

Policy



for

Religious

Education

in

Primary Schools

Mission Statement

BRES serves the Kingdom of God in enabling the enablers to develop the growth in Faith, Knowledge and Understanding of God in schools.

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The primary purpose of Catholic Religious Education

The primary purpose of Religious Education is to come to know and understand God's revelation which is fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. The Catholic school is 'a clear educational project of which Christ is the foundation.' 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. Hence 'the promotion of the human person is the goal of the Catholic school.'

Religious Education is central to the curriculum of the Catholic school

Religious Education is central to the curriculum of the Catholic school and is at the heart of the philosophy of Catholic education. Religious Education has developed in a way that reflects the particular identity of our Catholic schools in England and Wales. It teaches about the faith in the context of a school which proclaims the Gospel, and invites the individual to respond to the message of Christ. As the individual responds to this invitation, growth in faith and knowledge helps the pupil to respond to the call to holiness and understand the fullness of what it is to be human. For some, then, Religious Education will also be received as **evangelisation** and for some, **catechesis**.

The relationship between Religious Education and Catechesis is one of distinction and complementarity. What confers on Religious Education in schools its proper evangelizing character is the fact that it is called to penetrate a particular area of culture and to relate to other areas of knowledge. Religious Education in schools sows the dynamic seed of the Gospel and seeks to 'keep in touch with the other elements of the pupil's knowledge and education; thus the Gospel will impregnate the mentality of the students in the field of their learning, and the harmonization of their culture will be achieved in the light of faith.'

It is necessary, therefore, that Religious Education in schools be regarded as an academic discipline with the same systematic demands and the same rigour as other disciplines. It must present the Christian message and the Christian event with the same seriousness and the same depth with which other disciplines present their knowledge. However, it should not simply be regarded as one subject among many, but should be the key element in an inter-disciplinary dialogue.

Parents 'are bound by the most serious obligation to educate their children, and therefore must be recognised as the primary and principle educators but in this primary task, parents need the subsidiary help of civil society and other institutions. The family is 'the primary, but not the only and exclusive educating community'. Among those who cooperate in the task of education, the Catholic school assists in the delivery of a programme of learning in Religious Education appropriate to the age and particular learning needs of the pupil.

RECD,2012

The Religious Educator

The Church recognises the fundamental contribution of those charged with the planning and delivery of Religious Education. In what may be called the ‘hidden curriculum’, the witness, integrity and sincerity of the teacher or staff member will influence the communication of Christian faith, especially as knowledge to be believed and lived.

As you know, the task of a teacher is not simply to impart information or to provide training in skills intended to deliver some economic benefit to society; education is not and must never be considered as purely utilitarian. It is about forming the human person, equipping him or her to live life to the full – in short it is about imparting wisdom. And true wisdom is inseparable from knowledge of the Creator, for ‘both we and our words are in his hand, as are all understanding and skill in crafts’ (Wis7:16) .Benedict XVI

Those responsible for Religious Education in our schools should:

- be prepared to give living witness to what they teach;
- recognise that they share in the teaching office of the Church exercised in the person of the local bishop and enshrined in the trust deed of the school;
- fulfil their professional responsibilities with regard to all that develops and enhances the life of the Catholic school;
- plan and teach schemes of work that are engaging and accessible so that all pupils may progress appropriately in their knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith;
- have high expectations of all their pupils;
- ensure that 10% of the curriculum to age 16 and 5% of the curriculum beyond the age of 16 is devoted to Religious Education;
- ensure that Religious Education contributes positively to the broad and balanced curriculum of a Catholic school through cooperation and dialogue with other subjects;
- take care continually to deepen their own knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith;
- take seriously the duty of every Catholic to form his or her conscience;
- be given opportunities for their own spiritual and professional development as Catholic educators.

RECD,2012

The aims of Religious Education

- 1 To present engagingly a comprehensive content which is the basis of knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith;
- 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 so that pupils can make a critique of the underlying trends in contemporary culture and society;
- 4 To raise pupils' awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities in order to respect and understand them;
- 5 To develop the critical faculties of pupils so that they can relate their Catholic faith to daily life;
- 6 To stimulate pupils' imagination and provoke a desire for personal meaning as 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;
- 8 To bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture.

The outcome of excellent 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. RECD,2012

“The task of handing on the faith to future generations is both the privilege and responsibility of the local Church. Its primary purpose is to bring young people to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.” Cardinal Basil Hume

Diocesan Religious Education Programme

- **Come and See** is the programme recommended by the Diocese.
- Curriculum Time allocation per week is 10%. This does not include Collective Worship.
- Allocation of teaching time to Other Faiths is 5 hours (2 weeks' R.E. time).

Process for delivery of R.E.:

Religious Education is taught through the process of *Explore, Reveal, Respond*. This takes account of “ what to believe entails”: the human **search** for meaning, God’s initiative in **Revelation** and the individual’s **response** in faith.

Teaching and Learning

Teaching and learning strategies from across the curriculum can be appropriately adapted appropriately to inspire the learning needs of pupils.

Inclusion

All pupils have the right to have access to a differentiated Religious Education.

Assessment

Assessment of standards is carried out according to Diocesan guidelines using the criteria set out in Levels of Attainment in RE agreed by Bishops’ Conference.

R.E. IN-SERVICE

Catholic Teachers Certificate (CCRS)

All Teachers are encouraged to secure this qualification in R.E. It is expected that the R.E. Co-ordinator and all aspiring to Senior Leadership in Catholic schools will obtain this.

Annual in-service for all staff

It is recommended that **one day’s in-set** is allocated to the Catholicity of the school.



Governors are responsible for the R.E. Curriculum

This is managed by the Headteacher on a day to day basis.

SAMPLE Job Description for Religious Education Co-ordinator



Specific Activities and Responsibilities.

1. Ensure that Religious Education is given 10% of the curriculum time.
2. Encourage and support colleagues to obtain the CCRS certificate.
3. Ensure new initiatives from The Vatican, Diocese and Parish are fully embraced and implemented within school life.
4. Work collaboratively with the Head Teacher to ensure that Collective Worship, Liturgy and the prayer life of the school remains central to the school's mission, including appropriate Feast days and Holy Days of Obligation.
5. Ensure that Religious education contributes positively to the broad and balanced curriculum of the school through co-operation and dialogue with other subject leaders.
6. Work in collaboration with the Music Subject Leader and Parish musicians to ensure parity between School and Parish.
7. Ensure that the R.E. Programme *Come and See* recommended by the Bishop of the diocese is used effectively.
8. Emphasise the importance of pupils being able to apply the AT1 and AT2 skills, processes and concepts learnt.
9. Review regularly methods of assessment and recording pupils' achievement in Religious Education.
10. Undertake data analysis from termly assessment of progress in Religious Education linked to end of year published data.
11. Undertake the necessary reading and Inset appropriate to the Religious Education Subject Leader.
12. Maintain Religious Education Leader's file ensuring all aspects are kept up to date and all reports are copied to the Head Teacher.

13. Prepare an Action Plan to ensure the focus of Religious Education is promoted.
14. Prepare and lead professional development in Religious Education.
 - (a) Induct NQT's and those new to Catholic education into the distinctive Catholic nature of the school.
 - (b) Advise and assist staff where appropriate.
 - (c) Inform Parents and advise Governors on progress in teaching and learning in Religious Education.
15. Provide, in consultation with the Head Teacher and staff, additional appropriate resources for Religious Education.
16. Carry out a Religious Education Inventory and resource lists.
17. Monitor the standards and progress of teaching and learning in Religious Education across the school, reporting to the Head Teacher and Leadership team (includes reviewing plans, lessons, resources and pupils' work).
18. To develop and implement yearly, initiatives for Raising Achievement linked to School Improvement Plans. Action Plan and agree project to be prepared and finalised at the end of Summer Term for commencement in the next academic year.
19. Liaise with appropriate outside Agencies both within the Diocese, Deanery, Parish and wider community to ensure the promotion of Religious Education within the school.
20. The Post Holder is also required to:
 - (a) Promote and support the Catholic ethos and mission statement of the school.
 - (b) Undertake duties set out in the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document.
 - (c) Undertake such particular duties which the head teacher or in his/her absence the Senior Leadership Team may reasonably direct.

'Teaching in Religious Educationshould help people be attentive to the meaning of their experiences, illumined by the light of the Gospel, so that they may respond to God more fully. Experience can also make the Christian message more intelligible.' RECD, 2012

Teaching is a noble calling and profession. It can be a source of great satisfaction, and we ask all Catholics to pray for our teachers and for vocations to the teaching life. 'Teaching has an extraordinary moral depth and is one of our most excellent and creative activities. For the teacher does not write on inanimate material, but on the very spirits of human beings.'

(Congregation for Catholic Education, The Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium)

Websites:

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www.comeandseere.co.uk

www.info@mccrimmons.com

www.vatican.va

www.stpauls.org.uk

www.cesew.org.uk

www.westminstercathedralshop.co.uk

Let us all remember this: one cannot proclaim the Gospel of Jesus without the tangible witness of one's life.

Pope Francis