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Headteacher: Mrs C. Kippax

Religious Education Policy

Amended by: Jessica Collinge

Date for review: January 2022

Signed: *J. Jordan* Chair of Governors

Date: January 2020



Mission Statement

St Oswald's is proud to be a Roman Catholic school where every person is helped to do their best to succeed in a place of love, peace and safety, following the teachings of Jesus. In our school family, we are enthusiastic learners and teachers.

'Nihil Satis Nisi Optimum - Only the best will do'

Aims

In order that we might have life in all its fullness, our school will:

Welcome - Be warm and welcoming towards all visitors to our school, just as Jesus welcomes us to the family of God.

Welfare - Be ready to forgive as Jesus taught us. To always say sorry with honesty, courage and meaning. Show love and kindness by trying to think of the needs of others before our own. Thank God for our talents and celebrate achievements earned through working hard, aiming high, and always believing we can reach our goals. To make God's world a better place.

Word - Follow the teachings of Jesus by loving, respecting and accepting one another. Give children as well as adults the chance to have a voice in the future development of our school. To place the Word of God at the centre of all that we do.

Worship - To say our prayers meaningfully and worship the Lord our God joyfully with all our hearts.

Witness - Find love and kindness here and when we leave take lasting friendships and happy memories with us. To be witnesses of a Loving God who is at the heart of all we do.

Philosophy

Our fundamental aim at St Oswald's is to assist pupils in their personal faith journey by providing an education for all our children in which the teachings of Christ permeates throughout the school. As a Voluntary Aided Roman Catholic School, St Oswald's views Religious Education as an integral aspect of our Mission Statement and in turn helps to shape the whole curriculum. This is what identifies St Oswald's with its distinctive Catholic nature.

Implementation

Our school provides a curriculum and syllabus for religious education, which fulfils Diocesan recommendations and corresponds to the Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools. As part of the Salford Diocese, St Oswald's follows the teaching and assessment guidelines given in the syllabus "Come and See." This is also supported by the Caritas in Action materials, which develops our Catholic social teaching further.

Aims as stated in the Religious Education Curriculum Directory:

- To present engagingly a comprehensive content which is the basis of knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith;
- To enable pupils continually to deepen their religious and theological understanding and be able to communicate this effectively;

- 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;
- To raise pupils' awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities in order to respect and understand them;
- To develop the critical faculties of pupils so that they can relate their Catholic faith to daily life;
- To stimulate pupils' imagination and provoke a desire for personal meaning as revealed in the truth of the Catholic faith;
- To enable pupils to relate the knowledge gained through Religious Education to their understanding of other subjects in the curriculum;
- To bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture.

Objectives:

The children should, at their appropriate level of ability and experience:

- Begin to understand the concept of God as Creator, Provider and Carer;
- Acknowledge Jesus Christ as Son of God and Saviour;
- Recognise the continuing work of salvation through the community of the Church guided by the Holy Spirit;
- Examine the implications of the mutual responsibility of human beings for one another, both as individuals and communities, and the duty of all people to care for the whole of creation;
- Study and analyse scriptural text so that through them they may develop a closer relationship with God and a greater understanding of God's presence in the whole of life;
- Deepen their understanding of the place of liturgical worship in the life of the Church community by instruction, preparation, participation and reflection upon those aspects of the liturgy appropriate to their stage of chronological and spiritual development.

Curriculum Allocation

10% of curriculum time is allocated to Religious Education. This does not include Collective Worship.

Programme of Study

To fulfil the above aims and to address the four areas of study outlined in the Religious Education Curriculum Directory – Revelation, Church, Celebration and Life in Christ - the 'Come and See' programme, in conjunction with 'Caritas in Action', is used as recommended by the Diocese.

Other Religions

Two other religions are taught from EYFS to Year 6 following the programme of study in 'Come and See'. These are Judaism and Hinduism. At least one week's teaching and learning time per year is given to each.

Special Educational Needs

It is implicit that all work planned takes into consideration the needs of our own pupils, whatever their abilities. At St Oswald's all children are openly encouraged to take an active involvement in the Religious and Spiritual life of the school. A variety of teaching and learning strategies will be used from across the curriculum adapted appropriately to the needs and learning styles of pupils.

Inclusion and Equality

All pupils at St Oswald's, irrespective of ability, faith and background will have appropriate differentiated access to the Religious Education programme. The governing body have wider responsibilities under the Equalities Act 2010 and will ensure that our school strives to do the best for all of the pupils, irrespective of disability, educational needs, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, sex, gender identity, religion or sexual orientation or whether they are looked after children.

Parish/ Home/ School Links

A determined effort is made to promote and maintain strong and close links between home, school and parish in order to provide a spiritual, loving and caring background for our children. Regular Masses are held in school and at St Mary's Church which parents/carers, governors and parishioners are all invited to join the children.

Preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion takes place in the Parish and is supported by school. Our parish priest regularly visits the Sacramental group in school and leads the Sacramental celebrations and parent's meetings in church.

Charity Appeals

At St Oswald's we are mindful of our duties and responsibilities to those in our community and the wider world and for this reason we support a number of charities each year.

Assessment, Monitoring, Recording and Reporting

Assessment of standards is carried out according to Diocesan guidelines using the age related standards in Religious Education. Teachers will assess children's work in Religious Education by making informal judgements as they observe them during lessons. On completion of a piece of work, the teacher assesses the work and gives the child written or verbal feedback in line with the school's marking policy. At the end of each unit, pupils are assessed. These assessments are recorded and the attainment of all pupils is monitored. This information is used to assess the progress of each child, for setting new goals, and for passing information on to the next teacher at the end of the year. Standards in RE must at least match those in English. Joint moderation of work is undertaken by all staff with the support and guidance of the R.E. Co-ordinator to enable staff to gain a greater understanding of attainment within Religious Education. Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to parents/carers in a written report at the end of each academic year.

As a tool for review, self-evaluation and celebration in our school, we use the 5 W's Framework produced by Salford Diocese.

Role of the Subject Leader

- Monitoring of standards across the whole school.
- Collating and monitoring of assessment data.
- Support staff in the implementation of curriculum R.E.
- Managing subject budget.
- Purchase and management of resources including visits and visitors.
- Organisation of CPD for staff (Inset, courses or in house training via staff meetings).
- Writing of action plans to inform the School Improvement Plan.
- Attend cluster meetings, subject leader networks and feedback to staff.
- Reporting to Governors at the end of the academic year.

Reviewed January 2020