



**English Martyrs'**  
**Catholic Primary School**  
Loving Jesus, Loving Learning, Loving Life

# **Religious Education Policy**

## **September 2023-2025**

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<b>Approved by:</b>	Maria Elliott (Headteacher)
<b>Changes made:</b>	
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## English Martyrs' Catholic Primary School

### Ethos Statement

Within the Mission Statement of the school, it makes it absolutely clear that the whole ethos of the school and all aspects of the school will reflect the practice and traditions of our Catholic faith. Such teachings direct us to believe that we are all "Children of God" and that we live by following the example of Jesus giving to us in the Gospels. We aspire to live out these Gospel Values but putting the Beatitudes into practice in all that we do.

Our school motto – '*Loving Jesus, loving learning, loving life*'; along with the Beatitudes underpin all that we do here at English Martyrs'.

The principles of striving for excellence in all that we attempt to do and taking the opportunities offered for reconciliation should be uppermost in our minds when dealing with issues particularly when this involves conflict or misunderstandings between members of the school family.

### Be-attitudes

At English Martyrs' Catholic School we follow what Jesus taught us in the Gospels., where the Be-attitudes underpin every element of our school.

**As a Catholic School we have the Catholic mission at our very core.**

Everyone in school is expected to actively follow and live out our mission statement:

**"Loving Jesus, Loving Learning, Loving Life."**

We achieve our Mission Statement by following the Beatitudes as the foundation blocks of all we do. The Beatitudes give us the ATTITUDES that we want to BE.

We have Be-attitudes for Behaviour and Conduct (Our Core Values), Beatitudes for Learning and Beatitudes for Teaching.





## Religious Education Policy

### Mission Statement

As pupils at English Martyrs' Catholic School we will follow what Jesus taught us in the Gospels. We know that God made us and that we are all equal - no-one is better than anyone else so we will respect, value and learn to tolerate everyone in our school community. It is our mission to make our school a happy place where children can work hard, learn, have fun and feel safe.

To achieve this:

We will get to know God by taking part in prayer and worship.

We will be thankful for the talents and gifts God has given us and work hard to use them to make sure that we learn as much as we can.

We will make sure that everyone in our school is happy and feels safe by being kind, caring, well behaved and polite.

### 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 'the core of the core curriculum.'  
*'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.'*<sup>1</sup>
- Religious Education is the systematic study of the teaching of the Church and the mystery of Christ and is a rigorous academic subject in its own right.  
*Religious Education is regarded as an academic discipline with the same systematic demands and the same rigour as other disciplines.*<sup>2</sup> As such it is to be taught, developed and resourced with the same commitment as any other subject.

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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 Curriculum Directory, Department of Catholic Education and Formation, Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, 2012, p.3

<sup>3</sup> Religious Education in Catholic Schools, Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, 2000, para 7

<sup>4</sup> Religious Education Curriculum Directory, Department of Catholic Education and Formation, Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, 2012, p.6



*"Excellence in religious education, then, will be characterised by a clarity of succinct religious learning objectives and of key content, by appropriate methodologies, rigour, richness of resources, achievement of identified outcomes and accurate methods of assessment. Classroom RE will be a challenging educational engagement between the pupil, the teacher and the authentic subject material."*<sup>3</sup>

- Whilst evangelisation and catechesis are happening in our school for some pupils, 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.
- The outcome of Classroom 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".*<sup>4</sup>

#### **The Aims of Religious Education as stated in the RE Curriculum Directory are:**

- *To present engagingly a comprehensive content which is the basis of knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith;*
- *To enable pupils continually to deepen their religious and theological understanding and be able to communicate this effectively;*
- *To present an authentic vision of the Church's moral and social teaching so that pupils can make a critique of the underlying trends in contemporary culture and society;*
- *To raise pupils' awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities in order to respect and understand them;*
- *To develop the critical faculties of pupils so that they can relate their Catholic faith to daily life;*
- *To stimulate pupils' imagination and provoke a desire for personal meaning as revealed in the truth of the Catholic faith;*
- *To enable pupils to relate the knowledge gained through Religious Education to their understanding of other subjects in the curriculum;*
- *To bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture.*<sup>5</sup>

#### **Religious Education - Curriculum Time Allocation**

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, 2012 – Revelation, Church, Celebration and Life in Christ - 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 Curriculum 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.'* <sup>6</sup>

### **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**

All pupils in our school, irrespective of ability, faith and background will have appropriate differentiated access to the Religious Education programme.

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.

<sup>5</sup> Religious Education Curriculum Directory, Department of Catholic Education and Formation, Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, 2012, p.6

<sup>6</sup> Religious Education Curriculum Directory, Department of Catholic Education and Formation, Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, 2012, p.7

### **Right of withdrawal from RE**

Parents have the right of withdrawal from RE for their children. The school has a separate Policy for the Withdrawal from RE.

### **Other Religions**

Two other religions are taught from EYFS to Year 6 following the programme of study in 'Come and See'. These are Judaism, which is usually taught in the Autumn, and Islam, which is taught either in the Spring or Summer. At least one week's teaching and learning time per year is given to each. We also celebrate

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

- Assessment of standards is carried out according to Diocesan guidelines using the criteria set out in Levels of Attainment in RE agreed by Bishops' Conference.
- Each teacher keeps assessment sheet work and records of pupils' progress.
- This is monitored by the RE co-ordinator and the SLT.
- The school portfolio of pupils' work contains samples of work from each teacher. This is done termly.
- An in - house moderation meeting is held every *term* and an *assessment grid* is filled out for HA/MA/LA/SEND/PP.
- *Trust moderation* takes place in the *spring term*.
- The books are taken to the Diocesan Moderation at RE Coordinators' Moderation meetings in the summer term.



- Monitoring of teaching and learning is a continuous process and happens termly. Please see co-ordinators files.
- Pupils are cross checked against the objectives they have covered and levelled at the end of each term and this information is used to ensure progress and achievement is recorded and tracked... Pupils are recorded onto the school tracking grid. SLT and RE Coordinator cross moderates' judgements.
- Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to parents/carers in a written report at the end of each academic year.
- Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to Governors. Co-ordinator will meet with Governor assigned to religious education at least once per term.

### **Management of the Subject**

Mrs Watts, the Co-ordinator/Subject Leader has responsibility for leading, managing and supporting the delivery of and training in 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, work scrutinies according to school practice.*
- *Organising and maintaining the school portfolio of pupil's work.*
- *Self-evaluating to identify strengths and areas for development.*
- *Ensuring the curriculum offered is appropriate, suitable and relevant for pupil's needs and interests.*
- *Attending appropriate training and keeping staff up to date with current thinking, policy and developments.*
- *Organising and delivering in-house staff training and development.*
- *Identify 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 and the education service on matters relating to religious education.*
- *Auditing, managing and developing resources within a given budget.*

### **Policy Monitoring and Review**

This policy will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed by Miss Elliott, the Local Governing Committee and the appointed religious co-ordinator every 2 years.

\*Islam is the recommended second World Faith to be studied. In exceptional circumstances schools may choose to study an alternative world religion in response to local need (eg. A high proportion of pupils are Hindu).



## APPENDIX 1

# DIOCESE OF **Hexham & Newcastle**

## DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION

### Primary RE Co-ordinator Job Description

- 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, 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 the Co-ordinators' meetings, and inform the Headteacher and colleagues of current standards and developments within Religious Education.
- To attend appropriate In-service 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 set up and maintain a portfolio of work in order to monitor progression and continuity. Samples of work should reflect the appropriate Attainment target strands and levels.
- Attend annual diocesan moderation meetings with the school portfolio.
- To track data and use this, in consultation with the Headteacher, to set realistic targets in RE.
- To ensure that cross-curricular concerns such as literacy skills, multi-cultural issues, equal opportunity, the use of Information Technology and PHSE are reflected in Religious Education.
- In consultation with the Headteacher to communicate with parents, governors and the parish community regarding issues associated with Religious Education.
- In consultation with the Headteacher to communicate with parents, governors and the parish community regarding issues associated with Religious Education.
- To liaise with other primary and secondary colleagues.
- To maintain a Subject Leader's file containing:
  1. The Religious Education Policy and Guidelines



2. Medium term plans which represent schemes of work in school.
  3. Assessment and monitoring procedures for teaching and learning and evidence of that monitoring.
  4. Audits and reports to Headteacher about progress made in RE.
  5. A record of Staff Professional Development in RE
  6. Data and current targets in RE.
- 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 Headteacher to complete the school's DSEF document.
  - To keep up to date with any changes to the Areas of Study (Religious Education Curriculum Directory).