



St Cuthbert Mayne Catholic Primary School



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'Recognising the value and worth of each individual'

Policy on Religious Education (RE)

Policy compiled by:

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Mission

At St Cuthbert Mayne Catholic Primary School, the teachings of Our Lord Jesus Christ embedded in the Gospel values are at the centre of all of that we do here. This policy reflects the values and mission of our school, in relation to the teaching and learning of our pupils and all staff. Our Mission is to provide an enriching learning environment and curriculum in which children use our school values to acquire essential life skills to enable them to become lifelong learners. Our behaviour, learning and gospel values will be understood and demonstrated by all members of our school community. Learning will be planned to meet individual needs ensuring the unique dignity of every child and enabling them to become, in the future, fully developed individuals able to promote the 'Common Good' in society and have life to the full.

Our Mission Statement

Quality Education with Catholic Christian Values

To provide a Catholic Christian based education with God at the centre of all learning.

To create a strong, positive interaction between home, parish and school.

To recognise the value and worth of each individual child and member of staff; building on strengths and addressing weaknesses.

To provide challenge in the delivery of the National Curriculum, taking into account individual needs and abilities with an emphasis on excellence.

Introduction

The policy has been arrived at through close consultation with governors, staff at all levels and by seeking advice and guidance from outside agencies. It has been developed with the following aims and philosophies very much in mind.

The Mission Statement

Our Mission Statement is central to the life of the school. It is displayed in all rooms. All the children are encouraged to think of ways in which they can strive to live out the Mission Statement.

The Importance of the Role of Parents in Religious Education

St Cuthbert Mayne Catholic Primary School recognises the central role parents have in the religious education of their children. As the Statement of the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales on Religious Education in Catholic Schools '2000' states, "The first educators in the faith are parents. It is they, above all others, who establish in their children the first sensitivity and responsiveness to the presence of God, to the practice of prayer and to the patterns of life in the community of faith, the parish. By their example in the home and in the participation in the Mass and the other sacraments the foundations of a life-long faith and discipleship in their children are laid down."

Our Catholic School

It is in the spirit of the above statement that our school works. We see school in the partnership with the home and the parish communities to which our children belong. As the General Directory for Catechesis affirms, "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." This 'educational mission' is our central role.

The Aims of Religious Education at our School

In keeping with our Mission Statement, we aim to provide a Religious Education (RE) that attends to the needs of every pupil. Within this environment we believe that:

"...Religious Education is not one subject amongst many but the foundation of the entire education process. The beliefs and values it communicates should inspire and unify every aspect of school life." (Bishops Conference of England and Wales 1988)

"For the teacher does not write on inanimate material, but on the very spirits of human beings." (The Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium 1998)

Our Mission Statement is central to the life of our school. All members of the school community are encouraged to think of ways in which they can strive to live out the Mission Statement in their everyday lives.

Religious Education lies at the heart of the curriculum and school life.

Our aim is to create a happy, caring, stable environment which is truly Catholic and based on the life and teachings of Christ and the Catholic Church.

To enable all members of the school community to understand and to live our mission statement: "to follow God's guidance of loving and caring for each other in the way He taught us."

To enable each child to deepen his/her relationship with God and to further his/her understanding of the Faith through R.E teaching, prayer, reflection and celebration.

To enable each child to develop a sense of moral and social responsibility supporting and caring for those close to them and extending to the wider community.

To help each child to feel valued and respected for his/her contribution to school life, where success is celebrated and difficulties and problems talked through and prayed through.

Our Approach to Religious Education at St Cuthbert Mayne

We aim to provide an environment where every child feels secure.

We teach the children how to respect and value each other as individuals and how to care for one another so they help to foster a calm, happy and caring community.

We discuss our attitudes and behaviour and how they affect the well-being of other members of our school community.

We aim to teach the children and each other, by example, in the daily life of the school.

We pray together, teaching both specific school prayers and how to pray spontaneously and peacefully. We gather together for assemblies and to celebrate the Liturgy on a number of occasions each term.

Through R.E, masses, collective worship and prayer we teach concepts, knowledge of the scriptures, the church and moral attitudes.

We follow the Religious Education Programme - 'Come and See'.

We encourage home, school and parish links. We invite families and parishioners to attend our school masses.

We welcome the visits of the parish priest of Cranleigh and Bramley and his involvement in the life of the school.

We welcome the Bishop of Arundel and Brighton to our school to celebrate special events.

We work collaboratively with the parish in preparations of the children in Year 3 for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

We promote the children's awareness of the local and wider communities by encouraging them to participate in charitable activities and fund raising.

We acknowledge that everyone is equal in the sight of God and follow a policy of equal opportunities.

We promote the Catholic identity of the School through the School's Admissions Policy.

The Religious Education Programme at the School

In response to the question: 'Where do you live?' which was asked by the disciples, Jesus invited them to; 'Come and See.' (John 1:39) The disciples went with Jesus, 'and spent the rest of that day with him.'

The RE Curriculum is delivered primarily through the programme 'Come and See', in line with Diocesan guidance and The Curriculum Directory.

Teaching in RE is based upon the four Constitutions of the Second Vatican Council.:

REVELATION - God speaks - finding meaning in life.

CHURCH - Christ the light of the nations - Community of Faith

CHRISTIAN LIVING - Joy and hope - Way of Life

SACRAMENTS - Liturgy: Celebration - Celebration in symbol and ritual

THE THEMES

Come and See is developed through three themes based upon the above documents of the Second Vatican Council, which are gradually explored each time at greater depth. They are Church, Sacrament and Christian Living. The basic question - belief for each season time is explored through three kinds of themes:

- **Community of Faith - Church**
- **Celebration of Ritual - Sacraments**
- **Way of Life - Christian Living**

Each of the themes occurs in each season time and each theme gradually builds on the understanding of the previous theme. The themes for each season are as follows:

AUTUMN

The three autumn themes are developed in the light of an understanding of Creation:

- **Family - Domestic Church** focuses on life as a gift, myself as a unique and loved creation, the creative love and care that can be expressed in family groups.
- **Belonging - Baptism/Confirmation** focuses on the call to belong. Baptism and Confirmation, sacraments of the gift of God's life and friendship.
- **Loving - Advent/Christmas** focuses on the capacity for entering into loving relationships and the perfect gift and revelation of God's love, Jesus, born to Mary, born as one of us.

SPRING

The three spring themes are developed in the light of an understanding of Incarnation:

- **Community --Local Church** focuses on the people of God gathered in Christ, united in the journey of faith, in care for one another, in sharing their story and in celebration.

- Relating - Eucharist focuses on the invitation to know Jesus, to live in communion with him and one another.
- Giving --Lent/Easter focuses on Jesus' loving self-giving on the cross, the Father's love that raises him to new life and the challenge of Christians to follow Jesus' example of self-giving.

SUMMER

The three summer themes are developed in the light of an understanding of Redemption and the work of the Holy Spirit.

- Serving --Pentecost focuses on the on-going mission of Jesus Christ in the Church through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Inter-Relating - Reconciliation focuses on love, compassion and forgiveness of God the Father revealed in Jesus and poured out by the Spirit to bring forgiveness and reconciliation in the sacrament of Reconciliation.
- World- Universal Church focuses on the same love revealed in the diversity of the world and its people, and the gifts of the Spirit that bear fruit in love, joy, justice and peace for all people.

Multi faith Programme

As part of the 'Come and See' R.E. programme all children will study for two weeks of the year, Judaism and one other World Religion such as Islam.

This enables the children to have an understanding of what life is like for a child of another faith by the time they leave us.

Using the Programme

Following the advice of the Bishops Conference of England and Wales and the Diocesan R.E. Advisor, the school spends 10% of the teaching week on Religious Education. This does not include Collective Worship.

Teaching Methods Used in the Teaching of R.E. at the School

Our children have the opportunity to be taught in different way:

- a) Whole class discussion and teaching.
- b) Group discussion and feedback.
- c) Differentiated activities according to abilities.
- d) Partner work.
- e) Individual research and study. Teachers are encouraged to be as varied and as creative as possible in the methods they use in the teaching of R.E.

Marking and feedback

Each class teacher is responsible for responding to pupil learning. This is done in line with school guidelines. (see Feedback and Marking Policy). Feedback in R.E. must be seen in the light of the children's response to the subject, to the learning objective given at the beginning of each element of the 'Come and See' theme, and their use and remembering of the key words given with each theme. Developmental marking is central to our marking policy.

Assessment

It is neither possible nor appropriate to attempt to assess the children's religious commitment, but assessment can be made in the pupil's knowledge, understanding and skills. The teachers complete an assessment of the children's attainment using the

Diocesan Interim Standards for Primary Education. This makes reference to the CES Age Related Standards in Religious Education (July 2018).

Levels of attainment are recorded on the school's assessment tracking system for the core subjects. Internal and external moderation take places to ensure accurate teacher assessment.

Home learning

Children are set R.E. home learning where appropriate. This can be related to classroom R.E., involve research, or the learning or writing of prayers.

Display

All classrooms have an R.E. display relating to the current 'Come and See' topic and in line with the current liturgical season.

Teachers are encouraged to emphasise and draw attention to the prayer corner with the highest possible standard of display and presentation.

Prayer areas

All classrooms have a prayer area. The children are encouraged to face or gather around this area during prayer. There are additional prayer focus areas in the school entrance outside of the hall and a prayer focus area in the school hall.

Reporting

There are parent evenings in the Autumn and Spring Terms, when parents have opportunity to talk to the class teachers around their child's progress and to discuss ways in which the home and school are able to support each other. Parents are able to view pupil learning in books.

Additionally, parents are able to view their children's learning during Open Classroom events which occur half termly. In the Spring Term, parents are able to see the children's work.

A written report is sent home during the Summer Term.

Monitoring

The Head teacher/Co-ordinator collect in a sample of the children's R.E. books each term. General feedback is given to all and individual feedback is also given if appropriate.

R.E. teaching is monitored as part of the monitoring and evaluation cycle and written feedback is given to staff.

RE work is moderated during sessions which include twilight RE meetings for teachers, moderation meetings with other Deanery schools, during regular RE co-ordinator meetings.

Spiritual and Moral Development

We have always tried to create the atmosphere needed to fulfil our Mission Statement.

We try to emphasise the qualities of self-discipline, self-control, perseverance, determination, a sense of fair play and thoughtfulness for others in school and in the wider community.

Creating a Secure, Stable and Happy Environment

We believe that the way in which we welcome children into our school enables the foundation of a happy and secure community.

We have an induction for children who will be starting in the Reception Class when they spend time in school with their class teachers and also current pupils.

The class teachers also do a nursery and a home visit to see the children in their nursery and their parents in the home environment.

We stagger our admission days and times to allow the children to become socially integrated and to get to know their teachers.

Children joining other classes are taken on a tour of the school and are given the opportunity to spend time in their classes before admission.

We take care to establish a calm, stable, working atmosphere in the school and to establish a routine, as we believe all children thrive if they are confident in the knowledge of what is consistently expected of them.

We recognise the value and worth of each individual child and value each child's contribution to the life of the school. We acknowledge that children learn by example. We consider it essential that each child realises that all staff care for his/her well-being and show respect. It is also important that children see adults working alongside each other and co-operating with each other.

We stress the importance of respect for others and illustrate how behaviour affects other members of the school community. Politeness and good manners are considered essential and are positively encouraged.

Good behaviour is praised and used to illustrate the positive benefit it brings to the school community. Misbehaviour is corrected and care is taken to show how it brings unhappiness to others. Each case is handled sensitively and children are encouraged to learn from their mistakes. Reflection and reconciliation times are built into this process.

Prayer

We aim to help children value and respect the power of prayer and to use it to help strengthen the children's relationships with God. Pupils are provided with ample opportunity to pray in different ways including class liturgy, meditation, reflection and spontaneous prayer. We want to be a praying community. We have a school prayer book and children are taught a range of prayers throughout their time at St Cuthbert Mayne.

It is important for the children to know 'formal' prayer of the church which we may all pray together and which we all hear and say with the parish/family communities outside school. We also value 'formal' prayers which have been written especially for children and which hold meaning for them. With these two aspects in mind we aim to teach particular prayers increasing in difficulty as the children develop.

We all pray collectively at school in the morning (in class or at assembly), before lunch and at the end of the school day.

Prayer does not only mean 'formal' prayers. We do hope to help each other to listen to God speaking to us and to respond in our hearts and minds during moments of silence.

We also encourage prayer writing by the children themselves. All children understand that they can request personal intentions and can compile and share their own prayers.

Each class has a prayer area which provides a focus for prayer in the classroom. There are also prayer areas around the school and an outdoor prayer garden.

At school the children are taught to know by heart the following prayers:

- The Sign of the Cross
- The Lord's Prayer
- The Hail Mary
- The Glory be to the Father
- The Morning Offering
- The Night Prayer
- Grace before / After Meals

During Key Stage 2 children become familiar with and are encouraged to learn:

- The Prayer for the Dead
- The Prayer of the Rosary
- The Act of Contrition/Sorrow
- The Responses to the Mass
- The Hail Holy Queen
- The Apostles Creed

Assembly

The daily Collective Act of Worship is an essential element of our School Life. We value the opportunity to gather as a community which can pray together, sing together, share sadness together and celebrate good news together.

	Collective worship	Led by	Notes
Monday	Whole school collective worship	Headteacher and/or pupils	Based on Sunday Gospel reading or liturgical season. Focus on school mission and also school values.
Tuesday	Class liturgies/Class led assemblies/ Come and See Celebration assemblies/ EPR themed assemblies e.g. anti-bullying House assemblies	Staff and/or pupils	Parents invited to attend class led assemblies.
Wednesday	Hymn practice and prayer	Assistant headteacher/ Senior Teacher	
Thursday	Open the Book assembly	St Nicolas Church group Class teacher Headboy and girl	

Friday	Celebration assembly and collective worship	Headteacher/Assistant Headteacher Class teachers lunchtime supervisors School Council	Visitors may attend e.g. Royal British Legion during Poppy Appeal/ shoe boxes for Romania representative
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Liturgy takes place in the classrooms when children are not attending an assembly. Children are actively encouraged to take part in the planning and delivery of class liturgies.

STCM7

The seven school values of; achievement, faithfulness, happiness, kindness, love, respect and responsibility, were developed by the school community and chosen by the children and staff. They are threaded throughout the school life. Most commonly one or two values are used as a focus across several weeks.

Our assemblies are related to a particular feast day or season in the liturgical year, or are linked with the 'Come and See' themes. Readings from the Bible and stories form an integral part of the assemblies. They are related to the children's daily lives and practical applications are stressed, encouraging the children to put what they hear in the gospels into action.

Liturgy

We believe that celebrating the Mass together is important to the spiritual life of the whole school community. We try to make each celebration of the Mass a community celebration which involves the children, teachers, support staff, parents and parishioners. These masses are carefully prepared by the children, with the Parish Priest, the SLT and/or RE leader and appropriate themes are chosen.

The children welcome the visitors, serve the mass, under take the readings, prayers and offertory procession.

Mass is celebrated to mark the beginning of each term, the beginning of the major seasons of the Church Year, such as Advent, Lent and on Holy Days of Obligation. The children attend Mass at church of Jesus Christ Redeemer of Mankind, although masses may also take place in school.

Sacramental Programme

Children in Year 3 and other year groups join First Holy Communion programme in preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. This takes place in the school hall.

Links with the Home

To provide the best Catholic education we believe that it is essential to establish and maintain links with the parents.

1. Home-School Agreement

On accepting a place at the school parents and carers, and children, are requested to sign a Home School Agreement document which acknowledges the Catholic identity of the school and outlines the commitment expected of the parents and children as the basis for a good working relationship between home and school.

2. Welcoming Prospective and New Parents

We provide relevant information about the school on the school's website and also during open mornings and meetings.

We show parents around the school, before applications are made, if this is requested. We organise an evening for parents before admission to the Reception Class, to give the parents the opportunity to meet each other, the Head teacher, the Class Teachers and representatives of the Governing Body and to find out all they need to know about the school.

3. Regular Information about the Child and his/her Progress and Welfare

The Head teacher and teaching staff are always very willing to talk to the parents about the education and welfare of their child. The Head teacher is generally available before or after school to see parents if they have any questions, suggestions or concerns. If they are unavailable other members of the SLT may be seen or an appointment made.

4. Parents Supporting the Work of the Teacher at Home

Termly meetings and curriculum information letters as well as regular updates.

5. Providing Information about the School and What is Happening

The weekly Newsletter written by the Headteacher conveys a wide range of information about the work of the school, special events taking place in the school or Church, upcoming Feast Days and Masses. Parents and Carers attend a half termly Parent Forum meeting

Parents and Parishioners Sharing the Religious Life of the School

Parents and parishioners are always invited to attend any celebration of the Mass. Links with the Wider Community.

We welcome the visits of the Parish Priest and other members of the Clergy. We value the clergy's contribution to the teaching of R.E. in the classrooms.

We work very closely with deanery colleagues sharing expertise, resources and ideas as well as organising special celebrations. We attend the annual Deanery Celebration of Mass at the start of each school year.

As part of the Xavier Academy Trust, we are proud to celebrate and share our journey of faith with colleagues, pupils and members of our academy community. We regularly encourage the children to participate in fund raising for the benefit of the Local and Wider Community.

Induction of New Colleagues

All new members of the staff must read very carefully the R.E. Policy. They are encouraged to ask the R.E. Leader or Headteacher for any help in any matter relating to R.E. They attend Diocesan training where possible to help support induction.

Resources

The Resources for R.E. are kept in a central cupboard, in classrooms and the Headteacher's office.

Books for the children are kept on prominent shelves in the library and in classrooms.

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