

Shining as we learn in
Faith, Family and Friendship!



St William of York Catholic Primary School

Religious Education Policy 2023-2024

Together, as God's family we are learning through love, forgiveness, respect and courage to use our unique gifts, challenging and transforming our world.

INTENT

At St William of York, we are committed to helping every child to grow and develop in the love of God and others, recognising the unique nature of each individual's needs. We emphasise the Catholic ethos and distinctiveness of our school by making the whole school a place where children and adults feel confident, secure and valued. We aim to provide conditions in which all children will develop a greater love and knowledge of God, which grows from their experience of the love and kindness they receive from others. We lead pupils towards a deeper understanding of the teachings of the Catholic Church through studying the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, whilst also celebrating the similarities between Catholicism and other faiths. This allows our children to live, grow and contribute as citizens in a way which fosters care and responsibility towards others and their environment, and helps them to recognise the value and worth of all people.

Religious Education within our school complements, and is underpinned by, our mission to emphasise the central role Jesus plays today in providing a foundation on which school life is based. In partnership with home and parish, it provides a setting for the development of a sensitive and reflective attitude to life and opportunities for living and sharing our faith.

IMPLEMENTATION

School follows and builds upon the teachings and learning objectives set out in the Come and See Programme of Religious Education, approved by the Diocese of Salford. The aim of this programme is to explore religious questioning about life, dignity and purpose within the Catholic faith, while deepening the knowledge and understanding of scripture and its place in Christianity. Children are able to make more explicit links to their own and universal experiences, and there are more opportunities to create links with those of other faith traditions.

The programme allows children to become familiar with the liturgical years, and more involved in the sacramental life and worship of the parish community by preparing for and participating in prayer, worship and sacramental celebrations. It does not, however, presume that all the children within our school come from practising Catholic families. This allows everyone to deepen their own knowledge of the Catholic faith and of other faiths. For those from practising Catholic backgrounds, it will deepen and enrich their own understanding and living of their faith.

All class teachers have an RE planning section in their files and allocate 10% of teaching time to the RE curriculum, following weekly plans informed by the whole school overview and the age-related standards for

Religious Education, and using resources provided by the Come and See syllabus alongside high quality resources and their own lessons to meet the needs of individual pupils, differentiated as necessary and where appropriate. In each class, pupils are also provided regular, quality opportunities for prayer and worship, with daily collective worship sessions (See Prayer and Worship Policy).

To support the children's learning, trips are a key feature of developing an enriched curriculum at St. William's. Governors support the school and children financially so that visits, to, for example, other places of worship, can greatly enrich the children's religious learning experience. Children are also provided with a variety of opportunities to participate responsibly in fundraising and community activities. School also aims to strengthen links between our home, school and faith communities by sharing in a range of celebration and acts of worship; such as Mass, Christmas events, assemblies, Easter events, fundraising events, regular coffee mornings and end of year productions.

ASSESSMENT FOR LEARNING

New assessment structures have been developed to ensure that they are in line with the new assessment framework, expected to be in place by September 2020. Assessment will continue to be related to the concepts, skills and attitudes developed through the exploration of themes for each topic and assess what pupils know, understand and can do.

Religious Education will be formally assessed against the age-related expectations for Attainment Targets 1, 2 and 3 (AT1, AT2 and AT3) on a half-termly basis or at the end of each topic, either through a specific task or by teacher assessment, then levelled and recorded in line with the expectations of other core subjects in school. Levels of attainment will be stored alongside subject assessments and monitored by the subject leader on a termly basis.

The subject leader monitors planning, work and the delivery of both curriculum RE and prayer and worship on a regular basis and carries out work scrutiny and lesson observations every half term to ensure high quality teaching of RE.

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Planned opportunities for high quality worship are an essential part of our school life. Collective worship, individual prayer time and opportunities for reflection at school, key stage and class levels enrich the religious experiences of both children and adults in our community, and are supported by school and diocesan guidelines.

These are outlined in our prayer and worship policy, but include:

- Daily prayers at the beginning of the day, lunchtime and at the end of the day
- Daily class collective worship, including music, scripture and reflection
- Weekly whole school Gospel assemblies, lead by classes Key Stage 2, and KS1 from Spring Term)
- Termly whole school celebration assemblies
- Whole school masses at the start and end of each term and on Holydays
- Weekly class masses on a rota basis (For Key Stage 2)
- Pupil led worship
- Additional services linked to the liturgical calendar such as Advent and Holy Week.

Individual worship and reflection is supported by a prayer focus within each classroom and in shared areas around the school. In this way we aim to make prayer and worship an intrinsic part of our daily lives at St. William of York.

PROVISION 2023-2024:

- RE work scrutiny, observations and monitoring of teaching and learning will take place every half-term, to ensure consistency across all classes.
- Continue to monitor Collective Worship and share best practise during staff CPD.
- Children provided with more opportunities to fully lead Collective Worship in their classes by organising readings, prayers and reflections.
- Continue to develop prayer and worship in school, including the already active pupil GIFT chaplaincy team in order to expand pupil leadership in prayer and worship.
- Continue to review the role that children play in Mass, in particular their direct involvement in writing bidding prayers and choosing hymns.
- Key Stage 1 will perform the Nativity and Key Stage 2 will perform Easter reflections.
- Staff undertake relevant training, on or off site, in order to develop and consolidate teacher subject knowledge to a level that will enhance the quality of the delivery of the Come and See programme.
- Continue with the whole school approach to school improvement by developing a staff coaching model that supports the spread of identified outstanding practice across the school.
- Review the structure, roles and responsibilities of the whole staff team, developing roles in line with their strengths and needs of the school, to support the teaching of RE through the 5Ws.

E Turner (RE Lead), July 2023

Reviewed by Governors:

Signed: (Chair of)

Review Date:Summer 2024