



**All Saints Catholic Primary School
Ebbw Vale**

Religious Education Policy

September 2023



All Saints Catholic Primary School

Mission Statement

Caring Sharing and Loving



All Saints Catholic Primary School is just like a family, where everyone is welcomed, respected and cared for. Love is at the heart of everything we do, learning and living by Jesus' example in the Gospels. We believe that everyone is a child of God. We respect, value and appreciate all members of our community. We recognise that all of our pupils are unique and precious and so we strive to meet their needs and develop their individual gifts. We aim to instil in each child a positive attitude to learning and an ability to face challenge with enjoyment. We will nurture an attitude of respect towards all people and celebrate the uniqueness of the individual. We are committed to high standards, encouraging individual excellence by supporting each child to achieve the best of which he or she is capable.

2023.2024

At All Saints Catholic School we learn together in a Caring, Sharing, Loving environment working in partnership with Parents and Parish to ensure each child develops spiritually, academically, morally, physically and socially. Children are valued as individuals and encouraged to strive for self improvement whilst remaining sensitive to the needs of others.

We endeavour to promote a welcoming community based on trust and mutual respect, where all individuals feel that they are valued and belong.

We develop our spirituality through prayer, reflection and celebration whilst living out our Faith.

The school is committed to the widest and fullest education, encouraging each child to develop their full potential in fun and exciting learning activities.

As we journey together with Christ, we seek to create the joy and wonder of learning through celebrating God's love in our lives.

Aims and Objective

“Religious education is never simply one subject among many, but the foundation of the entire educational process. The beliefs and values studied in Catholic religious education inspire and draw together every aspect of the life of a Catholic school....All pupils have the right to receive an overall education which will enable them, in the light of the faith of the Church, to engage with the deepest questions of life and find reasons for the hope which is within them. Religious Education is, then, the core subject in a Catholic school.” (Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales - May 2020)

At All Saints we aim to nurture every aspect of Catholic life and to provide individuals with opportunities to develop a personal relationship with God by creating:

- An environment that uses Jesus as the foundation of all our teaching, thus demonstrating the Christian values of respect, trust, honesty and co-operation.
- A celebrating community, which uses prayer, assemblies, festivals, liturgies, positive discipline and worship.
- A sense of belonging to and participating in a community.
- A real understanding and practise of the Catholic faith.
- Opportunities to develop understanding, respect and appreciation of other faiths.
- Familiarity with religious language, symbols, signs and gestures of worship and prayer.
- A curriculum that develops the whole child, integrating physical and intellectual growth alongside moral, spiritual, emotional and physiological growth.

The Religious Education Curriculum

At All Saints Religious Education is a core subject based on the expectations of religious education given in the Religious Education Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools. *“Its primary purpose is the step by step study of the mystery of Christ, the teaching of the Church and its application in daily life.”* (Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, May 2000) 10% of curriculum time is allocated to RE. Time for collective worship is in addition to this.

The Religious Education Programme

We teach Religious Education through the process of Search, Revelation and Response. It follows the pattern of: The human **search** for meaning, God's initiative in **Revelation** and the **response** in faith. The **“Come and See”** Programme forms the basis of our scheme of work and teaching. The programme covers 3 topics each half term, rotating in accordance with the liturgical year. Each year, two weeks are set aside for Other Faiths, Judaism in Term 1 and Islam in one of the other terms (depending on the length of the term).

Each topic of the programme is organised in a three step process. The “search” section (recognise, reflect, respect) is implicit religious education and involves the children engaging in an exploration of an aspect of their life experiences. The next part “revelation” (relate) is explicit religious education which allows the children to grow in knowledge and understanding. The final stage “response” (remember, rejoice, renew) at the end of the process allows the children to celebrate their learning and to appreciate the connection between life and faith.

In addition to the daily R.E. sessions and daily worship, All Saints celebrates liturgies and whole school masses. We also provide opportunities to integrate religious education with other curriculum areas and a variety of teaching approaches, including, where appropriate, ICT

Planning

R. E. is planned using the Archdiocesan guidelines. The “Come and See” scheme of work forms the basis for this planning. Teachers plan for whole school and class worship linked to the RE scheme. Detailed planning which is differentiated by age and ability meets the needs of all pupils and provides for continuity and progression in pupils’ learning.

Assessment and Recording

Assessment of standards is carried out according to Diocesan guidelines using the criteria in the Levels of Attainment authorised by the Bishops in the 2012 Religious Education Curriculum Directory.

- Each teacher keeps a class record of assessed work and records of pupils’ progress. Samples of work are collected by the RE Co-ordinator.
- The school portfolio of pupils’ work contains three or more samples of work from each teacher for each assessed topic covering a range of abilities and levels. This is monitored by the RE co-ordinator.
- An in - house moderation meeting is held every term.
- Monitoring of teaching and learning takes place to help raise standards of attainment by identifying strengths and weaknesses and suggesting the way forward.
- Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to parents/carers in a written report at the end of each academic year.

Target Setting

Target setting is being developed in R.E. with pupils being made aware of what they need to do to improve and how to make progress in their learning.

Cross-curricular links

As religious education is an integral part of school life, R.E. incorporates other curriculum areas. Aspects of PSE, SEAL, sex and relationships education (**RSE**), spiritual development and moral development are catered for through the R.E. programme (refer to PSE and sex education policies)

Spiritual and Moral Development

Spiritual development is promoted through religious education and collective worship. Opportunities are provided for children to question rationally, explore, reflect and search for answers. We encourage children to develop understanding through play and practical activities. Through the R.E. curriculum and links with PSE, SEAL, and sex and relationships education,

children have opportunities to develop their morality. Through social and cultural teaching, children foster respect, understanding and appreciation of difference. Our behaviour policy reflects the teaching of Christ and the Church, thus encompassing moral values of self-respect, respect for others, honesty, fairness and co-operation. Our contributions to charities (CAFOD, Poppy Appeal, Children in Need, Air Ambulance, Macmillan cancer, Blaenau Gwent Food Bank and Hospice of the Valleys) help to deepen moral attitudes such as caring for the earth, justice and peace. This is also promoted through ESDGC and it is reflected in the Eco Committee's ECO code. Raising money for individual children (both at All saints and other local schools) who are in need of support

(Add information regarding Jesuit pupil profile and actions here) Plus the statutory requirement to deliver the new (2023) RSE SOW from Sept 2022.

Equal Opportunities

In All Saints we do not tolerate discrimination in any way. We strive to create an environment free of unfairness and prejudice. Everyone is welcomed and has the opportunity to take part in all aspects of school life. Children are taught to be respectful of others and develop an understanding of diversity.

Collective Worship and Prayer

At All Saints we aim to make collective worship meaningful to all participating. The children are encouraged to take an active part in assemblies where appropriate, either by singing, acting, leading prayers or quiet meditation. (see Collective Worship Policy).

Prayer

Prayer is an important part of daily life in our school. Children are encouraged to pray in their own words and for their own intentions. Each class has a Prayer focus area, relating to the "Come and See" topic. This is to be used for reflections, during the R.E. lesson, for individual Prayer and at other times when appropriate. Around the school there are other dedicated Prayer areas which the children can easily access in the daily life of the school. Traditional Catholic prayers are taught in accordance with the "Come and See" programme. Children pray collectively in the mornings, before and after lunch and at the end of the day. Some prayers are said in Welsh.

Home, School and Parish

"The partnership between home parish and school is the best setting for the formation of maturing Catholic young people." (Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, May 2020)

The parents understand on entry to All Saints, that they must support the Catholic ethos of the school. All children attend Collective Worship and other acts of worship and take part in R.E. lessons. They are all assessed equally. We recognise that parents are the first educators of their children. Learning Logs are used to share and reinforce our commitment to the Catholic Faith.

"By their example in the home and in their participation in the Mass and other sacraments, the foundation of life-long faith and discipleship in their children are laid down." (Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, May 2000)

We support parents in developing children's faith. We work alongside them, assisting them on their faith journey and supporting them as they work with their children.

At the beginning of each term, parents receive a newsletter from the school, informing them of the topics to be covered during the forthcoming term and of events in the liturgical year.

Community

All Saints is linked to the Parish of All Saints Ebbw Vale. Father **Richard Asiati** is the Parish Priest and also the Parish Priest for the parishes of the Immaculate Conception, Tredegar and St. John's Rhymney. He celebrates Mass at the school at least twice a term. Children also celebrate Mass at All saints Church by prior arrangement with Fr. Richard.

Pupils in Year 3/4, receive instruction at school for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion. Both sacraments are received at the Church of All Saints. Children learn about the wider community through the study of other faiths. They also learn about other communities through supporting charities that help people in other countries.

Monitoring

The monitoring of R.E. is the responsibility of the co-ordinator, Miss D Storey. She is supported in these activities by Mr. Price (HT)

R.E assessments follow the guidance as set by the archdiocese. Lesson observations take place during the year. The monitoring of books takes place termly and FADE forms are used to evaluate the process. Prayer areas and displays are monitored at the end of each topic. Occasionally the support of the RE Director may be accessed to ensure consistency in approach.

Resources

Each class has a copy of "Come and See" file relevant to the year they teach plus online access to the Come and see website. Staff also have access to the online resource of TEN TEN where additional information in regards to appropriate and topical liturgical resources are available. Bibles are available in class and are stored centrally. Some resources are stored in the RE corridor on a bookshelf and the majority within each class. The staff are encouraged to use the Archdiocesan website resources to support their teaching, assessment and target setting.

This policy will be reviewed every two years (March 2020)

Signed...Mr. J Price.....(Headteacher)

Date... 20th Sept 2023...

Signed.....Mrsd P Zagozda.(Chair of Governors)

Date... 20th Sept 2023.