> <p><b>Year 4 - CALLED</b> - Confirmation: a call to witness</p> <p><b>Year 5 - LIFE CHOICES</b> - Marriage, commitment and service</p> <p><b>Year 6 - VOCATION AND COMMITMENT</b> - The vocation of priesthood and religious life</p>	<p><b>Advent/Christmas</b></p> <p><b>Early Years - BIRTHDAY</b> - Looking forward to Jesus' birthday</p> <p><b>Year 1 - WAITING</b> - Advent: a time to look forward to Christmas</p> <p><b>Year 2 - PREPARATIONS</b> - Advent: preparing to celebrate Christmas</p> <p><b>Year 3 - VISITORS</b> - waiting for the coming of Jesus</p> <p><b>Year 4 - GIFT</b> - God's gift of love and friendship in Jesus</p> <p><b>Year 5 - HOPE</b> - Advent: waiting in the joyful hope for Jesus, the promised one</p> <p><b>Year 6 - EXPECTATIONS</b> - Jesus born to show God to the world</p>
Spring	<p><b>Local Church</b></p> <p><b>Early Years - CELEBRATING</b> - People celebrate in Church</p> <p><b>Year 1 - SPECIAL PEOPLE</b> - People in the parish family</p> <p><b>Year 2 - BOOKS</b> - The books used in Church</p> <p><b>Year 3 - JOURNEYS</b> - Christian family's journey with Christ</p> <p><b>Year 4 - COMMUNITY</b> - Life</p>	<p><b>Celebrating Interfaith Week with a focus on Hinduism</b></p>	<p><b>Eucharist</b></p> <p><b>Early Years - GATHERING</b> - Parish family gathers to celebrate Eucharist</p> <p><b>Year 1 - MEALS</b> - Mass, Jesus' special meal</p> <p><b>Year 2 - THANKSGIVING</b> - Mass, a special time to thank God</p> <p><b>Year 3 - LISTENING &amp; SHARING</b> - Jesus gives himself to us</p>	<p><b>Lent/Easter</b></p> <p><b>Early Year - GROWING</b> - Looking forward to Easter</p> <p><b>Year 1 - CHANGE</b> - Lent: a time for change</p> <p><b>Year 2 - OPPORTUNITIES</b> - Lent: an opportunity to</p>

	<p>in the local Christian community and ministries in the parish</p> <p><b>Year 5 - MISSION -</b> Continuing Jesus' mission in diocese (ecumenism)</p> <p><b>Year 6 - SOURCES -</b> The Bible, the special book for the Church</p>		<p><b>Year 4 - GIVING &amp; RECEIVING -</b> Living in communion</p> <p><b>Year 5 - MEMORIAL SACRIFICE -</b> Eucharist as the living memorial of Christ's sacrifice</p> <p><b>Year 6 - UNITY -</b> Eucharist enabling people to live in communion</p>	<p>start anew</p> <p><b>Year 3 - GIVING ALL -</b> Lent: remembering Jesus' total giving</p> <p><b>Year 4 - SELF DISCIPLINE -</b> Celebrating growth to new life</p> <p><b>Year 5 - SACRIFICE -</b> Lent: a time of aligning with the sacrifice made by Jesus</p> <p><b>Year 6 - DEATH &amp; NEW LIFE -</b> Celebrating Jesus' death and resurrection</p>
Summer	<p><b>Pentecost</b></p> <p><b>Early Years - GOOD NEWS -</b> Passing on the Good News of Jesus</p> <p><b>Year 1 - HOLIDAYS AND HOLYDAYS -</b> Pentecost: feast of the Holy Spirit</p> <p><b>Year 2 - SPREAD THE WORD -</b> Pentecost: a time to spread the Good News</p> <p><b>Year 3 - ENERGY -</b> Gifts of the Holy Spirit</p> <p><b>Year 4 - NEW LIFE -</b> To hear and live the Easter message</p> <p><b>Year 5 - TRANSFORMATION -</b> Celebration of the Spirit's transforming power</p> <p><b>Year 6 - WITNESSES -</b> The Holy Spirit enables people to become witnesses</p>		<p><b>Reconciliation/Anointing of the sick</b></p> <p><b>Early Years - FRIENDS -</b> Friends of Jesus</p> <p><b>Year 1 - BEING SORRY -</b> God helps us choose well</p> <p><b>Year 2 - RULES -</b> Reasons for rules in the Christian family</p> <p><b>Year 3 - CHOICES -</b> Importance of examination of conscience</p> <p><b>Year 4 - BUILDING BRIDGES -</b> Admitting wrong, being reconciled with God and each other</p> <p><b>Year 5 - FREEDOM &amp; RESPONSIBILITY</b> Commandments enable Christians to be free &amp; responsible</p> <p><b>Year 6 - HEALING -</b> Sacrament of the Sick</p>	<p><b>Universal Church</b></p> <p><b>Early Years - OUR WORLD -</b> God's wonderful world</p> <p><b>Year 1 - NEIGHBOURS -</b> Neighbours share God's world</p> <p><b>Year 2 - TREASURES -</b> God's treasure; the world</p> <p><b>Year 3 - SPECIAL PLACES -</b> Holy places for Jesus and the Christian community</p> <p><b>Year 4 - GOD'S PEOPLE -</b> Different saints show people what God is like</p> <p><b>Year 5 - STEWARDSHIP -</b> The Church is called to the stewardship of Creation</p> <p><b>Year 6 - COMMON GOOD -</b> Work of the worldwide Christian family</p>



## Appendix ii

### **RE Websites**

#### Worship:

[www.-leed-dicoese.org.uk](http://www.leed-dicoese.org.uk) (go into R.E. then primary noticeboard)

[www.culham.ac.uk](http://www.culham.ac.uk) The site of the Culham Institute

[www.schoolassemblies.btinternet.co.uk](http://www.schoolassemblies.btinternet.co.uk)

[www.assemblies.org.uk](http://www.assemblies.org.uk) (excellent)

[www.catholic-forum.com](http://www.catholic-forum.com)

This site has links to all things Catholic (mainly in the U.S. – schools, colleges, discussion groups.

[www.christusrex.org](http://www.christusrex.org)

[www.jesuit.ie/prayer](http://www.jesuit.ie/prayer)

[www.tasc.ac.uk/cc/](http://www.tasc.ac.uk/cc/)

This is the official site of the RC Church of England and has some useful links with other sites across the country.

[www.theresite.org.uk](http://www.theresite.org.uk)

This is the site of the national RE Council's own directory of RE related organisations

Online-d@[www.online-direction.com](http://www.online-direction.com) for spiritual direction online

#### Teaching:

Come and See [www.comeandseere.co.uk](http://www.comeandseere.co.uk)

Dottie and Buzz [www.dottieandbuzz.co.uk](http://www.dottieandbuzz.co.uk)

RE-Quest [www.request.org.uk](http://www.request.org.uk)

RE ONLINE [www.reonline.org.uk](http://www.reonline.org.uk)

The Professional Council for Religious Education

[www.refit.ucsm.ac.uk](http://www.refit.ucsm.ac.uk)

The Religious Education Exchange

[www.re-xs.ucsm.ac.uk/schools](http://www.re-xs.ucsm.ac.uk/schools)

The Religious Education Site

[www.theresite.org.uk](http://www.theresite.org.uk)

[www.cesew.org.uk](http://www.cesew.org.uk)

Religious Education at the Virtual Teachers' Centre

[www.vtc.ngfk.gov.uk/resource/cits/re/](http://www.vtc.ngfk.gov.uk/resource/cits/re/)

Teaching Resources and Materials

[www.re-xs.ucsm.ac.uk/schools/cupboard/](http://www.re-xs.ucsm.ac.uk/schools/cupboard/)

The Bible Gateway

[www.gospelcom.net/bible](http://www.gospelcom.net/bible)

The Sikhism Home Page

[www.oneworld.org.uk](http://www.oneworld.org.uk)

Welcome to Virtual Jerusalem

[www.virtual.co.il](http://www.virtual.co.il)

The Hindu Universe

[www.hindunet.org./home.shtml](http://www.hindunet.org./home.shtml)

#### Other

[www.marketing@paulinebooks-org.uk](mailto:www.marketing@paulinebooks-org.uk)

[www.info@mccrimmons.com](mailto:www.info@mccrimmons.com)

[www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)

[www.stpauls.org.uk](http://www.stpauls.org.uk)

[www.westminstercathedralshop.co.uk](http://www.westminstercathedralshop.co.uk)