Our Lady of Peace Catholic Primary and Nursery School

'With Christ in our hearts, together we grow'.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

By order of the Governing Body of Our Lady of Peace Catholic Primary and Nursery School

Review Dates:	**Date Reviewed:** Teaching and Learning Committee 24th January 2019	**Next Review:** January 2022

Non Policy

The school has a commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

MISSION STATEMENT

'With Christ in our hearts, together we grow'.

To act justly, to love tenderly and walk humbly with our God. Bishop Peter.

Our Lady of Peace Catholic Primary and Nursery School

Religious Education Policy

In light of the school mission statement Religious Education is taught within the school so as to give children a knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith that leads pupils into an exploration of the different aspects of religion in thoughtful reflection upon religious belief.

Aims:

1. To share knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith and life.
2. To have knowledge and understanding of the response of faith to ultimate questions about human life its origin and purpose.
3. To have the skills required to engage in examination or reflection upon religious belief and practice.
4. To have knowledge and respect of other religions and cultures.
5. To develop and support the prayer life of pupils.

Objectives:

The objectives of R.E. in our school are:

1. To develop knowledge and understanding of the mystery of God and Jesus Christ, of the Church and of the central beliefs which Catholics hold.
2. To develop awareness and appreciation of Catholic belief, understanding of its impact on personal and social behaviour and of the vital relationship between faith and life, life and faith.
3. To encourage study, investigation and reflection by the pupils.
4. To develop appropriate skills e.g. ability to listen, reflect, to pray and to be aware of God, to acquire knowledge and organise it effectively to make informed judgements.
5. To foster appropriate attitudes e.g. respect for truth, respect for the view of others; awareness of the spiritual and of moral responsibility.
6. To foster an awareness of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life and especially the challenge of living in a multicultural, multi-faith society.
7. To develop a greater understanding of other faiths.

Curriculum Planning

The Catholic message is at the heart of all we do in the school. It enriches the curriculum, and supports all areas of learning. R.E. must always deepen pupils understanding of Catholic belief and contribute to their education in the Catholic faith. Year groups plan as a team or cross phase to maximise teaching and learning experience.

Programmes of Study

Each term 'Come and See' focuses on one of the basic questions about life, its dignity, its purpose and a central Christian belief which relates to and addresses this question.

Autumn – Where did I come from? Life – Creation
Spring – Who am I? Dignity – Incarnation
Summer – Why am I here? Purpose – Redemption

The basic question – belief for each term is explored through three kinds of themes.
Each theme relates to one of the key dimensions of religious and Christian faith:
Community of Faith – Church
Celebration of Ritual – Sacraments
Way of Life – Christian Living

R.E. is timetabled for 2 hours and 15 minutes.
R.E. is linked to other areas of the curriculum where appropriate.

Assessment:

1. Pupils evaluate and assess their work at the end of each topic as part of the Review section of 'Come and See.'

2. Assessment for RE will be formative. The New Standards for RE is composed of a range of skills divided into Age Related Phases. The skills are selected from a range of strands and key skills are re-visited in a number of Units of work throughout the year.
   Teachers will select relevant skills at the start of each unit of work. At the end of each term these skills are assessed using the following judgments:
   - working at age related expectations
   - working above age related expectations
   - working below age related expectations

3. Work will be marked with sensitivity and positively in line with the school's marking policy/assessment learning. (See Assessment for Learning Guidance).

R.E. – The Wider Context

1. The Catholic ethos of the school is reflected in the school's commitment to support teachers, achieve high achievement and attainment, an effective learning environment, good relationships, and equality of opportunity for all pupils in the spirit of the gospel.

2. R.E. is promoted within the whole school context through weekly class assemblies linked to the 'Come and See' programme.

3. a) Termly Deanery meetings for all staff for in-service are coordinated by the Deanery Adviser.
   b) Termly meetings for R.E. coordinators of the Slough Deanery are held.

4. a) Staff are encouraged to invite the Parish clergy and other speakers as appropriate to enhance the pupils learning.

5. Celebration of key moments within our Catholic experience, Nativity, Rosery, Stations of the Cross, Passion play, Masses in school and parish. Holy Days.

Community Life

1. Visits to Our Lady of Peace Parish Church are encouraged to reinforce the teaching in the 'Come and See' topics and Parish links. Each class attends Mass during the course of the year and there is an end of year Mass for Year children children, staff and governors who are leaving.

Parish members and parents are invited to attend Mass in school.

Staffing and Responsibilities

1. R.E. is promoted, monitored and resourced by the R.E. Co-ordinator and SLT and supported by the Chaplaincy Team. All class teachers are responsible for developing the R.E. of the pupils in their class.

2. The R.E. Leader is responsible for leading R.E. inset, updating colleagues in new initiatives and supporting classroom practice where appropriate.

3. The R.E. Leader, Deputy Headteacher and the Head Teacher are responsible for monitoring the teaching and learning of R.E.

4. The Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher or other member of the Chaplaincy team lead a staff prayer meeting once a week. Chaplaincy meeting are held monthly.

Accommodation and Resources:

Resources for R.E. are available in the R.E. resource area, classroom areas and through the R.E. Leader.

Future Development

All areas for future development can be found in the RE Action Plan that forms part of the RE School Development Plan.

Background Documents

Religious Education Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools plus for Bishops Conference by Catholic Education Service (CES) 1996.

NORES Guidelines January 1999
R.E. the Primary years

Assessment
National Board of Religious Inspectors and Advisors (NBRIA) 1994

Our Catholic Schools 4th Ed. 1996
Our Schools and our Faith

What Are We to Teach CES 1994
The Religious Dimensions of Education in a Catholic School

'Come and See Programme'.

'Christ at the Centre,

MISSION STATEMENT

'With Christ in our hearts, together we grow'.

Spiritual Development

The Nature of Spirituality

Spirituality is about the unique inner life of each individual. At times it is an intensely personal experience and at others it is something shared with other human beings. Spiritual Development centres on what gives meaning to life. For the Christian it is the potential of each person to be fully alive in God.

Aims

The development of spirituality respects the uniqueness of each individual and the need to be faithful to the truths of the Catholic Church. It acknowledges that –

1. That children of other faiths are travelling along their own faith journey and are to be respected
2. We are all on our own faith journey
3. We are all at different points on this journey
4. We need to celebrate and develop the spirituality of each person in our community
5. Spiritual development is an integral part of every aspect of school life
6. We respect people of all faiths

We Promote Spiritual development in the following ways:

By recognising that an important part of children's spiritual development is the acquisition and deployment of the following skills:

1. Investigational
2. Interpretational
3. Communication
4. Critical
5. Social
6. Evaluational

These skills encourage curiosity and reflection which lead to a greater level of self awareness, promoting a deeper understanding and excitement for life.

In the school situation each member of staff affects the spiritual dimension of all within it and beyond. Each one is responsible for developing Gospel values of truth, justice, respect, compassion, forgiveness and prayer.

- The school community regularly celebrates and worships together.

- We promote the school's 'Golden Rules' and 'British Values' alongside our Christian beliefs as a foundation for Christian living alongside our Mission Statement 'With Christ in our hearts, together we grow'
- We give opportunities to discuss issues relating to spiritual and personal growth in Circle Time/PSHE.

- Resources are available in the R.E. resource area, classroom prayer tables areas and through the 'Come and See' programme.

- Each classroom has a religious area with prayers and religious artefacts clearly visible. A big question is displayed and linked to the topic being covered in class.

- Spiritual development is promoted and monitored by the SLT, the R.E. Leader and School Chaplaincy. All members of staff are responsible for the spiritual development of the pupils in the school and are considered to be members of the chaplaincy team.

- The school community recognises we are all at different places in our faith journey and we should respect each other with discernment and tolerance without being negative or judgemental about a person's actual situation.

- We recognise that the parents and other family members have a much greater influence on the life of the child than anyone else. Parents/other family members are welcomed into the school at all times and especially for celebrations and acts of collective worship.

Community Cohesion

Communal projects such as supporting children/families of the Parish, Local Charities, such as McMillan, CAFOD and our African link school, Missio & Daisy's Dream.

Organisation

It is the responsibility of every member of staff to implement the policy, under the leadership of the Headteacher.
PSHE/Circle Time and Golden Time are timetabled regularly.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Spiritual development of the pupils is monitored through:

1. Their response to prayer and worship
2. Periods of reflection
3. Relationships with others
4. Children's books & displays
5. Assemblies-through responses and participation

The evaluation of opportunities for spiritual development will be through year group discussions and staff meetings.

MISSION STATEMENT

'With Christ in our hearts, together we grow'.

Moral, Social, Cultural Development

Philosophy

In the light of our school Mission Statement we understand that Moral, Social and Cultural development is a growing awareness of, and a positive response to, the demands of living as an individual with others in the community.

Aims

1. To recognise how Christ valued people and how as Christians we should follow his example in all we do and say.
2. To foster a sense of respect for others in all relationships throughout the school.
3. To develop the values of honesty and fairness.
4. To begin to develop the ability of each pupil to think rationally and without prejudice about social and moral questions.

We will promote moral development through:

1. The Religious Education curriculum
2. The life of the school
3. The examples set for pupils by the adults in the school and the wider community
4. The quality of the liturgy and prayer
5. The PSHE Curriculum 'Go Givers'

We will promote social and cultural development by giving the pupils opportunities to:

1. Appreciate the richness and variety of the cultural religious roots of those within the school, the local community and the wide world.
2. Engage in activities which express practically the social values of the Gospel
3. Develop awareness of their identity as a member of the school community and as a member of society and their responsibilities to others as members of the Christian Community
4. Know, understand and discuss the social teachings of the Church

Organisation and Monitoring

All member of staff are responsible for promoting positive values in the school community when dealing with social, moral and cultural situations.

MISSION STATEMENT

'With Christ in our hearts, together we grow'.

Liturgy, Prayer and Worship

In the light of our school Mission Statement we understand that:

Prayer, worship and liturgical celebration are central to our Catholic tradition and an essential part of our religious experience. Through liturgy, prayer, collective worship and quiet reflection the school community is given the opportunity to acknowledge the one true God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The prayer, liturgy and worship of the school are spiritual experiences which contribute to the faith journey of each individual.

Aims:

Through our acts of worship we aim to:

1. Provide opportunities for the spiritual development of each child;
2. Provide opportunities for children to reflect quietly as individuals as part of the daily worship;
3. To help each child to become familiar with the traditional forms of worship in the Catholic Church;
4. To provide opportunities to develop a personal relationship with God, through prayer and reflection;
5. To help each child to grow in the knowledge and teachings of Jesus;
6. To help children to respect all faiths and cultures represented in our school community and beyond.

Objectives – Liturgy & Worship

The worshipping nature of the whole school is expressed in a variety of ways:

1. Through individual and group prayer in both formal and informal styles and settings
2. Through the celebration of the Eucharist
3. Through sacramental and non-sacramental liturgical experience
4. Through class led assemblies
5. Through teacher led assemblies
6. Through celebrating who we are as a community and giving thanks for that

Collective acts of worship take place daily in a variety of forms.

Prayer

Prayer and worship are at the heart of all we do.
Prayers are said each morning and also before and after lunch and at the end of the day.

Early Years/Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 have a designated Prayer room and outside Prayer areas in Key Stage 1and Key Stage 2. Children are encouraged to make a spontaneous response to situations through prayer.

Though 'Come and See' programmes children are encouraged to celebrate life's experiences through worship.
Each classroom has an area as a focus for prayer and personal reflection.
Meetings held in the school for staff, parents or governors begin with a prayer.
Weekly prayer meeting is held and all staff welcome (Friday).
Lunchtime, weekly prayer meetings held in the environmental area, led by Faith Ambassadors' and staff.

The school endeavours to encourage parents to foster the prayer life of their families through:

1. Publication of parish services for important feasts.
2. Inviting parents to share in our liturgical celebrations and class led assemblies.
3. Encouraging parents to see themselves as part of our worshipping community.
4. Termly letter about 'Come and See' topics being covered. Also on the school website.
5. Masses at Our Lady of Peace Church attended by each class.
6. Stations of the Cross are held both inside and outside and the parish and parents are invited to attend.
7. Nativity play and Christmas celebrations in all year groups.
8. Passion play held at school
9. Rosary prayers during May
10. First Holy Communion
11. Confessions heard at school by Father Andy

Resources

Resources for worship are available in the R.E. resource area, in base and classroom areas and through 'Come and See' programme.
Our Lady of Peace Church provides support and resources.
NORES provide training and school visits for moderation and any support.
Our school works in partnership with St Peters Partnership (Slough Catholic Schools)

Organisation, Monitoring and Evaluation

Prayer and worship in the school is promoted by the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, R.E. Leader, Chaplaincy Team and Faith Ambassadors.
All teachers are responsible for the development of the prayer life of the children in their class.

Home, School, Parish

In the light of our Mission Statement we recognise the importance of the partnership of home, school and parish which provides the context for the lifelong journey of faith.

Statement of Purpose

The parish, the families and the school all belong to the local Catholic community and should be seen as parts of the whole community of the Catholic Church.

Locality

Our school is served by one parish that is the parish of Our Lady of Peace, Burnham. The children and parents see the parish and schools as being part of the same community.

Home / School Links

These are achieved in the following ways:

1. By families being encouraged to participate in a variety of liturgical celebrations and acts of collective worship e.g. Mass, Assemblies, Concerts and Plays.
2. By involvement in fund-raising and organised events by children.
3. By parents/PTA being encouraged to help with classroom and after school activities such as the summer Fete, cakes sales, coffee mornings, Christmas events.
4. By the school reporting to parents through newsletters, meetings, parents evenings, annual reports and our website.

Parish / School Links

These are achieved in the following ways:

1. By involving the clergy in leading many of the liturgical celebrations and through their role as part of the Chaplaincy team.
2. By supporting Parish based Sacramental preparation e.g. First Holy Communion and First Confession.
3. By every class attending Parish mass at least once a year.
4. By preparing and leading the celebration of Mass in school and inviting parish members to attend and providing refreshments.
5. By the children participating in sponsored events in order to raise money to help parishioners, i.e. through Daisys Dream, Slough Help the Elderly, food banks.
6. By providing displays for Our Lady of Peace Church.
7. By advertising school events in the parish bulletin.
8. By enabling members of the Parish to become school governors.
9. By co-ordinating group to meet termly to create and manage school and parish commitments.
10. Inviting the wider community into school (e.g. Elderly and Church Parishoners for Mass, assemblies, coffee mornings).

Home / School / Parish

These are achieved in the following ways:

1. By involving the school as a means of communication between Home/Parish/School.
2. By using the school as a focus for both home and Parish.
3. By participating in fund-raising for the Catholic community.
4. Cathechists are drawn from Parish, school and parent.

MISSION STATEMENT

'With Christ in our hearts, together we grow'.

Chaplaincy & Faith Ambassadors'

Philosophy

In the light of our school Mission Statement Chaplaincy is the spiritual and pastoral care within the school that demonstrates the distinctive nature of our school as being part of the Catholic Church.

Statement of Purpose

The Chaplaincy Team serves the personal and spiritual needs of the school community in the following Ways:

1. By being available for staff and pupils.
2. By supporting the teachers in the delivery of Religious Education.
3. By encouraging pupils in their spiritual development through prayers, celebrations and school Masses.
4. By helping the pupils to recognise God's love for them and their love of God.
5. By encouraging the active support of parents and governors in the life of the school.

The Chaplaincy Team

Headteacher, Deputy, R.E. Leader, R.E. Governor and staff with a particular interest such as music, hospitality and charities. A range of staff such as LSAs, HTLAs, KS1 and KS2 teachers, PA and Emotional support staff. We recognise that all members of staff are responsible for the pastoral care and spiritual development of the children. The role of chaplaincy team is monitored and supported by the Headteacher and RE Core Leadership Group.

Responsibilities

The Chaplaincy Team is responsible for:

1. Being an animator of the spiritual, religious and liturgical life of the school
2. Being available for staff and pupils
3. Accompanying people at a particular stage of their journey through life, helping them to recognise God's love for them and their love of God
4. Acknowledging each one as a person of worth
5. Encouraging the active support of parents and governors in the liturgical life of the school

The Chaplaincy Team also offers support to families at times of crisis, bereavement or sickness. This may be done by offering access to professionals when appropriate.

The Chaplaincy Team and Faith Ambassadors plan for the main liturgical events of the year these being:

1. The School Feast Day
2. Masses for Holy Days of Obligation

3. Ash Wednesday Service and end of term Masses
4. Beginning of School Year Mass
5. Year 6 Leavers Mass
6. The Stations of the Cross
7. Pupil Support of Sunday Parish Masses and Passion Play
8. Year Group animation of weekday Parish Mass
9. Year 6 Retreat
10. Class visits to Parish Mass on a weekly basis
11. Visits to religious houses i.e. Convent in Stroud and annual Diocese Mass
12. Saying the Rosary
13. Faith Ambassadors serve and help others, serve tea, charity work, coffee meetings and lead at Gospel Assemblies.
14. Faith Ambassadors set up assemblies, powerpoints, Bible open at correct page in hall and the classes, Holy water, leading prayer at lunchtime, weekly meetings with Headteacher.
15. Help with changing the cloths for the prayer tables
16. Readings at Mass and serve on Alter, help to set up for Mass

Resources

1. The classroom Prayer tables are used as a focus for prayer and reflection
2. Classroom displays or R.E. boards
3. The Parish Church may be used for celebrations, display and education
4. Parent's notice board to display literature which may be of interest to them e.g. Parish Newsletter
5. Religious Education Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools and Colleges in England and Wales – Bishops Conference 2012