

At Our Lady & St Edward's Catholic Primary and Nursery Voluntary Academy,

the staff and governors strive to nurture the seeds of faith in our children and their families and to support families, staff and parish in building a community of faith in which the young can grow socially, emotionally, physically, academically and spiritually.

The life of the school is underpinned by our Vision and Mission Statement.

Vision & Mission Statement

Our Lady & St Edwards Catholic Primary & Nursery Voluntary Academy

'LIVING THE GOSPEL' inspired by St Francis

GUIDED BY JESUS IN ALL THAT WE DO, TOGETHER WE ARE ONE... ONE SCHOOL... ONE COMMUNITY... ONE WORLD.

GROWING IN LOVE FOR GOD & EACH OTHER; SHOWING RESPECT, BEING COMPASSIONATE, BEING ABLE TO FORGIVE AND GIVING OUR BEST IN ALL THAT WE DO TO ACHIEVE OUR GOALS.

OUR MISSION IS...

To promote our Catholic Faith by:

- Living the word of God through the examples Jesus gave us.
 - Showing love, kindness & help for all.
 - Sharing & joining in Parish & school masses.
 - Prepare for the Sacraments.
 - Helping within our Parish.

For our children to:

- Be loved and valued as an individual.
- Be the best that they can be with an all-round education which helps them to grow spiritually, morally & enables them to reach their full potential.
 - Feel safe.
- Learn respect, tolerance, accept & celebrate our differences.
 - Be happy, confident, enthusiastic & independent thinkers.
- Know what they can do, never give up & work hard to achieve success.
 - Lead a healthy lifestyle.

To maintain the special nature of our school by:

- Working alongside our Parish Priest.
- Living in the spirit of the Franciscans.
- Welcoming all into our multicultural community.
 - Celebrating & including everyone.
- Listening to & respecting each other's opinions.

To reach out to our communities by:

- Supporting them through fundraising activities.
- Welcoming them to join us in prayer & celebration.
 - Keeping up our international links.
- Making the most of before & after of school activities.
 - Work with our family of schools.
- Encourage parents to be involved & support adult education.
- Communicating with & informing parents about what is happening in school.

INDIVIDUALLY WE SHINE...TOGETHER WE DAZZLE... WE ARE A FAMILY

Aims:

- To help to develop the child's spiritual life, encouraging the child's innate capacity for wonder, awe, reverence, and imagination.
- To help children to discover a sense of their own dignity and value - to celebrate each other's uniqueness.
- To develop in the children an understanding of the basic truths and practices of the Catholic Church.
- To provide opportunities for children to participate in Catholic Rites, Rituals and Prayer.
- To develop children's moral and spiritual understanding.
- To help children to acknowledge failures and wrong- doings and to seek Reconciliation.
- To teach children about other faiths and to help them to develop respect for other faith traditions.
- To develop the Home/School/Parish partnership.
- To support staff in their spiritual development.

The foundations of our RE teaching are :-

Revelation	-	<i>Finding meaning in life</i>
Church	-	<i>Community of Faith</i>
Sacraments	-	<i>Celebration in symbol and ritual</i>
Christian Living	-	<i>Way of life</i>

These areas are developed in the following ways:

- Through use of the "**Come and See**" RE Scheme
- Through links with the **Parish**
- Through links with the **Home**

Come and See

The basic question (belief) for each term is explored through three themes:- Domestic Church, Local Church and Universal Church. These are divided as follows for each year group across the 3 terms:

Domestic church **family**, **Baptism/confirmation** **belonging**, **Advent/Christmas** **loving**;

Local church **community**, **Eucharist** **relating**, **Lent/Easter** **giving**;

Pentecost **servicing**, **Reconciliation** **Inter-relating**, **Universal Church** **world**

Each theme is explored through material differentiated for 7 age groups (Early Years, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, 4, 5 & 6). The content is structured so that there is cohesion and progression in what children do and learn (see appendix 1). For each level, there are clearly stated learning outcomes and learning objectives.

In addition to the above aspects of the "Come and See" scheme, Holy Days and significant feast days are celebrated. The Feast of St Francis is always marked as a celebration in respect of our historical links with the Friars.

World Faiths

We recognise that we live in a multi-cultural, multi-faith society.

Children are introduced to the background and beliefs of people of other faiths so that prejudice and misunderstandings can be overcome and children learn to appreciate that many people hold religious convictions and beliefs that are different to their own.

Using 'Come and See' links are made with the experience of other faiths. In the Autumn Term each class will explore another world faith through a whole school World Faiths Theme. In the Spring Term one week is given to the exploration of Judaism and in the Summer Term other term a study of another faiths, either Hinduism; Sikhism; or Islam.

Children are taught that other people pray, fast, celebrate, worship and go on Pilgrimage. We develop this understanding through inviting people of other faiths to visit the school and share their experiences, visiting local places of worship for other faiths and having a wide range of multi-faith resources available for classes to use.

Children are taught to appreciate the reverence shown by people of other faiths for holy places, holy people and holy books.

Example, Experience, Response

We teach the practical application of our faith through a wide a range of experiences as possible. Eg -

- Children learn from the personal example of parents, school staff, members of the parish and community.
- Children are made aware of events in the local community and the wider world and take part in whenever possible.

- Children are given the opportunity to respond to the needs of others through prayer and practical support eg Harvest Thanksgiving, CAFOD, our parish SVP; Emmanuel House, Faith in Families; Samaritans Purse, local and national issues.
- Prayer and worship is always an integral part of Religious Education.

Learning and Teaching

The children learn through range of teaching strategies, appropriate to the age, activity and needs of the children are used.

These include, whole class teaching, group work and individual work.

Teachers use differentiation to cater for the range of abilities within a class.

This may take the form of differentiation in activity, outcome, intervention, support or questioning.

Liturgy (also see Collective Worship Policy)

Participation in a range of liturgies is a wonderful experience that we share with children and their families.

Prayer is an important part of daily life. Prayers are said at the beginning and end of the day; before meals and at other times in the day (See Collective Worship Policy).

An **environment** is created to enable prayer to be fostered and developed. All classes have a prayer focus area; prayers include traditional, spontaneous, and themed, allowing for **reflection and meditation**.

Music and song is important to develop our liturgies.

A record of worship and assemblies is kept.

Liturgical Celebrations are Eucharistic and non Eucharistic.

√ Whole school Mass is celebrated in church at the beginning of each term and on Holy days. We share this time with the local parish community.

√ Key stage masses are held in school and linked to 'Come and See' Topics or main feast days.

√ A termly timetable is available, showing all the different opportunities for prayer, worship and celebration. All classes are involved and take responsibility for preparing and leading celebrations.

Other celebrations include

- √ Assemblies - whole school ; key stage and pupil led
- √ Services of Reconciliation for Key stage 2 children, every half term . Year 3 and other children preparing for Holy Communion have opportunities for reconciliation after they have received their first Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- √ Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 Liturgies around Come and See themes
- √ Harvest Festival
- √ Throughout Advent services are held in classes, with final service in the Hall
- √ FS Nativity plays & Year Group Advent Liturgies
- √ Ash Wednesday Service
- √ Lenten Services - Stations of the Cross ; Palm procession and Passion Service and Family Service held in Church on Good Friday.
- √ During Advent we send home the Travelling Crib and during Lent, the Lenten crosses, for families to share, using a suggested prayer guide and to include their own family traditions, prayers and celebrations.
- √ We work closely on a weekly basis with the MAT Chaplains to prepare liturgies and they also work with our KS 2 chaplaincy team to prepare whole school weekly liturgies.
- √ Each year, Year 6's visit the Briars for a spiritual retreat.

Prayer

Children begin and end the day with prayers and Grace is said before lunch

By the end of Foundation Stage children will be introduced to

Sign of the cross

Morning and Evening prayers

Prayers before meals

Responses at Mass (Peace be with you. And with your spirit. Thanks be to God.)

Greeting the Gospel (Alleluia)

Simple litanies of thanks and praise.

Prayerful reflection on the day

Prayers for the blessing of the Advent wreath

Prayers for the lighting of the Advent candles

Key Stage 1 - All those listed above, and:

Our Father

Hail Mary

Glory be to the Father

Morning Offering

Grace at Meals

Simple Magnificat

Act of Sorrow

Prayers at Mass (Lord have mercy, Prayers of Intercession, Children's Eucharistic Prayer II responses)
Prayers used at Baptism
Prayer for Lent and Stations of the Cross
Simple examination of conscience- penitential prayers
Prayers of intercession

Key Stage 2 - All those listed above, and:

I confess

Angelus

Benedictus

Magnificat

Eternal rest

Act of Love

Act of Sorrow

The Rosary

Stations of the Cross

Prayers at Mass: Penitential rite, Glory to God, Creed, Offertory prayers, Eucharistic prayers for Masses with children I, II and III, Holy holy, Lamb of God, Rite of dismissal

Litany of the Saints

Prayers used for sacramental rites

Prayers from the liturgy for special feasts

Blessing and giving of ashes

Saints' prayers, for example, St Teresa of Avila, St Francis of Assisi

All children are given opportunities to reflect and compose their own and spontaneous prayer.

Children individually, in groups or classes are given opportunities to gather for prayer or quiet reflection time in the 'Prayer Room'.

There are focal point displays regularly changed to reflect liturgical seasons, school themes or current local or national issue.

There is a wide range of resources to support staff and pupils with artefacts, candles, drapes, poster, music .

We create a multi-sensory environment, that always has a prayerful and reflective atmosphere.

HomeSchoolLinks

School encourages parents to play an active part in their child's spiritual development by:-

- Supporting their child in their faith.

- Receiving half-termly topic webs that include the Come and See programme.
- Use of Personal Organisers to know of work, prayers and the mission statement.
- Information shared through the weekly school newsletter about Parish events.
- Helping them to learn prayers.
- Taking their child to church.
- Attending Parents Evenings and workshops.
- Encouraging participation in the parish preparation for the Sacraments of reconciliation and Holy Communion. Dates are put in the newsletter and reminders are sent through school.
- Attending Masses and other liturgical celebrations in school.
- Involvement with the Travelling Crib and Lenten Crosses
- Supporting the school's policies.
- Attending RE lessons within school and assemblies based on the Come and See programme.

Parish

The Parish is a vital support in our teaching of Religious Education.

We develop this area through:-

- Making children aware that they are part of the Parish Community.
- Supporting the parish sacramental programmes.
- Involvement in charitable activities
- Taking part in parish liturgy eg Family Mass, the Carol Service, the Good Friday Service.
- Sharing Resources.
- Information shared through the weekly school newsletter about Parish events.

Staff

We value all staff as vital members of our school community.

We support their professional, emotional, physical and spiritual development.

We gather for preparation of Religious Education and share with other Multi Academy trust Schools during an INSET morning at the Becket School which includes prayer, music and meditation.

The RE coordinator is shared by the Head teacher, the current year 6 teacher and supported by a KS2 senior T.A.

Sacramental Preparation for Reconciliation and Holy Communion

This takes place in the parish, and children in Year 3 and above from school and parish are invited to join the preparation.

It begins in September each year and follows through to June.

The children and families prepare in small groups, supported by Parish Catechists and some teachers from school who are part of the Parish.

Children and their parents work together in small groups.

Catechists share their faith with the groups and children and families follow some activities at home.

Each month there is a family Mass to celebrate the work of the theme.

These are always well supported by Families and Parish members.

School supports and encourages children and families in their preparation and some staff attend monthly Family Masses, prepared by the catechist groups.

School encourages participation in the preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion.

Dates are put in the newsletter and reminders are sent through school.

Some displays that are used in church for Family Masses are later put up in school to support the work covered.

'Come and See' topics that follow sacramental themes support this work.

Services of Reconciliation take place each half term for classes in Key Stage 2 children, children in Year 3 who have not received the Sacrament take part in the service of reconciliation, before individual reconciliation takes place.

Following First Holy Communion, any children in school who have just received the sacrament take part in an assembly to share their celebrations and if they want to they can wear their special clothes.

Planning

The Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools is used to guide and inform teaching of Religious education.

Lessons are planned from Come and See and other supporting resources.

Materials provided by the diocese are also used in planning.

Religious Education has a time allocation of 10% teaching time.

Equality

All children and staff are offered the opportunity to develop fully, in line with the Equality Act 2010 .

Children of other faith backgrounds or children with LDD or SEN are fully included in the religious education programme, and full access to all assemblies and acts of worship, unless parents request other provision to be made.

It is recognised that children are at different stage of faith development and work is planned accordingly.

Assessment

- Assessment, is carried out in line with current National RE Attainment Targets, Diocesan guidelines and is related to the concepts, skills and attitudes to be developed through the exploration of themes and the learning outcomes for each topic. See Appendix 2
- Assessment establishes what pupils know, understand and can do. It does not assess faith or the practice of faith.
- Assessment is linked to the 'driver words ' to support progression.
- Assessment takes place both informally (general observations of children's classroom activities, contributions made by children in discussions or to joint work, answers to oral questions) and formally (marking of work, end of topic review and regular planned assessment focuses.)
- Assessment for Learning is incorporated into planning and evidence collated, it is made with reference to the expectations of what children know, understand and are able to do which are listed for each topic in the "Come and See" scheme.
- Children are also encouraged to evaluate their own progress.
- Target cards are used with each topic and children and staff assess progress on these as well.
- Each term assessment data in put onto the school tracker grids in assessment manager and analysis of progress is carried out.
- Moderation of levels allocated to children's learning takes place within the family of schools as well as across diocesan schools at RE coordinator training events.

Monitoring

The RE Coordinator monitors all aspects of Religious Education in line with the whole school planning framework.

This is through:-

- School Development Plan
- RE action plan
- Supporting and training staff
- Attending Diocesan INSET events
- Monitoring planning documents.
- Work sampling, by RE, and Governors committee.

- Formal assessment activities
- Lesson observations.
- Collective Worship observations
- Mass and assembly preparation
- Pupil discussions
- Learning walks

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed in line with the school policy review cycle.

This policy was reviewed by Rachael Endy and Pauline Baptist in 2016.

This policy was reviewed by school governors