

# St Philip's Catholic Primary School

*Learning and Working Together Through Christ*



## **CRC Article 29 (goals of education)**

Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.

## **RE Policy**

### **Our Mission Statement:**

Learning and Working Together Through Christ

### **Policy**

This policy incorporates the aims and values of our school Mission Statement which is rooted in our belief that every child is unique, made in the image of Christ, and that this is reflected in the desire, commitment and aspirations of our school staff to address and overcome socio-economic factors - or any other external factor- which may hinder pupil progress and attainment, and ultimately affect their life chances.

RE in our schools is not solely taught as a curriculum area but as a way of life, promoting the gospel values, giving praise and reverence to God. It is an opportunity for everyone to develop their own personal faith through word, action and to enter into a communion with God, made possible, through the divine work of Jesus his Son and the witness of the Holy Spirit. This is achieved through liturgy, collective worship, assemblies, lessons, including curriculum content, and roles and responsibilities throughout the school which deepen our Catholic life and highlight our belief that Christ is at the centre of all that we do.

Pope Francis on Prayer: 'Let us keep the flame of faith alive through prayer and the sacraments: let us make sure we do not forget God. Prayer, humility and charity towards all are essential in the Christian life: they are the way to holiness'

## **Our Mission**

Our mission through Religious Education is to give each individual the opportunity to experience the gospel values through celebration, prayer, personal reflection and sharing faith experiences with others.

We strive to develop opportunities where each child's own inner spiritual self is respected and enhance reverence, wonder and awe in God's presence and self-exploration. It includes the deepening of knowledge and understanding of key theological ideas and their application to life. Through 'Learning and Growing as the People of God', we aim to develop our children's religious growth. Throughout the teaching and learning of RE we aim to develop independent thinking and the ability to express our own faith experiences.

RE is a way of life and part of this journey in faith is taken as members of our school communities. We work closely together with home and our Parish Priest (Father Damian) and Parish communities so that we can present the Christian event, message and response to mission. Through our school mission and our children's experience of belonging to a caring community, we offer our children a strong sense of self-worth and an awareness of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life. Respect for God. Respect for other people. Respect for other people's property. Respect for ourselves.

*The outcome for 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.'* Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools 2012.

## **Aims**

- To nurture our children and staff in the Catholic Faith
- Ensure children feel cared for and care for each other so that everyone who enters our community feels welcome to engage in examination of and reflection upon their own life stance, to deepen their personal faith commitment and to respect that of others.
- Develop the children's knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Faith and, where appropriate, other religious traditions, by following the Gospel values and providing opportunities for prayer, worship and spiritual growth.
- To provide a living example of Gospel Values in our relationships with one another
- To provide a high quality education where each child develops to their full potential and acquires the knowledge, skills and personal qualities to become responsible, respectful and faith-filled members of society

## **RE Programme**

The Religious Education Programme "Learning and Growing as the People of God" devised by the Archdiocese of Birmingham.

The aim of this programme is to explore the religious dimension of questions about life, dignity and purpose within the Catholic faith. Links are made with the pupil's own experiences and the experience of other faith traditions. The programme will raise questions

and provide materials for reflecting on their own experiences and faith journey. It will help the pupils to explore the beliefs, values and way of life of the Catholic tradition and where appropriate, of other faith traditions. The strategy is divided into four key areas:

- The Liturgical Year
- Scripture – both Old and New Testament
- The Sacraments
- Living as Christians, including prayer. (How we carry out Christ's mission)

### **Learning and Teaching**

The Long Term Planning is contained within the Programme of Study for each year group. The RE Department provides a long term plan in accordance with school term dates and the RE Leader allocates each unit to specific dates throughout the year.

There is a certain amount of flexibility depending upon whether a specific group of pupils are preparing to receive the Sacraments. Medium Term Planning is the responsibility of the class teacher and is done on a unit by unit basis.

Short Term Planning is recorded on a separate RE planning sheet, which is based upon Diocesan recommendations. The planning proforma provides opportunities for prayer and SMVSC

### **Assessment and Monitoring**

As part of the Learning and Growing as the People of God programme there is a four year cycle for assessment. The subject leader sets the assessment focus each year based on the Liturgical season, Sacraments, Scripture and Living as Christians. The assessment of individual pupils in RE is the responsibility of the class teacher. The information for the assessment focus is collated by the RE leader and significant groups are tracked within each strand. One child per year group is tracked throughout the units of work with levelled pieces of work being collated by the RE leader. This provides a standards bank against Diocesan Attainment targets (phases 1-4). There are two attainment targets: AT1 – Learning about religion. This includes three strands; knowledge and understanding of beliefs, celebration and ritual, social practices and way of life. AT2 – Learning from religion. This includes two strands; engagement with own and other peoples beliefs, engagement with questions of meaning and purpose.

### **Sacramental Preparation**

Preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist currently takes place in Year Three. In addition to the Strategy, which is followed by all pupils, the school provides extra resources and sessions for the children to enable parents to take an active part in their children's preparation for these sacraments.

Parents are invited to attend a series of meetings throughout the year with school leaders and the Parish Priest to help them to support their children at home.

Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation takes place for Year 5 and Year 6 pupils on a bi-annual basis. The school uses the Diocesan programme "Gifted in the Spirit" for the Confirmandi alongside the Strategy which is followed by all pupils. The children and their parents are invited to attend a meeting at the start of the preparation.

### **Inclusion**

All children have equal access to the RE curriculum, regardless of religion, gender, culture or special educational needs. Full participation in all aspects of RE is expected. As a Catholic school, Jesus Christ remains central to every aspect of school life. All pupils are educated in the beliefs and devotional practices of the Catholic Church.

Parents and carers are advised that, in desiring a Catholic education for their child, it is expected that all pupils will participate in RE lessons. Parents and carers have the right to withdraw their children, although this is strongly discouraged.

**September 2018**

**To be reviewed bi-annually**