



*Loving hands ♥ hearts ♥ minds.*

## **A Policy for Religious Education.**

### **Mission Statement**

*In God's family, we grow and learn in love, hope and faith.*

*Loving hands, loving hearts, loving minds.*

Christ is at the heart of St Ambrose and is the model and inspiration for our children, staff, parents, parish and wider community. We encourage all to grow in the love of God and His creation, recognising that we are all made in the image and likeness of God.

Everyone understands at St Ambrose that the school mission is lived out, which is the strength of what we are.

### **Rationale of Religious Education.**

- Religious Education is central to the educative mission of the Church.  
*'At the heart of Catholic education lies the Christian vision of the human person. This vision is expressed and explored in Religious Education.'*<sup>1</sup>
- Religious Education is a core subject in the Catholic school.
- For some in the classroom, Religious Education may well be received as catechesis, deepening and enhancing their personal faith; for some it will be evangelisation, the first time they will have been presented, personally, with the truths of living faith. Nevertheless, its primary purpose is the step by step study of the mystery of Christ, the teaching of the Church and its application in daily life. The criteria by which it is to be judged are educational.<sup>2</sup>
- Religious Education is planned, taught, assessed and monitored with the same rigour as other core curriculum subjects.

The outcome of Religious Education 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Religious Education in Catholic Schools, Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, 2000, para 4

<sup>2</sup> Religious Education in Catholic Schools, a statement from the Catholic Bishops' Conference, 2000, p. 8-9

## **The Aims of Religious Education**

The aims of religious education are:

1. to engage in a systematic study of the mystery of God, of the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, the teachings of the Church, the central beliefs that Catholics hold, the basis for them and the relationship between faith and life;
2. to enable pupils continually to deepen their religious and theological understanding and be able to communicate this effectively;
3. to present an authentic vision of the Church's moral and social teaching to provide pupils with a sure guide for living and the tools to critically engage with contemporary culture and society;
4. to give pupils an understanding of the religions and worldviews present in the world today and the skills to engage in respectful and fruitful dialogue with those whose worldviews differ from their own;
5. to develop the critical faculties of pupils so to bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture;
6. to stimulate pupils' imagination and provoke a desire for personal meaning as revealed in the truth of the Catholic faith;
7. to enable pupils to relate the knowledge gained through religious education to their understanding of other subjects in the curriculum.

### **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 four areas of study outlined in the Religious Education Curriculum Directory, 2023 - To know you more dearly - the 'Come and See' programme is used as recommended by the Diocese.

### **Process:**

Religious Education is taught through the process of Explore, Reveal, Respond. This follows the pattern of: the human search for meaning, God's initiative in Revelation and the response in faith. This pattern is outlined both in the Catechism of the Catholic Church and in the Religious Education Directory.

As the Directory states:

'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.'

### **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.

### **Inclusion and Equality:**

The governing body have wider responsibilities under the Equalities Act 2010 and will ensure that our school strives to do the best for all of the pupils, irrespective of disability, educational needs, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, sex, gender identity, religion or sexual orientation or whether they are looked after children. All pupils in our school, irrespective of ability, faith and background will have appropriate differentiated access to the Religious Education programme.

### **Other Religions:**

From EYFS to Year 6, other faiths and world religions; Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism from the 'Come and See' scheme is timetabled throughout the PSHE curriculum. This is additional to the RE curriculum timetable.

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

- Assessment of standards is carried out using the Age-Related Standards in Religious Education (3-19) interim document agreed by Bishops' Conference.
- Each teacher keeps a class record of assessed work and records of pupils' progress.
- An in-house moderation of pupils' work is held every half term. We call this Picture Building and it includes Pupil Voice.
- Monitoring of teaching and learning is conducted half termly through lesson observation, learning walks, planning meetings and work scrutiny
- Progress and achievement are recorded and tracked through our Subject on a Page (SOAP)
- Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to Governors at Curriculum and Standards committee meetings every half term
- Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to parents/carers in a written report at the end of each academic year.

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

Mrs Waterworth the RE Lead has responsibility for leading, managing and supporting the delivery of and training in Religious Education. The job description for the lead is attached as Appendix 1.

### **Policy Review:**

This policy has been approved and adopted by the governing body on 24.01.24 and will be reviewed January 2025 (unless there are diocesan updates prior to this date)

This policy will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed by the subject lead and the governing board and updated every two years.

## Appendix 1

### The Role of the RE Lead

- To be responsible to the Headteacher and colleagues for the monitoring of teaching, assessment and planning of Religious Education based on the development of the children at each stage. Monitoring occurs in order to support staff and should include classroom observation, learning walks, book scrutiny, planning and discussion with pupils.
- To manage resources and facilities for Religious Education.
- To liaise with the Diocesan Department for Education particularly through attendance at RE Leaders meetings, and inform the Headteacher and colleagues of current standards and developments within Religious Education.
- To attend appropriate training for Religious Education, keep up-to-date with current developments and feed these developments back to staff.
- To advise individual colleagues and induct new members of staff as required on the Religious Education process and teaching methods.
- To implement the change to the interim Age-Related Standards in Religious Education (3-19) and support staff during the transition period.
- To collect and keep pupil books showing pupils working at expected from at least Years 2, 4 and 6 at the end of each academic year.
- To facilitate in-house moderation of pupils' books every half term
- To attend Diocesan moderation meetings with the required pupil books.
- In consultation with the Headteacher to communicate with parents, governors and the parish community regarding issues relating to Religious Education.
- Working with the Headteacher and colleagues, to undertake a regular audit / review of Religious Education in line with the school development plan.
- To be familiar with the current inspection framework and to consult with the SLT to complete the CSEF document.
- To keep up to date with changes to the Religious Education Curriculum Directory.