



**St Cuthbert's RCVA Primary School**

# **Religious Education Policy**

**September 2016**

## Policy for Religious Education

### Mission Statement:

St Cuthbert's Primary School offers a distinctive catholic education within a caring, welcoming, Christian community where everyone can feel valued, confident and secure, and have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

We believe that each person is unique, talented and loved by God.

By working in partnership with parents, parish and the community, we aim to create a challenging, stimulating and effective environment, where Christ is our inspiration.

**“You are unique, talented and loved by God.”**

### Rationale of Religious Education:

- We believe Religious Education to be 'the core of the core curriculum.'
- We believe Religious Education is central to the educative mission of the Church.
- Aware that evangelisation and catechesis are happening in our school for some pupils, we are clear that the specific contribution Religious Education makes to the Catholic Life of the school is primarily educational and will be planned, taught, assessed and monitored with the same rigour as other curriculum subjects.
- We understand Religious Education to be the systematic study of the teaching of the Church and the mystery of Christ.

'At the heart of Catholic education lies the Christian vision of the human person. This vision is expressed and explored in religious education. Therefore religious education is never simply one subject among many, but the foundation of the entire educational process. The beliefs and values studied in Catholic religious education inspire and draw together every aspect of the life of a Catholic school..... All pupils have the right to receive an overall education which will enable them, in the light of the faith of the Church, to engage with the deepest questions of life and find reasons for the hope which is within them. Religious Education is, then, the core subject in a Catholic school.' (Statement on Religious Education in Catholic Schools – Bishops' Conference 2000)

'Religious Education...is a rigorous academic discipline, and as such it is to be taught, developed and resourced with the same commitment as any other subject.'  
(Curriculum Directory. p10)

'The outcome of Religious Education is religiously literate young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills – appropriate to their age and capacity – to think spiritually, ethically and theologically, who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.' (Curriculum Directory p10)

### The Aims of Religious Education:

- to promote knowledge and understanding of Catholic faith and life
- to promote knowledge and understanding of the response of faith to the ultimate questions about human life, its origin and purpose
- to promote the skills required to engage in examination of and reflection upon religious belief and practice

### **Curriculum time allocation:**

In line with Bishops' Conference recommendations, 10% of curriculum time is allocated to Religious Education. This does **not** include Collective Worship.

### **Programme of Study:**

To fulfil the above aims and to address the 4 areas of study outlined in the Curriculum Directory – Revelation, Church, Celebration and Life in Christ - the 'Come and See' programme is used as recommended by the Diocese.

### **Process:**

We teach Religious Education through the process of Explore, Reveal and Respond. It follows the pattern of: The human **exploration** for meaning, God's initiative in **revelation** and the **response** in faith.

'Teaching in Religious Education ...should help people be attentive to the meaning of their experiences, illumined by the light of the Gospel, so that they may respond to God more fully. Experience can also make the Christian message more intelligible.' (Curriculum Directory p11)

### **Methodology:**

A variety of teaching and learning strategies will be used from across the curriculum adapted appropriately to the needs and learning styles of pupils.

### **Assessment, Monitoring, Recording and Reporting:**

- Assessment of standards is carried out according to Diocesan guidelines using the criteria in the Levels of Attainment booklet agreed by Bishops' Conference.
- Each teacher keeps a class record of assessed work and records of pupils' progress.
- The school portfolio of pupils' work contains one sample of work from each teacher for each assessed topic covering a range of abilities.
- An in - house moderation meeting is held once a term.
- The school portfolio of assessed samples of work is presented for Diocesan Moderation every Summer term.
- Monitoring of teaching and learning by the Co-ordinator involves one lesson observation of each teacher, a work scrutiny and pupil discussions each year and termly tracking of progress.
- Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to parents/carers in a written report at the end of each academic year.

### **Policy review:**

This policy will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed by the Head teacher, Co-ordinator, whole school staff and governors and updated every 3 years.

### **Management of the subject:**

Mrs Nicola Noble, the Co-ordinator/Subject Leader has responsibility for leading, managing and supporting the delivery of and training in Religious Education.

### **Other Faiths:**

Two other faiths are taught from Year 1 to Year 6 following the programme of study in 'Come and See'. These are Judaism and Islam. One week of teaching and learning time per year is given to each.

## APPENDIX 1

### **The Role of the Co-ordinator for Religious Education**

#### **The Religious Education Co-ordinator will be responsible for:**

- Working with senior leaders on monitoring teaching and learning, planning and standards through lesson observations and work scrutinies according to school practice.
- Organising and maintaining the school portfolio of pupils' work.
- Organising in-house moderation of standards meetings.
- Self evaluation to identify strengths and areas for development.
- Ensuring the curriculum offered is appropriate, suitable and relevant to pupils' needs and interests.
- Attending appropriate training and keeping up to date with current thinking, policy and developments and feeding back to staff.
- Organising and leading in-house staff training and development.
- Identifying training needs of staff to ensure their suitability to teach effective Religious Education.
- Supporting and advising colleagues in the delivery of Religious Education.
- Liaising with the Headteacher, Governors, parents, the Education Service on matters relating to Religious Education.
- Auditing, managing and developing resources within a given budget.