



INTRODUCTION

The Religious Education provided in a Catholic school cannot be confined to teaching / learning specifically devoted to RE. We seek to ensure that the message and spirit of the Gospel permeates all aspects of school life. Through teaching, example, worship and shared Christian values, we are helping to further with the family and the parish the work of the awakening and fostering a living and personal faith in our pupils. It is to this end that we have agreed the following Mission Statement:

School Mission Statement

Our Mission at St. Anne's is to 'Live, Love and Learn together with Christ.'

AIMS

The Aims of Religious Education in St Anne's School will include the following:

- To lead the children to a living and active faith by helping them to become aware of God's presence in their lives, to listen to Him and to respond to His invitation to enter into a personal relationship with Him through prayer.
- To develop a well formed conscience allowing the individual to make sound moral judgments in the light of personal commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ.
- In a changing world we want to help pupils to develop personal, spiritual and moral values, respect and tolerance for others and an understanding of interdependence between groups and nations.
- To promote an intelligent appreciation and understanding of religious questions in general and a sympathetic acquaintance with other religious beliefs and practices.
- To involve parents in the spiritual development of their child.

OBJECTIVES

In order that these aims can be translated into workable objectives we use the Curriculum Strategy for Religious Education in Catholic Primary Schools in the Archdiocese of Birmingham - Learning and Growing as the People of God, together with supplementary materials.

The aim of the scheme is

- To help children to become aware of and reflect on their experiences of living in the world with others. (**Life in Christ**)
- To reveal to children some aspects of God's plan for our salvation. (**Revelation**)
- To help them to respond to God's love in their lives. (**Life in Christ**)
- To help them listen to and respond to God. (**Celebration**)
- To help them to see God's offer of salvation in the sacraments and respond to it. (**Celebration**)
- To show that every human person is made in the image of God and is called to reflect God's people. (**Church**)

- To help the children be aware that the church is world wide and multi-cultural, that love and service of God and others are universal human values and signs of God's Spirit in the world. (*Church*)

CURRICULUM TIME

Ten percent of contact time must be given to the teaching of RE. This does not include assembly, school masses or hymn practices.

SCHOOL ORGANISATION / PLANNING

RE is taught throughout the school and we will aim to use a variety of styles to deliver the diocesan scheme to meet the needs of the children.

In line with the recommendation of the Diocese and the wishes of the governors we aim to have catholic teachers presenting the scheme. We will therefore strive to accommodate this, wherever possible. However, it will be the responsibility of the Head Teacher/RE Co-ordinator to assist any non-catholic teachers in their teaching of RE.

The Diocesan curriculum strategy 'Learning and Growing as People of God' is the basis of all RE teachers' planning. A range of resources have been purchased to support the curriculum strategy.

CURRICULUM INTEGRATION

When a thematic approach is adopted, RE is effectively brought into other areas of the curriculum such as art, craft, science etc. This will ensure that RE is encountered across the curriculum. Furthermore teachers will provide, where appropriate, opportunities for pupils to apply and develop their ICT Skills through RE.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The RE Co-ordinator will work in close consultation with the Senior Management team and the Parish Priest.

Ideally the teacher responsible for RE will be a source of inspiration to the whole school, leading by personal example with enthusiasm.

The RE Co-ordinator will:

- be familiar with each year group of 'Learning and Growing as the People of God' and any supplementary schemes
- be available to individual teachers for guidance and support and keep staff informed of current thinking in RE and any new materials / publications
- attend courses and encourage other members of staff to do so. Information gained from such courses should be shared with other staff
- arrange any inset training to meet needs of staff.
- monitor the progress of the diocesan RE programme throughout the school through evaluating planning and where possible classroom observation
- be responsible for cataloguing materials and the management of the RE budget
- provide information and support Sacramental preparation and meetings with parents

The Teacher of RE is:

- responsible for delivering the programme of study ' Learning and Growing as the People of God' and any supplementary schemes to the class

The Class teacher:

- is responsible for daily collective acts of worship within the classroom.
- is responsible for seeking the opportunity to assess the children's knowledge and understanding.
- should seek to attend courses and inform the RE Co-ordinator if they feel further development is needed.

All teaching staff receive an RE based performance management objective as part of the school's annual performance management cycle.

ASSESSMENT / RECORDING / REPORTING

Owing to its nature RE is difficult to evaluate because we cannot objectively judge a child's relationship with God with regard to their faith.

In line with Diocesan guidance, one of the strands of the Curriculum Strategy is selected as a focus for assessment and monitoring each academic year. Teachers complete end of unit assessments based on a variety of evidence e.g. pupil work; pupil interviews; informal activities.

- Each class will be assessed at the end of units selected by the R.E. Co-ordinator for assessment (based on selected strand of the curriculum strategy)
- Children will complete a self-evaluation sheet at the end of these units
- Completed teacher assessment sheets should be given to the RE co-ordinator
- Pupil questionnaires will be carried out by the RE Co-ordinator
- Base-line assessment will be carried out when children enter nursery

Observation of children's behaviour plays a major part in the evaluator procedure, e.g. changes of moral behaviour, good or bad are monitored. Conduct within and outside school is encouraged to be of a caring, helpful, selfless nature. Conduct in Church is encouraged to be one of dignity and respect.

In the end of year reports to parents, teachers will specify and comment on the child's knowledge and understanding of the faith but moral behaviour will also be included in the general comment section.

Each child has an RE exercise book which is discussed and marked regularly by the class teacher. Recording of children's work takes many forms – pictorial, written, wall display, assemblies etc. Where possible RE tasks will be linked to literacy tasks to ensure that children are completing a variety of tasks within RE.

Each child's progress in R.E. is reported to parents in the form of the annual report to parents.

RELIGIOUS PRACTICES

These are followed in order that purpose and meaning may be experienced in prayer and worship as well as ensuring that the cherished religious traditions of the Catholic Church are upheld. These practices take the form of:

DAILY PRAYER

At St Anne's all staff recognise the important role played by prayer as means of expressing and fostering faith.

Children are taught daily prayers and also various prayers and responses of the Mass as appropriate to their age and stage of development (based Diocesan guidelines). Each classroom has an RE display and children pray together with their teacher at the beginning and end of the day. Music is used to help create a quiet reflective atmosphere. Prayer altars in every classroom act as a focus for their prayers. A prayer is always said before lunchtime.

The teachers will:

- help the children discover a variety of methods of prayer, traditional and informal, private and communal.
- help the children to develop their understanding of reverence, intercession and reflection as the children progress up the school.
- give the children the experience of a variety of structured prayer services suitably adapted for the age of the children.
- encourage the children to share their own prayers and thoughts giving them time to meditate and think. This makes a good contribution to the spiritual and moral growth of the pupils.
- lead quiet and thoughtful prayer times.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

At St Anne's all pupils will take part in a daily act of collective worship either in the hall or in their classrooms. This should last between 10 and 15 minutes.

The whole school joins together twice each week for assembly. Key Stages One and Two have separate assemblies once per fortnight.

Children are given opportunities throughout the year to share in a form of worship with the parish priest. This may take the form of a class or whole school mass, a prayer service etc.

Non-Eucharistic Liturgies are held throughout the year, particularly within Key Stage One and the Foundation Stage.

HYMN PRACTICE

This takes place in preparation for:

- School masses and assemblies
- Feast days
- Carol services

Whole-school hymn practices are used as an opportunity to develop the children's understanding of parts of the mass: Introductory Rites; Liturgy of the Word (Biblical Readings, Homily, Creed, Intercessions); Liturgy of the Eucharist (Preparation, Eucharistic Prayer; Communion Rite); and

the Concluding Rite. Choices of hymns are also explained so that as the children progress through the school they are able to take an active part in preparing class masses.

CELEBRATION OF MASS

As the Mass is the centre of liturgical worship in the Catholic Church the school believes it has an established place within the life of the school.

Children are involved in the preparation and celebration of the liturgy i.e. the readings, offertory, altar servers, singing, prayer.

Whole school masses (including KS1 and Foundation Stage) are held at least once every half term and take place in the school hall on Holy days of Obligation and at significant times during the school year, (beginning and end of school term / year, Advent, Lent, Leavers Mass etc.)

Key Stage 2 class masses take place on a weekly rota basis in the school hall/classrooms and parents and parishioners also attend.

Themes for the masses can be taken from current work undertaken in 'Learning and Growing as People of God' or from the liturgical calendar - whichever is most appropriate at that time.

The school holds an annual May Procession and an assembly about Devotion to the Blessed Sacrament around the time of the Feast of Corpus Christi as well as many other religious celebrations such as Harvest Festivals, Lent and Advent.

Teachers will ensure that the mode of celebrations is appropriately adapted to the needs of the children, within the limits allowed (consult Directory of Children's masses).

Parents and parishioners are invited to all celebrations in school which reflect both their vital role in fostering their child's faith and our desire to maintain a good partnership with parents and the parish.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Teachers and altar servers are aware of the risk and correct procedure for lighting candles.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Children are prepared for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Eucharist in Year 3. The Diocesan 'Learning and Growing as People of God' programme is followed. In support, the 'I Belong' Reconciliation and Communion books are used at school and home. Preparation for these sacraments involves meetings and masses throughout the year. These are attended by parents, teachers and the parish priest. During preparation for these sacraments, parents are seen as a vital part of the teaching involved and are asked to take part alongside their children.

Children are prepared for the Sacrament of Confirmation in Year 6. Parents and families are invited to attend a series of meetings. The Year 6 Diocesan 'Learning and Growing as People of God' Programme is followed with parents encouraged to work with their children.

Throughout the preparation great emphasis is placed on the children being responsible for the undertaking and commitment involved, to come to know the Holy Spirit better and to relate to Him as a real person who is alive in the life of the Church and in their own lives.

RESOURCES AND DISPLAY

RE resources are controlled and provided by the RE co-ordinator in consultation with colleagues. Assembly books, other religious reference books and visual aids are stored in classrooms and the Head Teacher's office.

An area e.g. a board and altar in each classroom should be assigned to RE and the children's work displayed with other relevant material.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES / SPECIAL NEEDS

The fair and equal treatment of all individuals is central to our school mission statement. All children are given equal access to the RE curriculum developing their knowledge and understanding. A variety of teaching and learning strategies are employed to try to meet all children's different needs.

This policy will be reviewed annually.

**Emily Keedwell
RE Coordinator**