



Religious Education & Collective Worship Policy

School Values

Live like Jesus
One family, learning together
Valuing everyone
Each and every day.

Policy compiled by Edel Rose (RE Leader) February 2020

Policy Statement

In a Roman Catholic School, Religious Education is to be according to the rites and practices of the Catholic Church. The expectations regarding Religious Education were set out by the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales in the 'Religious Education Curriculum Directory' (2012). This policy takes account of the requirements and expectations as set out in the Directory.

'The primary purpose of Catholic Religious Education is to come to know and understand God's revelation which is fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ.' *Religious Education Curriculum Directory 2012*

Religious growth and development, which must be the aim of Religious Education, is not confined to RE lessons; it should be a basic aim of the whole school experience that the total curriculum stimulates religious growth and development, together with academic and social progress.

The Religious Education Aims of the School

1. To foster in our children a reverence for God and the things which are God's, a sense of love and respect for one another, and a true understanding of the Catholic faith.
2. To bring our children to an understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
3. To see at work in our school community the values of God's kingdom, prayer, truth, holiness, justice, love, forgiveness and peace.
4. To deepen the relationship between the home, school and the parish.
5. To ensure the Liturgical year is reflected in the life and activities of the school.
6. To use the school's Mission Statement as a basis for ensuring personal growth and professional development within our community.
7. To help the children acquire knowledge and skills, within the framework of the National Curriculum, and to develop attitudes that will help them to live a full and interesting adult life in the community.
8. To teach the children to have respect for religious and moral values and to have tolerance of other races, religions and ways of life.
9. To instil in each an awareness of his or her uniqueness in the eyes of God and the importance of every individual's contribution to school, home and eventually society as a whole.

10. In general the aim of the school is to make the children aware of their own abilities and powers, aware of their relationships with and duties towards others, and capable of reaching their full potential as responsible caring adults and members of society.

At St. Hugh of Lincoln Primary School we have adopted 'Come and See,' the Religious Education programme supported by the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton.

Central to the programme is Christian belief in Jesus Christ, His Word and Revelation of God. Each term a basic question/belief about the mystery of life is explored within the Catholic faith tradition.

In addition to Come and See, it is expected that staff will mark various significant dates in the Catholic calendar with appropriate explanations, stories and celebrations.

We gather regularly in the school year to celebrate the Eucharist.

Prayer is a central feature of each day in the school; prayers are said by all children at different times throughout each day.

In order to achieve our aims

Governors, teachers and all other staff work together in partnership to look at all areas of school life. The work that takes place throughout each year culminates in the annual School Development review and planning day. The School Development Plan includes a specific strategic intent focussing on the development of the Catholic life of the school.

Parents are recognised by all in the school as the prime educators of their children. All staff strive to engender positive relationships with all parents. On a practical level, parents are encouraged to help with activities within the school.

The 'Friends of St Hugh' exists to support the School Community, to promote good relationships and to organise fund raising activities.

School Council, R.E. Followers and Parent Forum have been set up to facilitate communication within the life of the school and liaison with the Headteacher.

All adults in the school community are kept fully informed of all the decisions and activities taking place in the school through meetings, the school website and newsletters.

All adults in the school are Religious Educators of children. As such all adults are expected to comply with the following expectations of the *Religious Education Curriculum Directory 2012*:

- *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.*

Teaching for Learning and Assessment

Religious Education is taught in accordance with the Curriculum Directory for Religious Education and in line with our Teaching for Learning and Assessment Policy. Within their planning, teachers will ensure there are opportunities for the development of the child through:

Investigation – The ability to find and record information, and ask relevant questions.

Interpretation – The ability to recognise metaphors and symbols when studying religion, and the ability to explain significance.

Communication – To develop an ability to describe and explain religious ideas and practices and their own personal views and opinions.

Critical thinking – The ability to compare and contrast ideas and practices, and explain their own views and opinions.

Empathy and reflection – To develop an ability to empathise with other religious beliefs and to participate in community prayer and reflection.

Evaluation – The ability to distinguish between rules and principles, opinions and beliefs, and to make reasoned judgements and responsible choices.

Planning

Every lesson is to be planned with academic rigour in mind, within the opportunity for pupils to deepen their relationship with God. Each lesson is to include opportunities for prayer and reflection and is to be marked as a 'special time' – eg. the lighting of a special candle.

Each class teacher follows the Diocesan Come and See programme with his/her own class in collaboration with other members of staff. The Come and See website is widely used to access resources and follow the programme. The planning sheet allows for references to be made to resources, assessment and differentiation. The Diocesan PSHE guidance is used and the EPR themes are linked with Come and See topics through the use of Statements to Live By (Ethos Statements) and Journey in Love. Each class also has a thought box in which children can anonymously put in any concerns or celebrations to be discussed.

RE lesson plans/slides are uploaded onto Share point on a regular basis and are monitored by the RE subject leader. Before each new topic the teachers reflect on the new theme at a Joint Staff Professional Development meeting, using material from 'Come and See for Yourself'. This enables staff to benefit from the supportive atmosphere and experience of others.

At the end of each topic a Rejoice Liturgy is held where every class participates and shares an aspect of their learning. This celebration is evaluated and notes are taken by the R.E. Followers.

As with all subjects, teachers are expected to plan within a plan-deliver-evaluate-plan cycle. This is to ensure that planning is tailored to meet the needs of individual pupils, with appropriate differentiation and selection of challenging and engaging learning activities.

Assessment

Recording of the children's work takes many forms – pictorial, written, drama, wall displays, photos and assemblies. All children keep a Religious Education exercise book throughout the year. Ongoing RE assessment is managed through the use of End of Key Stage expectations to support each topic focus.

Children are assessed on their knowledge of scripture, understanding of God's message, their moral development and attitudes.

Formative assessment takes place once a term, as per Diocesan guidelines, to identify progress and attainment and to assess the developing understanding of our pupils. Results are given to the RE Leader for tracking purposes. Class teachers provide evidence of assessment and achievement. Lessons are monitored regularly by the subject leader, often after input from advisors from the diocese. There is always a focus for this monitoring. Good practice is shared with the staff. Children's books are often collected to be moderated as part of a Staff Meeting.

Regular cross deanery and MAT meetings are held termly and attended by the subject leader. A cross sample of children from each year group are regularly interviewed by the subject leader and their comments are recorded.

A portfolio of work and photos of displays as well as reports on the Rejoice liturgies and collective worship, written by the R.E. Followers are kept by the RE Leader and regularly updated. A record is kept of the different assemblies/collective worship that are held throughout the year.

Feedback to parents is made once a year through the end of year record of achievement.

Liturgies Prayers and Collective Worship

Prayer

The beginning, middle and end of each day are always marked by the children with a moment of prayer or recollection with their teacher.

Children are taught daily prayers and also the various prayers and responses of the Mass as appropriate to their age and stage of development. Each classroom has a focal Prayer Corner. Opportunities for spontaneous prayer and individual reflection exist both in collective worship and in the classroom. Class prayers are written at the start of each year. To further enhance children's love of prayer, areas have been converted into a Prayer Corner and a Prayer Garden, sanctuaries of peace for individual and group private thought and prayer for children and staff alike. Children are encouraged to write their own prayers of thanksgiving or petitions, which are recorded in books, displayed in class or in the Prayer Corner. Each class has a Big Questions /Reflections Book to enable children to develop their understanding and spirituality.

Masses

On Holy Days and during weekly Class masses, we gather to celebrate the Eucharist. Parents and members of the local parish community are invited to join us. At the end of the school year Year 6 lead the end of year leavers' mass.

Liturgies

Our Liturgies, which take place on a daily basis, are an Act of Collective Worship and are an integral part of the Religious formation of our children. They follow the format of Gather, Proclaim, Respond and Go forth.

St Hugh's follows a weekly plan for liturgies and collective worship:

MONDAY – Whole school Liturgy led by Headteacher. Focus: The Gospel reading of the day / the Sunday Gospel.

TUESDAY- KS2 Yrs3/4 and Yrs5/6 – Led by R.E. Followers on rotational basis in class. KS1 Liturgy - Feast Day or a topical/ moral theme-led by staff on a rotational basis. (Set up by R.E. Followers)

WEDNESDAY – Whole School either Worship through Singing, Golden or Rejoice. Children are rewarded for good work or behaviour at the Golden Assembly and given a Headteacher's Award. This takes place every half-term.

THURSDAY – Class Masses.

KS2 –A specific feast day, a Bible Story or Multi – Faith
KS1 –led by Class Teachers (Statements to live by)

FRIDAY – Prayers in Class.

At the end of the school year Year 6 lead their Leavers Assembly.

During the year there may be other assemblies taken by outside agents, for example the Engage Christian assembly team, CAFOD, Missio.

There are other occasions in the life of the school that are marked by Acts of Collective Worship e.g. Reconciliation, Advent Service, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week and Liturgies during Holy Week. There is an Advent Service, performed by KS2 pupils, which takes place in the church, and a Nativity play, performed by KS1, which takes place in the school. Parents and members of the Parish Community are invited to the Christmas celebrations and other significant Liturgies.

There is a weekly Class Mass held every Thursday morning, to which members of the parish and school community are invited.

Resources

A wide range of material and website resources are used in the school to supplement the Come and See syllabus, which forms the basis of our school approach to the teaching of Religious Education.

Each class teacher has their own copy of the Come and See book and each class has its own collection of books, including: Listen, Praise, Children’s Prayer Books and Bibles. There are materials on PSHE, Journey in Love and Statements to live by. There are copies of the Church’s Story and God’s Story.

In addition there are books to help with Collective Worship, posters and artefacts. There is a large range of Multi Faith materials available. These items are stored centrally. A range of music is used as an accompaniment in hymn singing. Universalis and Children’s Daily Prayers text are used to support the writing of the readings and Gospel of the Mass and are available to the staff.

Continuing Professional Development Opportunities

The Headteacher and the RE leader regularly attend meetings, courses and training days which are held at DABCEC. They come back and report to staff.

Staff professional development is regularly held with staff from other Catholic Schools in the MAT and Woking Deanery. Teachers meet regularly with colleagues from other schools in the MAT and Deanery to moderate work, discuss assessment and plan together. Staff visit the Diocesan website for up to date information and resources.

Informing Parents

Parents are invited into the school to meet with teaching staff twice a year to discuss their children's progress and development in all curriculum areas including Religious Education. At the end of the academic year, parents are given an annual Record of Achievement. Parents are encouraged to attend other meetings with staff to discuss any problems and are kept fully up to date on the life of the school through Come and See class outlines each term, newsletters, the school website, communications from the School Office, Parents' Forum, Assemblies, Liturgies, Masses and Fund-raising events.

Links with Other Faiths

In accordance with guidelines from the Diocese the children learn about Other Faiths in two weekly sessions throughout the year. In the first term everyone learns about Judaism and in the third term children in KS1 and KS2 learn about either Islam, Sikhism or Hinduism and FS reinforce their knowledge of Judaism. There are resources and artefacts to support the delivery of these topics. In line with British Values, children at St. Hugh's are taught to respect everyone, regardless of their religious denomination.

Links with the Parish and Giving to others

The First Holy Communion Programme provides an ideal way of uniting school and parish through the various celebrations. Staff attend these Masses and contact is maintained with the organiser of the programme. Our Parish Priest visits on a weekly basis and officiates at the masses and some of the liturgies. Deanery Masses are held at the start of the School Year which the staff attend. Harvest parcels are given to members of the community. Staff assist at Parish events such as the Christmas and Summer fairs.

The School Environment

The ethos of the school, its values and priorities are demonstrated through our school environment. Our Mission Statement and School Values are displayed around the school and the Mission statement and Values are displayed on the front of the R.E. books.

We aim to create a welcoming and colourful entrance and hall display, to which all members of the school community contribute in various ways. The hall display is changed regularly and is discussed by staff lead by the RE subject leader. Teachers take it in turns to be responsible for the display. Each classroom contains a prayer corner of

focus with crucifix/statue and there are various religious artefacts about the school. There is also a Prayer Corner with a stained glass window. Each classroom has a display relating to their RE topic. Other displays throughout the school also promote the distinctive ethos of our school.

Success Criteria

1. To achieve an ethos which attributes dignity and worth to all of the School Community.
2. To create an environment where the values of God's Kingdom, prayer, truth, holiness, justice, love and forgiveness are seen to be at work.
3. To have brought children to a truer understanding of the Catholic faith.
4. To have led children to have respect for other races, religions and ways of life.

This can be measured by:

Good relationships between adults and children.

A welcoming environment for parents to share in our liturgies and collective worship.

Children's knowledge of scripture as demonstrated in their written and oral work.

Children and their families to be active members of their parish church.

Tolerance and respect for all.

Support for charities.

Review and evaluation

This policy was reviewed following consultation with all staff and governors. It will be reviewed every 2 years.

Policy reviewed and updated:	February 2020
Date of next review:	February 2022