



**St Edmund's Catholic Primary School**  
*'Together we learn and grow through worship and celebration.'*



**Religious Education Policy**

Committee responsible for policy	Curriculum and Achievement
Co-ordinator	Fearghal Nash
Statutory/Non-statutory	STATUTORY
Frequency of Review	Free to determine – every 3 years or earlier if required
Date of last review Approved by <b>Staff/ SLT/Committee/FGB</b>	September 2015
Date of next review	<b>October 2018</b>
Purpose of policy	To ensure all staff understand the legal requirements for teaching RE in a Catholic school
Consultation	Staff
Links to other policies	All other subject policies Curriculum, Marking, Planning

**MISSION STATEMENT**

**Our Catholic School exists to provide an Education that is God centred. It is based on the belief that everything of worth comes from God and builds on the faith already established by the family through Baptism. *'Together we learn and grow through worship and celebration'*.**

**We encourage our children to develop their academic potential and individual talents and everyone in the school to show qualities of honesty, tolerance, forgiveness, caring and patience. All are made welcome and the worth of each is recognised, valued and celebrated.**

**Introduction**

Christ is the centre and foundation of our Catholic School. All members of our school community share the responsibility of supporting the Catholic identity of the school. Parents, staff, governors enable our children to live full lives in Christ and help them to participate in the building up of the Kingdom of God.

*At the heart of the understanding of life lies God, its creator. Indeed without acknowledgement of God as the source and destiny of human life, efforts at education will always fail to reach beyond the pragmatic.*

Archbishop of Westminster Vincent Nicholas (2005)

It is recognised that ‘...the first educators in the faith are parents. By their example in the home and the participation in the Mass and other sacraments, the foundations of life-long faith and discipleship in their children are laid down.’ (*Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales, 2000*)

### **Aims and Objectives**

The Catholic vision of Education promotes the dignity and freedom of every person as created in the image and likeness of God. This vision inspires and encourages the beliefs and values that are lived out in the daily life of the Catholic school. Within this vision, Religious Education is very much a journey of formation involving every member of the school community, together with a pupil’s family and parish community.

At St Edmund’s School Religious Education is a subject in its own right in the school’s curriculum. It is a rigorous academic discipline, and as such it is to be taught, developed and resourced with the same commitment as any other subject. For those not already engaged in the journey of faith Religious Education may be the first opportunity to hear the good news of the gospel.

### **Aims**

At St Edmund’s we aim to develop:

- The knowledge and understanding of Catholic faith and life; the mystery of God and of Jesus Christ, of the Church, and of the central beliefs that Catholics hold.
- The knowledge and understanding of the response of faith to the ultimate questions about human life, its origin and purpose; To develop awareness and appreciation of Catholic belief, understanding of its impact on personal and social behaviour and of the vital relationship between faith and life, life and faith.
- The skills required to engage in examination of and reflection upon Religious belief and practice.
- The formation of responsible and committed Catholic citizens encouraging our children, as they grow towards the highest standards in academic achievement, social responsibility and personal development.
- An awareness and understanding of other faiths and the multi-faith society in which we live.

### **Objectives**

The objectives of curriculum Religious Education at St Edmund’s School are:

- To encourage the children to develop a personal understanding of God and His importance in their lives.
- To encourage study, investigation and reflection by the pupils:
- To develop the following skills:
  - Ability to listen;
  - To think critically, spiritually, ethically and theologically;
  - To acquire knowledge and organise it effectively;
  - To make informed judgements;

- To foster the following attitudes:
  - Respect for truth;
  - Respect for self;
  - Respect for others;
  - Awareness of the spiritual;
  - Moral responsibility;
  - Religious commitment in everyday life;
  - The challenge of living in a multicultural, multi-faith society.

The outcomes of Religious Education is Religiously literate young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills - appropriate to their age and capacity - to think spiritually, ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of Religious commitment in everyday life.

*[From the Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools]*

### **Content**

The content of our Religious Education comes from the Curriculum Directory, provided by the Bishops Conference of England and Wales. To help with planning and ensuring the Curriculum Directory is accessible to the children, we use a range of planning tools including the Come and See scheme of work, the Margaret Carswell resources, CAFOD and any other relevant materials.

Each term the children cover three topics and we send out a newsletter explaining what each child will be covering and how each parent can support us in this very special part of a child's Catholic education.

Having made a positive choice for Catholic education, parents are expected to encourage the children by their own example of regular religious practice and fully support the work of the school in this area.

As PSHE supports the RE curriculum, this is also included in all RE topics.

### **Marking:**

- Marking should identify what the children do well in relation to the RE learning objective.
- If the children have not met the success criteria, marking should show them how to achieve it next time, indicating how they might move forward in their thinking and understanding.
- Questions should be used, on appropriate pieces of work, to help children reach higher levels and deepen their religious understanding.
- Questions can also be used to ensure AT2 content is covered/included.
- Religious vocabulary should be corrected if spelt incorrectly.

### **Monitoring:**

The level of teaching and learning in RE will be monitored through:

- Book checks;
- Monitoring of plans;
- Regular lesson observations
- Level analysis
- Work moderation
- Pupils and staff questionnaires

### **R.E. Co-ordinator**

The RE co-ordinator is responsible for:

- Monitoring the standards of the children's work and the quality of the teaching in Religious Education;
- Supporting colleagues in the teaching of Religious Education;
- Being informed about current developments in the subject;
- Ensuring parents, as the primary educators of the faith, are kept fully informed about RE e.g. weekly newsletter, termly RE newsletter;
- Providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in the school;
- Updating the Religious Education development plan and policy;
- Encouraging the use of appropriate practice;
- Consulting with staff at all levels and ensuring that information is communicated to them;
- Leading staff in INSET;
- Maintaining and updating resources;
- Liaising with clergy
- Promoting the use of outside resources and opportunities; and
- Presenting the Head teacher with an annual R.E. development report, which evaluates the strengths and weaknesses in the subject and indicates areas for further improvement.