

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School RE Policy

Our Vision

Loving, Learning, Achieving, Believing

In our welcoming and caring environment every child can be happy, confident and supported in achieving excellence. Our teaching reflects our Catholic faith enabling our children to develop and deepen their relationship with God.

Love one another as I have loved you

Our Mission:

At Sacred Heart School we are called to change the world by:

- Acting justly and with love: to speak for the voiceless and defend the defenceless
- Being a joyful and courageous witness of the Gospel, carrying to the world a ray of God's light.
- Becoming caretakers of our world through knowing that Creation is not a good to be exploited but a gift to be looked after.

Rationale of Religious Education:

The primary purpose of Catholic Religious Education is to come to know and understand God's revelation which is fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ...In the person of Christ, the deepest meaning of what it is to be human — that we are created by God and through the Holy Spirit united with Christ in his Incarnation — is discovered. This revelation is known through the scriptures and the tradition of the Church as taught by the Magisterium. Religious Education helps the pupil to know and experience the meaning of this revelation in his or her own life and the life of the community which is the Church.¹

The Aims of Religious Education

(RED 2024)

1. to engage in a systematic study of the mystery of God, of the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, the teachings of the Church, the central beliefs that Catholics hold, the basis for them and the relationship between faith and life;
2. to enable pupils continually to deepen their religious and theological understanding and be able to communicate this effectively;
3. to present an authentic vision of the Church's moral and social teaching to provide pupils with a

sure guide for living and the tools to critically engage with contemporary culture and society;

4. to give pupils an understanding of the religions and worldviews present in the world today and the skills to engage in respectful and fruitful dialogue with those whose worldviews differ from their own;

5. to develop the critical faculties of pupils so to bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture;

6. to stimulate pupils' imagination and provoke a desire for personal meaning are revealed in the truth of the Catholic faith;

7. to enable pupils to relate the knowledge gained through religious education to their understanding of other subjects in the curriculum culture.

Curriculum time allocation:

In line with Bishops' Conference recommendations, 10% of curriculum time is allocated to Religious Education. This does not include Collective Worship.

Programme of Study: The programme of study for religious education in Catholic schools is presented in the new Religious curriculum directory and has a framework with four structural elements: knowledge lenses, ways of knowing, expected outcomes, curriculum branches. We use Vine and branches to support planning and teaching with resources.

Methodology

Teaching in Religious Education should help people be attentive to the meaning of their experiences, illuminated by the light of the Gospel, so that they may respond to God more fully. Experience can also make the Christian message more intelligible. It 'serves in the examination and acceptance of the truths which are contained in the deposit of Revelation.'⁵

A variety of teaching and learning strategies will be used from across the curriculum adapted appropriately to the needs and learning styles of pupils.

Assessment, Monitoring, Recording and Reporting

Assessment of standards is carried out according to Diocesan guidelines using expected outcomes. Data is recorded termly.

Moderation meetings are annually, both in house as a whole school (teacher staff meeting) and we always attend diocese moderation. We also work closely with our Catholic cluster. We keep an online journal on showbie, including samples of work.

Monitoring of teaching and learning in RE is in line with all other core subjects (see monitoring timetable)
Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to parents/carers in a written report at the end of each academic year.

The subject leader will:

- ✚ Monitor planning
- ✚ Monitor pupils' books and checks against planning
- ✚ Evaluate resource use
- ✚ Support staff in the implementation of curriculum RE
- ✚ Ensure that needs and issues are built into the School Development Plan
- ✚ Liaise with the governor with responsibility for curriculum RE.

Staff training and development

All staff will be kept informed and encouraged to attend appropriate courses. We have strong links with the Catholic Teaching Alliance and regularly host training for the Catholic Cluster and other schools in Barrow. In school, staff will discuss RE, look at scripture together and increase their own knowledge of the faith. We are supported by our Parish Priest and Deacon who regularly comes into school and leads RE inset.

Sacramental Preparation

The school makes a direct contribution to Sacramental preparation, preparing the children for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and The Eucharist and Confirmation. Teams of catechists include teachers from our school and parishioners.

School Masses

The children are actively included in the preparation and it is seen as an opportunity for children/ parents/ parish and staff to celebrate mass together. Our Parish Priest is Fr Manny.

Prayer

Prayer is an integral part of our school life. Children are given an opportunity to pray in different ways. A Maguire coordinates the use of the Prayer room and Prayer leaders.

See Prayer and liturgy policy

Management of the subject.

S Beach /A Maguire the RE Subject Leaders have responsibility for leading, managing and supporting the delivery of and training in Religious Education. The subject leaders will facilitate the development of RE in the school by setting an example through good practise. As well as attending In-service training sessions they will liaise with and support colleagues. They will monitor the teaching of RE throughout the school, be responsible for resources and be aware of parish activities. The RE governor will report to the governors termly.

Ecumenical links

We have links with other religious communities. The older children visit other local churches such as The United Reformed Church, Emmanuel and St Marks.

Policy review.

This policy will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed by S Beach, A Maguire.

Reviewed September 2026

Next Review September 2027