



Cardinal Newman Catholic Primary School

Religious Education Policy



MISSION STATEMENT

To be a community of learners, believers and friends rooted in the values and teachings of the Gospel. We seek to enable every individual to develop his or her potential in the knowledge that they are uniquely created and loved by God.

This Policy has been approved and adopted by the Xavier Catholic Education Trust in March 2021

**Committee Responsible: Audit and Risk Committee
To be reviewed in March 2023**

Introduction

This policy has been arrived at through close consultation with staff at all levels and by seeking advice and guidance from outside agencies. It has been developed with the following aims and philosophies very much in mind.

The Mission Statement

Our Mission Statement is central to the life of the school. It is displayed in all rooms. All the children are encouraged to think of ways which they can strive to live out the Mission Statement.

The Importance of the Role of Parents in Religious Education

Cardinal Newman Catholic Primary School recognises the central role parents have in the religious education of their children. The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us that

“Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. They bear witness to this responsibility first by creating a home where tenderness, forgiving, respect, fidelity and disinterested service are the rule.” (CCC 2223)

As the Statement of the Bishop’s Conference of England and Wales on Religious Education in Catholic Schools ‘2000’ states,

“The first educators in the faith are parents. It is they, above all others, who establish in their children the first sensitivity and responsiveness to the presence of God, to the practice of prayer and to the patterns of life in the community of faith, the parish. By foundations of a life-long faith and discipleship in their children are laid down.”

Our Catholic School

It is in the spirit of the above statement that our school works. We see Cardinal Newman School in the partnership with the home and the parish communities to which our children belong. As the General Directory for Catechesis affirms,

“This partnership between home and parish is enhanced by the role of the Catholic school in which the educational mission of the church finds a particular and important expression.”

This ‘educational mission’ is our central role.

The Aims of Religious Education at our School

Religious Education lies at the heart of the curriculum and school life.

We aim to ensure that Religious Education attends to the needs of every pupil who has been admitted to the school and that it will:

- Enable all members of the school community to understand and to live our Mission Statement.
- Help pupils recognise and appreciate the religious and spiritual dimensions of life.

- Lead to a deeper knowledge and understanding of the Catholic and other religious traditions and the ways in which they seek to express the value and significance of human life.
- Allow space for searching and questioning.
- Challenge pupils to examine their own life stance, to deepen their personal faith commitment and to respect that of others.

Our Approach to Religious Education at Cardinal Newman School

We aim to provide an environment where every child feels secure. We teach the children how to respect and value each other as individuals and how to care for one another so they help to foster a calm, happy and caring community.

We discuss our attitudes and behaviour and how they affect the well-being of other members of our school community.

We aim to teach children and each other, by example, in the daily life of the school.

We pray together, teaching both specific school prayers and how to pray spontaneously and peacefully.

We gather together for Collective Worship and to celebrate liturgy and Mass on a number of occasions each term.

Through R.E., Collective Worship and liturgies we teach concepts, knowledge of the scriptures, the Church and moral attitudes.

We follow the Religious Education Programme – Come and See.

We encourage home, school and parish links.

We welcome and encourage the visits of the parish priests of St Erconwald's and All Saints and their involvement in the life of the school.

We work collaboratively with the parishes to prepare children in Year 3 for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

We have a Mission Week for each class which aims for the children to develop their faith journey by deepening their relationship with God and putting God's love into action.

We promote the children's awareness of the local and wider communities by encouraging them to participate in charitable activities and fund-raising.

We acknowledge that everyone is equal in the sight of God and follow a policy of equal opportunities.

We promote the Catholic identity of the school through the Governors' Admissions Policy.

The Religious Education Programme at our School

The R.E. curriculum is delivered primarily through the programme 'Come and See'.

In response to the question; 'where do you live?' which was asked by the disciples, Jesus invited them to; 'Come and See.' (John 1:39) The disciples went with Jesus 'and spent the rest of that day with him'.

Central to the programme are three basic human questions and the three Christian beliefs that are the Church's response in faith.

Where do I come from? Life- Creation

Who am I? Dignity – Incarnation

Why am I here? Purpose- Redemption

In Come and See these big questions are considered in the light of the Scriptures and Traditions of the Church, as expressed in the documents of the Second Vatican Council and the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Come and See is developed through three themes based on the above documents of the Second Vatican Council, which are gradually explored each time at greater depths. They are Church, Sacrament and Christian Living.

'It is necessary, therefore, that Religious Education in schools be regarded as an academic discipline with the 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 rather it should engage in interdisciplinary dialogue. Religious Education in schools underpins, activates, develops and completes the educational and catechetical activity of the whole school.' (Religious Education Curriculum Directory 2012).

The Catechism of the Catholic Church addresses the human search for meaning, God's initiative in Revelation who comes to meet us and our response of faith. This pattern guides the structure of the programme and informs the process of each topic, opened up through; Explore, Reveal and Respond.

Explore

The teacher helps the children to begin to look at and focus on the experience within their own lives- concerning themselves, their relationships and their world. In this way, the children are led to a deeper understanding, clearer vision and the discovery of significance and value of the experiential events of everyday life.

Reveal

Reveal is the heart of the process. The teacher and the children together discover the Christian understanding of the mystery of the Trinity; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They explore the mystery of human life as revealed in the person, life and gospel of Jesus Christ. It will involve learning about

Scripture, the teaching of the Church, prayers, rites, psalms, hymns and other expressions of Christian faith and the lives of outstanding Christians.

Respond

Remember is the first part of this section. The children will respond by remembering and celebrating all that they have learnt. Rejoice is the second part of the section. There will be the opportunity to plan and take part in a celebration. Renew, is the final aspect. The teacher helps each child to make an individual response, hold on to and make their own, what they have understood of the topic.

Multifaith Programme

As part of the 'Come and See' R.E. programme all children will study Judaism for two weeks in the Autumn term and Islam for one week in the Summer term. This enables the children to have an understanding of what life is like in the two other Abrahamic faiths. We also have a World Faiths week during the Summer Term to explore a variety of faiths and cultures.

Using the Programme

The school spends 10% of the teaching week on Religious Education in line with the requirements from the Bishops Conference of England and Wales. At Cardinal Newman, Foundation and Key Stage One are timetabled for 2 ¼ hours and Key Stage Two 2 ½ hours, which does not include Collective Worship.

Teaching Methods used in the teaching of RE at our school.

At Cardinal Newman Catholic Primary the children have the opportunity to be taught in different ways.

- Whole class discussion and teaching.
- Group discussion and feedback.
- Differentiated activities according to abilities.
- Partner work.
- Individual research and study.
- Creative curriculum activities.

Teachers are encouraged to be as varied and as creative as possible in the methods they use in the teaching of R.E.

Marking of work

Each class teacher is responsible for the marking of recorded work in R.E. books.

Marking is in accordance with the school guidelines (see Marking Policy).

The marking of R.E. must be seen in light of the children's response to the subject, to the learning objectives given at the beginning of each element of the 'Come and See' theme, and their use and remembering of the key words which accompany each theme.

Developmental marking is central to our marking policy.

Assessment

Assessment in Religious Education is ongoing and pupil progress is assessed according to the National Standards in Religious Education and by using the Standards Indicators provided in the 'Come and See' Programme. Assessment follows the Diocesan guidance.

Each pupil's attainment is recorded on the school's assessment recording system termly. Comparison and analysis is then made with pupil's performance in other subjects, particularly Literacy. This enables the class teacher and RE Leader to ensure progress is being made for every pupil.

Homework

Pupils are set R.E. homework where appropriate and in line with the Homework Policy. This can be related to classroom R.E, involve research or the learning or writing of prayers.

Display

All classrooms have a prominent Religious Education display relating to the current 'Come and See' topic. Key vocabulary and an extract of scripture from the topic should be clearly visible.

Classrooms have the school motto 'Learners, Believers, Friends' displayed on the wall.

A crucifix and mission statement is displayed in every room in the school.

Stations of the Cross are displayed in the school chapel.

All classrooms have a prayer table which stands alone and is seen as a sacred place within the classroom. Prayer tables should include: a crucifix, a Bible, a candle and prayer box / book for children's own prayer intentions. Prayer tables have a cloth of the correct liturgical colour of the season. Pupils face or gather around the prayer table for collective prayer.

There are 2 display boards dedicated to the religious life of the school.

Reporting

Parent Consultations in the Autumn and Spring Terms give parents and teachers the opportunity to discuss pupil progress. At the start of the year there is a 'Partners in Learning' evening which allows teachers to inform parents about the methods and expectations of the R.E curriculum.

A written report is sent home towards the end of the Summer Term.

Monitoring

The Headteacher / RE Leader collect a sample of the pupil's R.E books in once a term.

General feedback is given at a staff meeting. All staff receive individual feedback.

R.E. teaching is monitored once a year and written feedback is given to staff.

RE work is moderated during sessions which include R.E. meetings for teachers, moderation meetings with other Deanery schools and during R.E. co-ordinator meetings.

Spiritual and Moral Development

Cardinal Newman Catholic Primary has always tried to create the atmosphere needed to fulfil our Mission Statement. We try to emphasise the qualities of self-discipline, self-control, perseverance, determination, a sense of fair play and thoughtfulness for others in school and in the wider community. (See Behaviour Policy, Equality Policy, Relationships and Sex Education Policy and Personal, Social and Health Education Policy.)