



# St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School Bradford

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## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

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*Protect with love all of God's gifts.*

### **Mission Statement**

*At St. Joseph's school everyone is cherished as a child of God. We strive to live the Gospel values with enthusiasm and joy. Through the inspiration of St. Joseph we aim to protect with love all that God has given us – our own gifts and talents, the gift of each other and the gift of creation. We celebrate the diversity and uniqueness of our school community, and ensure that all children are given the opportunity to succeed and all achievement is recognised and celebrated. We are supported in this by working in partnership with families, the Parish and our partnership schools.*

### **Our Rationale for Religious Education:**

At the heart of our Catholic education lies the vision that every person is created in God's image and likeness and therefore valuable and worthy of respect.

The beliefs and values shared through Religious Education inspire and unify every aspect of our Catholic school life. Within this vision, religious education is a journey of formation involving every member of the school community, together with a pupil's family and our parish community. For those already engaged in the journey of faith, religious education will be catechesis, and for some children and young people religious education will be evangelisation, the first opportunity to hear the good news of the Gospel.

In a Catholic school Religious Education is never simply one subject among many, but the foundation of the entire educational process. Therefore, Religious Education is a core subject in our Catholic school. It is planned, resourced, taught, assessed and monitored with the same rigour as the other core curriculum subjects.

We understand Religious Education to be the systematic study of the mystery of God and of Jesus Christ, of the Church, and of the central beliefs which Catholics hold. The outcome of Religious Education is religiously literate young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills – appropriate to their age and capacity – to think spiritually, ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.



### **The Aims of Religious Education in St Joseph's:**

- to promote knowledge and understanding of Catholic faith and life
- to promote knowledge and understanding of the response of faith to the ultimate questions about human life, its origin and purpose
- to promote the skills required to engage in examination of and reflection upon religious belief and practice

### **Programme of Study:**

To fulfil the above aims and to address the 4 areas of study outlined in the Curriculum Directory – Revelation, Church, Celebration and Life in Christ - we will use “The Way, The Truth and The Life” programme as our main resource, as recommended by the Diocese. This is supplemented by further creative teaching and learning activities, making lessons engaging and relevant to the children.

### **Curriculum time allocation:**

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

### **Religious Education in the Classroom**

Since the total curriculum in our school is based on Gospel Values and because we see all education as revealing the mystery of God, we recognise two aspects of Religious Education in the school:-

(a) Implicit, or unstructured Religious Education – these opportunities which arise in the course of a school day to lead pupils through curriculum content or through relationships to a religious understanding of their implications. It is the policy of this school to use such opportunities as they arise.

(b) Explicit, or Curriculum Religious Education – those time tabled or planned periods of time given to an explicit consideration of Religious Education in the classroom.

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

### **Other Faiths**

The teaching of other faiths will be taught as outlined in “The Way, The Truth and The Life” programme. Special days and celebrations which occur in other faiths will be acknowledged and celebrated in an appropriate manner, as they occur.



### **Assessment, Monitoring, Recording and Reporting**

- RE is assessed and monitored with the same rigor as other core subjects.
- Assessment of standards is carried out according to Diocesan guidelines using the criteria in the Levels of Attainment booklet agreed by Bishops Conference.
- Each teacher keeps a class record of pupils' progress and achievement.
- Each child has an assessment task folder which is updated for every topic.
- Termly Pupil Progress meetings are held with the Teacher and a member of the SLT.
- In- house moderation meetings are held regularly, and the RE Co-ordinator shares with Teachers information from Catholic School Partnership moderation meetings.
- RE levels and progress are reported to the CSP termly and analysed to show areas of strengths and areas to improve. Schools are paired up to either give or receive support.
- Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to parents/carers in a written report at the end of each academic year.
- The RE Co-ordinator analyses RE progress and achievement across the school and reports the findings to Governors.

### **The Role of the Co-ordinator for Religious Education**

The Co-ordinator for Religious Education is a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

The Co-ordinator for Religious Education is responsible for:

- Working with other Senior Leaders on monitoring teaching and learning, planning and standards in RE, through lesson observations, work scrutinies, discussions with pupils and data analysis.
- Organising in-house moderation of standards meetings.
- Participating in moderation meetings between schools in the CSP.
- Self- evaluation to identify strengths and areas for development.
- Ensuring the curriculum offered is appropriate, suitable and relevant to pupils' needs and interests.
- Attending appropriate training and keeping up to date with current thinking, policy and developments and feeding back to staff.



- Organising and leading in-house staff training and development.
- Identifying training needs of staff, offering support and advice to ensure continued effective teaching and learning in Religious Education.
- Participating in the Catholic Schools' Partnership – sharing and developing good practice in Religious Education.
- Liaising with the Head teacher, Governors, parents, the Diocesan Office for Education & Schools , the Diocesan Co-ordinator for RE, on matters relating to Religious Education.
- Auditing, managing and developing resources within a given budget.

**Policy review.**

This policy will be monitored and updated by the RE Co-ordinator and evaluated and reviewed by the SLT, whole staff and Governors annually.

**Date: January 2016**