



THE MARIST CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

With Christ as our guide, we learn, we love, we achieve together.

Religious Education Policy

Policy compiled by:	Head of RE
Responsible committee:	Full Governing Board
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Guidance used	DABCEC Guidelines Bishops Conference of England and Wales
<i>This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.</i>	

Our Mission

I have come in order that you may have life - life in all its fullness'. (John 10:10)

With Christ as our guide, we learn, we love, we achieve together.

Our Values

And now I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. If you have love for one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples. (John 13: 34-35)

With Christ as our guide,

The values Christ embodied, the Gospel values, are the basis of our school life. The Gospel values are: love, forgiveness, reconciliation, justice, faith, integrity, humility, service, peace, hope and prayer.

we learn,

We learn in a safe, encouraging community of high expectations for the achievement and conduct of all. The British Values - democracy; the rule of law; individual liberty; mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths – underpin our curriculum. We encourage all our children to develop the qualities of a Marist Learner: enthusiasm, perseverance, confidence, reflection, collaboration and independence.

we love,

At The Marist, rules about how we behave are based on this commandment: "Love one another". We believe that it is important to value and respect others; forgiving and reconciling when mistakes are made.

we achieve together.

We work hard so that learning is stimulating, challenging and engaging. Our expectations for all children are high, for both work and behaviour. We celebrate the talents and achievements of all so that children can develop spiritually, academically, physically and emotionally.

Our mission statement is centred on the core teaching of Jesus that we must love God and love one another as He has loved us. Christ is at the very centre of our mission statement. We want Him to be at the very centre of our school. Our mission statement has been devised by all and is accessible to all. We call on each child and adult in our school community to live out the mission statement each and every day. Religion is at the heart of everything we do and pervades every aspect of our school life.

We believe the outcome of excellent RE teaching and learning 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.

This policy has been formulated with our school community in mind and by seeking advice and guidance from outside agencies including the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton Education Service, the Catholic Education Service and the Department for Education. The ideas and philosophies in Christ at the Centre (Stock 2013) and in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) have also helped to inform this policy.

The Importance of the Role of Parents in Religious Education

Our school community recognises the central role parents have in the religious education of their children. The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales re-iterated in their statement on Religious Education in Catholic Schools (2000): "The first educators in the faith are parents." In recognition of this, we strive to maintain a faithful partnership with parents, communicating clearly both the curriculum and the wider spiritual opportunities offered to families and warmly inviting parents to share their knowledge and experiences with the school community. Our school works closely in partnership with the home and Our Lady's parish community to which our children belong. The General Directory for Catechesis confirms, "This partnership between home and parish is enhanced by the role of the Catholic school in which the educational mission of the Church finds a particular and important expression." Religious Education in a Catholic school encompasses the whole educational mission of the Church and is not confined to timetabled Religious Education lessons.

The Importance of Religious Education

Religious education is the "core of the core curriculum"; in a Catholic school (Pope St John Paul II). Placing religious education at the core of the curriculum helps the school to fulfill its mission to educate the whole person in discerning the meaning of their existence.

A Catholic education is "focused on integral formation of its students and at the same time prepares them for full participation in civic life. It forms the Catholic student as 'both human and a person of faith, the protagonist of culture and the subject of religion'. It teaches subjects with methods proper to them and at the same time imbues the whole curriculum with a Christian outlook. It is established for Catholic students and at the same time draws others to its doors. In short, the Catholic school reflects the apparent paradox of the incarnation that is resolved in Christ: it is both fully Catholic and really a school. Religious education in a Catholic school also bears witness to the same mystery: it is both fully religious and genuinely educational." (Religious Education Directory p9).

Our Aims for Religious Education

Religious education is at the heart of our school life. We aim to ensure that all pupils will have the opportunity to:

- Understand and live out our school mission statement
- Recognise and appreciate the religious and spiritual dimensions of life
- Develop a deeper knowledge and understanding of Catholic teaching and traditions and of the teaching of other religions, so that they can explain these ideas confidently
- Make links between learning in religious education and in the wider curriculum
- Take the space to reflect and ask questions about their own and others' experience of life
- Deepen their personal faith commitment and respect the world views of others
- Develop a sense of love and responsibility for themselves, one another and the world around them, so that they can respond to this understanding in daily life (Catholic Social

Teaching)

The Curriculum

At The Marist Catholic Primary School, religious education is primarily based on the Religious Education Directory (RED) "To Know You More Clearly". In line with the Bishop's mandate, the RE curriculum is taught through the Diocesan Day by Day resources.

In recognition of the importance of religious education in our school, we devote 10% of the teaching week to religious education lessons. In Key Stage 1 this is 2 hours 40 minutes and in Key Stage 2 this is 2 hours and 40 minutes, not including Collective Worship. In Early Years, the timetable and learning style is more flexible, but teaching of Religious Education is prioritised to give children the opportunity to engage fully with the curriculum.

The Religious Education Curriculum Directory has a clear framework for learning:

Four Knowledge Lenses: Hear, Believe, Live and Celebrate indicate what should be known by the end of each age phase.

Ways of Knowing: Understand, Discern and Respond are the skills through which children progress and develop their thinking during the curriculum journey.

Expected Outcomes set out for each year group what pupils should be able to know, remember and do.

Curriculum Branches divide the model curriculum into half-term units of study which repeat annually, giving a spiral curriculum which allows children to build progressively on the prior knowledge and develop their understanding year by year.

The curriculum branches are:

Autumn 1 Creation and Covenant

Autumn 2 Prophecy and Promise

Spring 1 Galilee to Jerusalem

Spring 2 Desert to Garden

Summer 1 To the Ends of the Earth

Summer 2 Dialogue and Encounter

The curriculum is firmly founded on building children's knowledge and understanding of Scripture, while providing opportunities to make connections to other faiths and cultures, as well as to their daily lives.

RE in the classroom and beyond

At The Marist Catholic Primary School, the teaching of religious education is designed to be as varied and creative as possible, to help children to engage fully with the ideas explored, to ask wondering questions and to lead their own learning in discerning their response.

Learning within the classroom may include:

- Whole class discussion and teaching
- Group discussion and feedback
- Drama and role play
- Independent research
- Exploration through music and art
- Godly Play
- External speakers / workshops

Learning in religious education cannot always be recorded and does not begin or end in the classroom. Learning from religious education will also flow into other curriculum areas as pupils make links between their learning. We aim to give children the opportunity to connect

their formal learning with their wider understanding through regular opportunities to reflect and respond.

Learning beyond the classroom may include:

- Following the example of a role model in daily life at home or in school
- Participation in charitable activity and fundraising
- Inspiration through reflection in prayer and liturgy
- Conversations with clergy or parishioners in school
- Response to catechesis in the parish e.g for Reconciliation or First Holy Communion
- Engagement with programmes based on Catholic social teaching e.g. Faith in Action; Oscar Romero Award

We work closely with parents and with the parish to support children's progress in understanding and developing on their curriculum and faith journey.

Other World Views

Catholic education seeks to form pupils who are well prepared to play a positive role in society and to follow Jesus' teaching to "love your neighbour". We therefore embrace learning about other world views with "a willingness... to try to understand better the religion of one's neighbours, and to experience something of their religious life and culture." (Catholic Bishops; Conference of England and Wales)

The Religious Education Directory includes a branch called 'Dialogue and Encounter' which focuses specifically on exploring other world views and recognizing the connections with the Catholic faith.

Opportunities for dialogue and encounter are sought throughout the academic year and especially focus on broadening pupils' experiences and on real-life encounters with those of other faiths or none, to enable connections and develop understanding. Examples may include:

- Opportunities for families in our community to share their faith and experience
- Conversations with invited visitors about their beliefs and experiences
- Independent reading, research and discussion

Feedback, Assessment, Recording and Reporting

Developmental feedback is given in Religious Education to support children's progress and to challenge their thinking. This follows the school's Feedback Policy and may be given verbally. Assessment follows diocesan and national guidelines, assessing against the expected outcomes for each branch in the Religious Education Directory. Pupil attainment is recorded termly on the school's assessment recording system and progress is tracked regularly by the RE Lead and SLT in line with the school's Assessment Policy.

The RE Lead moderates outcomes in Religious Education both internally and with local Catholic schools, to ensure consistency of expectations with other schools in the diocese. Outcomes for Religious Education are shared in line with other core curriculum subjects, both during parent consultation meetings and in end-of-year reports.

The children's work is record both in their individual Holy Book as well as the Class Floor Book. Each class teachers is responsible for marking RE books. Marking is in accordance with the school marking policy. Class teachers may set RE homework where appropriate. Equal opportunities are provided for all children to be able to access the knowledge, skills and understanding at a level appropriate to their needs and abilities. Adaptations are made to learning and teaching as required to support children with SEND needs.

Displays

All classrooms have a prominent RE display relating to the current RE Topic. This should include: the topic title, key vocabulary, images/ artwork, children's work and key scripture. The border of the display should reflect the liturgical colour. Alongside the display, each classroom will also have a prayer table which should be sacred and special. The cloth on this table should reflect the liturgical colour. It will display items such as a Bible, candle, rosary beads, prayer card etc.

A crucifix and the mission statement is also displayed in every room in the school. The hall has a central RE display to reflect the overall RE topic for the school and is used as a focus point.

Monitoring and Evaluating

RE Leaders and SLT monitor every aspect of Religious Education in line with other core curriculum subjects. Monitoring is ongoing and feedback is given to individual staff via the Step Lab platform. Outcomes may inform further training at staff meetings or actions for the subject action plan. Self-evaluation of Religious Education is the responsibility of the Headteacher, the RE Lead, Governors and the Senior Leadership Team, with further input from all teachers of religious education, from families and from pupils. This process ensures a culture of continuous improvement, so that teaching and learning in Religious Education remains the best it can be.

Staff Formation

All staff support the Catholic ethos of our school and strive to develop children's progress and understanding in matters of faith. There are regular opportunities for all staff to engage in personal prayer and reflection which may support their professional role. Teachers involved in planning and delivering Religious Education lessons have attended half-termly diocesan training on the curriculum directory resources. The RE Lead collaborates with other local schools to share best practice more widely.