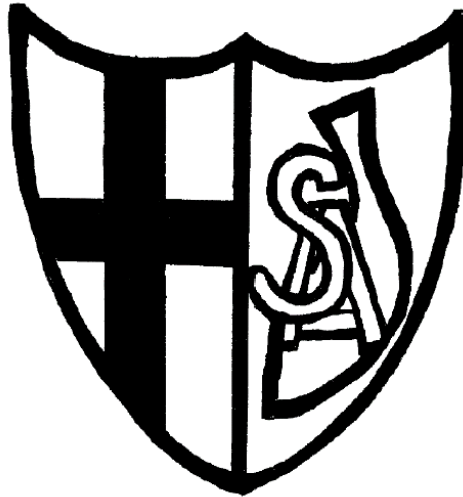


St. Albert the Great Catholic Primary School



“The more I learn about the world in which I live,
the closer I grow to God.”

Religious Education Policy

Author: RE Subject Leader

Approved: Autumn 2022

Next Review: Autumn 2023

Religious Education Policy

September 2022

Curriculum Intent

As a Catholic school, RE lies at the heart of our curriculum and school life. The teachings of the Gospels are at the centre of everything we do and we strive to ensure that the Christian values show themselves not only in the RE lessons but at all times. We are committed to the Catholic Faith, recognising and valuing every individual as special and unique in the image and likeness of God. Religious Education at St. Albert the Great Catholic School, respects and promotes each child's innate capacity for wonder, awe, reverence and spirituality.

Throughout our RE Curriculum the pupils are taught about God's love; they learn about their Christian responsibilities; pupils are provided with experiences of church, Catholic and Christian traditions, as well as being taught to be respectful and understanding of people and traditions from other faith backgrounds. Through Religious Education our pupils learn about their unique place within the home, school and parish community.

The intent of our Religious Education curriculum is to:

- Enable pupils to continually 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
- To encourage pupils to respect and be fully aware of the needs of others as equal members of God's creation.

Curriculum Implementation

As a Catholic School, we devote 10% of curriculum time to the teaching of Religious Education in line with the expectations set forth in the Religious Education Curriculum Directory (RECD); this is separate from times of prayer and collective worship, such as assemblies, liturgies and class prayer which happen in addition to the taught curriculum.

We follow the scheme of work 'Come & See' as well as following guidelines from Diocese of Westminster. This programme is delivered throughout school from Nursery through to Year 6. This programme provides:

- Opportunities for celebration, prayer and reflection in implicit and explicit ways.
- Pupils with the language of religious experience – a 'literacy' in religious activities, places, stories, symbols and rituals, people and objects.
- A 'systematic presentation of Christian event, message and way of life' in ways appropriate to the age and stage of development of each child.
- Appropriate materials about other faiths.
- Academic respectability as in other curricular areas

As well as covering the delivery of Catholic Education, 'Come and See' also contains the resources and units required for us to regularly teach pupils about other world religions, in order for them to develop an appreciation for faith in a wider sense and to become appreciative and respectful of the religious beliefs, practices and observances of others. It is hoped that this will enable them to become responsible and respectful members of the multi-cultural, multi-faith society in which we live.

Homework tasks are set every four weeks in line with the topic cycle of the 'Come and See' scheme of work.

In addition to the 'Come and See' scheme of work, a Catholic Social Teaching curriculum has been implemented using the 'Caritas in Action' books from the Diocese of Salford. This curriculum promotes spiritual, moral, social and cultural education and citizenship. Pupils from Nursery through to Year 6 are given the opportunity to access learning opportunities linked to seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching.

1. Life and Dignity of the Human Person
2. Call to Family, Community, and Participation
3. Rights and Responsibilities
4. Option for the Poor and Vulnerable
5. The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers
6. Solidarity
7. Care for God's Creation

Planning

Teachers devise RE unit plans for each topic using the Come and See planning scheme as a basis for innovation. This ensures that RE teaching at St Albert the Great provides the pupils with the scope to develop the breadth and depth of their knowledge and understanding for each RE standard assessment focus. The RE Subject Leader supports staff teaching staff to accomplish this.

The unit plans will display the specific learning objectives for each lesson (including driver words from the Age-Related Standards document), give details of how each lesson will be taught as well as how progress for all learners will be achieved.

All pupils' needs are met through careful planning by class teachers. It is expected that the RE curriculum is able to be accessed by all pupils in our school. Pupils with SEN are provided with resources, adapted tasks and dedicated time with adult support to ensure they can achieve in Religious Education.

Assessment and Marking

Religious Education is a core subject in the Catholic school. Religious Education is planned, taught, assessed and monitored with the same rigour as other core curriculum subjects.

Marking in RE is completed in line with whole school marking. This marking should recognise achievement and effort and move learning forward. One piece of work a week should be marked in-depth, with the use of next step marking to move the pupils' learning forward. In addition, teachers indicate where pupils should make corrections to religiously specific spelling or grammar errors.

Pupils are assessed in RE against the Diocese of Westminster's Age Related Standard Document. This document can also offer support for teachers to ensure that learning is suitably pitched in order that RE is as interesting, enjoyable and challenging as any other curriculum subject.

Class teachers upload summative assessment data onto the RE Assessment spreadsheet every term, which is then monitored and analysed by the RE Subject Leader and Senior Leadership Team. This data also forms part of Pupil Progress discussions each term.

To ensure our assessments are correct, in addition to internal moderation held regularly throughout the academic year we also take part in moderation between local Catholic schools, Catholic schools from across the Diocese each year.

Pupil achievement is regularly reported to parents at parent consultation evenings as well as in a dedicated Religious Education section of the pupils' annual reports.

Learning Environment

The high standard of Religious Education in our school will be reflected in the work displayed in every classroom and corridor displays. The work on display should indicate the topics and themes currently being covered by the class as well as the progress being made by the children. These classroom displays should be updated regularly so the children can use the models of work as a benchmark for their own progress. It is also essential that RE displays prominently feature the colours of the liturgical calendar.

Resources

The 'Come and See' Teacher resource book and website, are available to support teachers in planning learning in Religious Education in all classes. We have sufficient resources in our school to be able to teach all our religious education teaching units and other Liturgical feasts and seasons.

We have a selection of books and artefacts to enhance the teaching of several other world faiths, i.e. Judaism, Islam, Sikhism, Hinduism.

The school library has a good supply of RE topic books, these are audited annually and new resources purchased as needed.

Contribution to Other Subjects and Cultural Enrichment

English

Religious Education contributes significantly to the teaching of English in our school by actively promoting the skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening. We also encourage the children to develop their writing ability by using a range of written activities in each RE topic. For example, prayers, poems, diaries, letters, information recording, extended story writing may be planned to provide writing opportunities. Our use of scripture also exposes the children to high-level challenging vocabulary – which they are supported by teaching staff to comprehend.

Computing

At St Albert the Great, we use technology where appropriate in Religious Education to enhance learning. For example, finding, selecting and analysing information using the internet, recording drama and songs and exploring faith through photography. Technology can also be used to review, modify and evaluate work and to improve its presentation.

RSE

Through our Religious Education teaching enhanced by TenTen's 'Life To The Full' programme, we promote Catholic virtues that we will ensure that pupils and young people are offered a broad and balanced RSHE programme which provides them with clear factual, scientific information about their bodies when relevant and aims to create well-rounded and adjusted pupils who are resilient and able to live well in relationship with others.

Our school's RSE programme of study has three themes:

- Created to love others - this explores an individual's relationships with others and shows an understanding of the importance of valuing and understanding oneself as the basis for personal relationships.
- God is love - We are created out of love and for love. The command to love is the basis of all Christian morality.
- Created to live in community – local, national & global (this explores the individual's relationships with the wider world)

Spiritual and Moral

Through teaching Religious Education in our school, we provide opportunities for spiritual development. Children consider and respond to questions concerning the meaning and purpose of life. We help them to recognise the difference between right and wrong through the study of moral and ethical questions. We enhance their social development by helping them to build a sense of identity in a multicultural society. Children explore issues of religious faith and values and, in doing so; they develop their knowledge and understanding of the cultural context of their own lives.

Art

Religious Education at St Albert the Great offers all pupils many opportunities to express their knowledge, beliefs and values in a variety of creative and artistic ways. Children are introduced to religious art appreciation (such as Rembrandt's The Return of The Prodigal Son etc.) and what artistic depictions inform us about the artist's own faith and beliefs.

Monitoring and Review

Monitoring of teaching and learning within RE is the joint responsibility of The REC and Headteacher/Head of School.

Each term a book scrutiny of RE books is carried out, this is also done with other members of The Senior Leadership Team. The REC is given regular release time to monitor their subject by reviewing samples of work and visiting classes across each key stage to observe teaching. They then feedback the outcomes of this monitoring to the Headteacher/Head of School and to staff.