



ST JOSEPH'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL, RAMSBOTTOM
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

June 2023

MISSION STATEMENT

Our school is proud to be part of the Roman Catholic Church in the parish of St Joseph's. Our mission is to serve God, uphold the worth and dignity of every person and enable them to develop their talents. Everything we do is rooted in the values of the Gospel, as we seek to deepen faith, strengthen hope and grow in love in a respectful, safe and happy environment.

INTENT

RATIONALE

Our fundamental aim at St Joseph's is to assist pupils in their personal faith journey by providing an education for all our children in which the spirit of Christ permeates the whole life of the school. As our mission statement suggests, "It is the role of the school to work actively in partnership with parents to foster the spiritual, educational, social and personal development of all our children". Everything that the school teaches is centred on its Self-Evaluation Framework of the 5W's, which are Word, Worship, Welcome, Welfare and Witness.

POLICY STATEMENT

It is the policy of the Governing body that the school should provide a curriculum and syllabus for Religious Education, which fulfils Diocesan recommendations and corresponds to the Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools. As part of Salford Diocese, St Joseph's follows the teaching and assessment guidelines given by the "Come and See" scheme. The scheme is based on the theological foundations of the Second Vatican Council, the Catholic Catechism and the revised RE Curriculum Directory and includes the Catholic attainment levels. This policy will be reviewed in conjunction with the Policy Review Cycle in the School Improvement Plan.

AIMS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Through the Religious Education curriculum we seek to provide our pupils with:-

- an appropriate knowledge and understanding of the teaching of the Catholic Church
- an appropriate knowledge and understanding of the Word of God
- a basis for the development of a Christian moral life
- an appropriate knowledge and understanding of the rites and practices of the Catholic Church
- an appropriate knowledge and understanding of the beliefs and practices of other religions and faiths
- an ability to deal with religious concepts, thinking, reflection and morally informed decisions
- an awareness of their personal faith and a developing sense of:
 - self-esteem
 - awe and wonder
 - transcendence
 - respect for the beliefs and practices of others
 - personal responsibility
 - belonging to a community
 - personal and community responsibility for others

OBJECTIVES

1. To develop the concept that Religious Education is a partnership between home, school and Parish.
2. To develop knowledge and understanding of the 5Ws and how they form a basis for our everyday actions
3. To help and encourage the children and their families to appreciate, understand and actively participate in the Liturgical and Sacramental life of the Church.
4. To help the children to respect their fellow human beings and treat them accordingly.
5. To provide the children with a living, worshipping community, thereby helping them to enter into the full life of the Church.
6. To help the children develop into mature Christian adults, with a clear understanding of moral values.

ORGANISATION AND PLANNING

Teachers devote 10% of their teaching timetable to Religious Education. This excludes prayer and worship in the school (e.g. assemblies or in class) and hymn practise.

At St Joseph's school we follow the Religious guidelines as approved by the Salford Diocese scheme "Come and See". As part of the scheme, children learn about the World Religions in order to develop understanding and respect for other faiths in our community. Children are encouraged to reflect and pray in both whole school and

class based liturgies. Children will attend regular assemblies and school masses to share in whole school prayer and worship of God.

IMPLEMENTATION

THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMME OF STUDY

This will provide a comprehensive and systematic study of Christianity so that children and young people will be enabled to:

GOD	grow in knowledge of and openness to the mystery of God.
JESUS	become familiar with the person, life and teaching of Jesus who, as Saviour and Lord, reveals both the face of God and the fullness of what it means to be human.
SCRIPTURE	grow in understanding and appreciation of Scripture and its place in Christianity.
CHURCH	grow in experience, knowledge and understanding of the Church, her life and teachings, her significance in the world today, and her concern for peace and justice.
WORSHIP	prepare for, participate in and appreciate liturgical prayer and worship.
HUMANITY	develop a moral awareness as they reflect upon the human condition, and their own and others' lives in the light of the Christian Message.

Through sound teaching which reflects children's and young people's capacity for learning and growing, the School's Religious Education Programme will:

- be informed by a range of teaching styles and the whole variety of ways in which pupils learn, and will enable teachers to select from or devise appropriate experiences.
- affirm all pupils' value and worth, build on their own experience of living relationships and contribute to the development of positive self-esteem.
- provide opportunities for pupils to recognise, appreciate and develop their talents and skills.
- promote the development of independence and autonomy in children so that they are encouraged to accept increasing responsibility for their own learning and are enabled to make ever more fully informed, mature and free responses and choices in relation to God, faith and the service of others.

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

We aim to assist the children of St Joseph's school to nourish their Faith and develop a deep, personal relationship with God through regular opportunities for prayer and worship. We provide opportunities for children in the class to plan and deliver a time of prayer and worship for their class and for other classes.

PRAYER

Prayer forms the core of our assemblies/liturgies, whether in class or whole school. Children are taught formal prayers and are encouraged to choose their own words to speak freely to God.

Formal prayers are said four times throughout the day, at the start of the day, before and after dinner time and at the end of the day. Through class liturgies, children are encouraged to talk informally to God.

The prayer life of the school, including hymns, is closely linked to the liturgical year. We follow a progression of prayer to ensure that all children are taught a range of formal prayers throughout their time at St Joseph's.

WORSHIP

Regular masses, linked to the school and the Church's timetable, are held.

All parents and parishioners are invited to attend. School Masses are celebrated by the parish priest at St Joseph's. Class Masses are celebrated by the Parish Priest in school with the pupils and parents of the class. Pupils are encouraged to write their own Prayers or Hymns for assembly throughout the school. Pupil Chaplains (GIFT team) are appointed in Year 5 and 6 by letter of application, they then lead prayer and worship sessions as well as prayer club and leading the rest of the school in prayer and worship.

The school support the Parish to prepare children for their Sacramental Programme each year.

CROSS CURRICULAR LINKS

It is the aim of teachers at St Joseph's to place Religious Education at the centre of the curriculum underpinning the other areas of school life. Constant use is made of art, music and drama as a means of expression, illustration and worship. Whenever possible the spiritual life of the children is enriched through all areas of the curriculum.

CHARITIES

The school fund raises throughout the Church year for local, national and global causes, so that children see Christian Faith in action. Pupils are encouraged to be proactive in developing their responsibility and commitment to the common good at local, national and global levels.

In truth I tell you, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers or sisters of mine, you did it to me.

ASSESSMENT

1. Short term assessment in terms of teacher evaluation will take place after each lesson and throughout each unit. This will inform future planning.
2. Medium term assessments are carried out in accordance with the "Come and See" guidelines. Children's ability levels are recorded at the end of each unit and placed in the teacher's assessment file. Differentiated activities are linked to pupil's ability. All information is discussed and passed on to the co-ordinator and the next class teacher.
3. Whole school assessments to take place at the end of each term to show progression throughout the school in Religious Education.

PROVISION FOR CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS

Provision for children with additional needs is planned in accordance with the school policy. Children with additional needs are integrated into the class programme as much as possible and work is differentiated according to pupils' different abilities.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Our commonality and individuality as children of God are supported through the content, teaching and values of the subject. Our Mission Statement and Pastoral Care policies (which include policies on Equal Opportunities) support and promote equal opportunities in all we do. This policy should be read in conjunction with the Health & Safety Policy and the school's policies on equal opportunities.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Religious Education teaching and activities, including visits and the use of artefacts, will be in accordance with the school's Health and Safety policy.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- i. The Head teacher is ultimately responsible for ensuring the provision and quality of Religious Education.
- ii. The Religious Education Co-ordinator is responsible for:
 - devising the Religious Education policy document in consultation with staff and governors
 - conducting annual review of policy
 - monitoring the teaching and learning of the "Come and See" curriculum
 - liaising with the Governing Body as necessary
 - recommending the requisitioning of Religious Education materials for use in the classroom
 - recommending the requisitioning of Religious Education materials for the school

- raising issues connected with the implementation of the Religious Education syllabus with Governors, Headteacher and staff
- co-ordinating planning and recording of topics and schemes of work
- assisting teachers in the delivery of the Religious Education curriculum
- attending Religious Education meetings at the direction of the Headteacher and relaying relevant information to staff
- making recommendations to the Senior Management Team concerning INSET requirements for Religious Education

IMPACT

- Each individual child will grow in the image and likeness of God and develop their God given gifts and talents to the full
- They will develop their own personal faith, learn about the faith of others and receive a broad and balanced curriculum which is centred around Christ.
- Children will live out the 5Ws in all that they do in line with the Self-Evaluation Framework.

Review

This policy will be reviewed in accordance with the School Development Plan.

June 2024

PRAYERS

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

In the name of the father
And of the Son
And of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

MORNING OFFERING

O my God You love me
You're with me night and day,
I want to love you always,
In all I do or say,
I'll try to please you father,
Bless me through the day
Amen.

THE OUR FATHER

Our Father, who art in Heaven,
hallowed by thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth,
as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.

THE HAIL MARY

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, mother of God pray for us
sinners now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

THE ETERNAL REST

Eternal rest give unto them O Lord
and let perpetual light shine upon them,
may they rest in peace.
Amen.

THE GLORY BE

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

A GRACE BEFORE MEALS

Bless us, O God, as we sit together.
Bless the food we eat today.
Bless the hands that made the food.
Bless us O God.
Amen.

A GRACE AFTER MEALS

Thank you, God, for the food we have eaten.
Thank you, God, for all our friends.
Thank you, God, for everything.
Thank you,
Amen.

NIGHT PRAYER

God Our Father, I came to say,
thank you for your love today.
Thank you for my family
and all the friends you give to me.
Guard me in the dark of night
and in the morning send your light.
Amen.

ACT OF CONTRITION

Oh My God,
Because You are so good,
I am very sorry that I have sinned.

MEMORARE

REMEMBER, O most loving Virgin Mary, that it is
a thing unheard of,
that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored
thy help, or sought thy intercession was left
unaided.
Inspired with this confidence, I fly to thee, O
Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to you I come;
before you I stand, a sorrowful sinner.
O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my
petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me.
Amen.