

## **POLICY FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

### **St. Thomas More Catholic Primary School**

*'Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. Let your light shine, so that when people see the good you do, they will say, "This is because they are children of their Father in Heaven."*

*(Matthew 5:14-16)*

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Mission of St Thomas More's School is to educate and inspire every child to fulfil their unique giftedness within a loving Catholic community

### **RATIONALE**

We aim to prepare our children for the world of today, tomorrow and future years, within the context of our faith as expressed in our Mission Statement. Our commitment is based on the Gospel values of love, acceptance, forgiveness, worship, prayer, concern for truth, freedom and justice, and respect for others.

The religious growth and development of pupils is recognised to be embedded within the whole school experience, as well as the discrete RE curriculum. We encourage all involved in the school to live out the values above in a practical and meaningful way so that we all grow in our relationships with each other and with God. The discrete RE curriculum has a unique contribution to this development.

Throughout their school lives the children will be given regular opportunities for worship and liturgy - Eucharist and Word, but RE provides further opportunities to reflect upon and deepen the understanding of faith.

### **AIMS**

- To promote children's innate capacity for the spiritual - a sense of awe
- To develop the children's understanding of and involvement in the Catholic faith
- To introduce children to aspects of other faiths and encourage respect for the dignity of all people

## OBJECTIVES

- To familiarise the children with the life of Jesus and his teachings
- To enable the children to understand that these teachings are the basis of Christian values
- To enable the children to explore and recognise God as Creator and loving Father
- To enable the children to understand the nature, importance and significance of the Bible
- To provide opportunities to reflect upon scripture, parables and events
- To teach about celebration, prayer and reflection
- To teach the children about our Catholic traditions and way of life including the Sacraments and the liturgical year
- To provide the children with the necessary language to discuss and explain symbols and rituals, people and places, religious activities and objects, religious and non-religious stories
- To learn about other faiths

## MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The RE Manager will review and evaluate provision, progression and children's participation through work sampling, questionnaires, pupil interviews and observation as appropriate. This information will be used to identify areas for development/INSET.

The Diocesan Self-Review process provides opportunities annually to focus on specific areas of RE within our schools:

- A The School as a Catholic Community
- B Curriculum religious education
- C Pupils' spiritual and moral development

There are sub-sections within each area and at the end of the review each sub-section produces a target or targets for development. The school, then, prioritises these to include in School Development Plan.

Reviewed by RE Leader:	June 2016
Approved by Curriculum Committee:	June 2016
Review	Bi-Annual
Review:	Summer 2018

## GUIDELINES TO THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

### St Thomas More's Catholic Primary School

#### CURRICULUM

Our school uses the "God Matters" programme and other resources to support the teaching of RE. See Appendix A. This framework covers:

Creation, Prayer, Saints & Feasts, Advent, Christmas, Revelation, Lent, Holy week, Easter, Pentecost & Mission, Sacraments.

Longer units are allocated teaching time of approximately 4 weeks, equating to 2 hours per week. Some units (Christmas and Holy Week) are shorter to fit in with the liturgical calendar.

#### PLANNING, ASSESSMENT AND RECORDING

Teachers use the 'God Matters' framework, supported by a variety of other resources - books, videos, posters, slides/OHPs, art pictures, music and ICT resources, to enhance and support the programme.

Assessment is based on the expected outcomes for each unit. These outcomes provide the starting point for planning and should be the focus when planning any activities.

AT1 and AT2 attainment is recorded for three units, one Liturgical (*Lent*), one sacramental (*Sacraments*) and one other unit (*Prayers, Saints and Feasts*). Evidence may come from both written work or oral responses. These assessments are then reported on in the end of year report given to parents in the Summer term.

#### SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

For those children with learning difficulties, tasks, outcomes, or text are differentiated to allow access to the learning objective. We recognise that those children who have needs in other curriculum areas may have good knowledge and understanding of our faith and/or demonstrate deep spirituality, and so must be given the support in order to share and further develop this.

We also recognise that those children who do well in other curriculum areas may need support in RE. For some of our children, school may be the only place where they have the opportunity to learn about and experience our faith.

#### RESOURCES

Each class has a 'God Matters' book for their Year groups. Each class has a set of bibles. There is a large selection of other resources situated in the staff room.

## **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

Our faith is celebrated in a variety of ways, but especially through liturgy and sacrament, ritual, symbol and prayer.

Our acts of worship provide opportunities to share our Catholic practices and beliefs, to consider and affirm our Christian values, to pray, meditate and reflect, to think about the needs of others and develop a sense of community and belonging.

See the Policy for Collective Worship.

## **HOME, PASTORAL AREA AND COMMUNITY LINKS**

Our school is committed to developing a partnership with the families of our pupils and the Pastoral area within which most of them live.

When a child enters our school, he/she and his/her family will receive a warm welcome from us, irrespective of religious, social, economic, cultural or racial background. We offer parents opportunities to work together for the benefit of their children.

We recognise and value the commitment of our school governors and priests, and aim to involve them in different aspects of RE. We welcome links with our Church communities and value opportunities to worship together e.g annual Carol Service, visits to churches, visits from parishioners to pray with us.

We work closely with Diocesan Advisers and actively maintain liaison links with Oaklands Secondary and other local Catholic schools.

With the local community, we foster links in a variety of ways. The school community is encouraged to show interest and practical support for local, national and international issues. This school specifically supports Cabrini Children's Society, CAFOD, and The Catholic Children's Society, as well as other charities. We are also a Fairtrade school.

As part of our development of the Global Citizen, we continue to establish links with St Kizito's Catholic primary school in Kenya. This link will foster the idea that we are all God's children, with our similarities and differences, and can work together to deepen our faith and spread the Gospel values.

In R.E., marking should reflect success against both knowledge-based objectives as well as pupils' spiritual development.

## Response Marking

Marking should consist of ticking to indicate correct knowledge, reinforced or corrected with a question or statement, where appropriate, which may also include where the pupil can go to further their knowledge in order to correct work.

Points to where to find correct facts

Clarifies misconception

Reinforces knowledge

Differences

- Each has a different meaning.
- Characters
- Setting
- Lessons
- Story
- Each Gospel tells the parable differently

Yes - they all teach us different things about God and how we should live our lives

Yes - they changed as people tried to remember them and rebuild them

Points to where to find correct facts

So I can say thank you. Also try hard to carry on alms-giving and giving up to fast. Remember back to our display work on why we do these things. I agree that these can bring us closer to God.

do want they want to do because they have got to learn

This is a difficult one to understand. It's actually about being invited into the Kingdom of God. Read it again and then come and tell me what you think.

loosen the straps or even carry the sandals of the Lord.

The Bible was written after Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension into heaven.

Good. You have remembered key facts and have supported your biography by including quotes from scripture.

- I wonder how he did this?

- Why did he not say thank you? (when he praised God - it was his way of thanking God)

- How did it feel like to see

Use questions to further knowledge.

How do you think Mary felt when the Angel Gabriel came to see her?

Mary must of felt shocked and surprised because she had never seen an angel before.

would be a servant to his people and that he would be a shepard to his people. I agree, but how would he be a sergant? How would he be a shepard to his people? Jesus served us because he gave his body for us.

Use questions and statements to develop faith and spirituality.

that knowing that God was by his side at all times, and it helped him not to let God down. These things can strengthen us too, we just have to remember that. I can improve my relationship with God by trying to do God's will and save time to be with God in my thoughts. This will definitely help your relationship with God to grow. I often think to myself 'What would Jesus do?' before I make decisions (even though it's not always obvious).

believe that what helped him to resist temptation was God who gave him faith also he was strong and said no. Having faith in God can strengthen us when we are I can improve my relationship with God the Father and during with by praying through my praying I will take the tempt time to talk to him. You are right that it's important to take time to talk to God. Try to listen to what He is trying to tell you to do or change.

him.

I think your representation shows many of the things I think of when I think of the Messiah. Well done. Shp

Are there any other ways in which Jesus saves us? he guides us through our prayers and thoughts. Also he has saved us through his teaching. Yes. He saves us from doing the wrong thing. And you shall call his name. (Matthew 1:21)

Self-evaluation

to listen to Jesus' words and act on them.

Yes - acting on them is the key idea. It's no good just hearing them, it's got to make a difference to your life.

What was that reason?

a different story.

Yes - they all teach us different things about God and how we should live our lives.

Pupils must have opportunities to evaluate their own spiritual development and knowledge of their faith and other religions. This may take the format of written work at an appropriate point, often at the end of a unit to demonstrate their progress in learning, or through discussions. Records of significant comments which demonstrate a pupil's knowledge or spiritual development are recorded on a post-it note and stuck to the pupil's book or other suitable book.

#### Peer marking

Peer marking should link to knowledge based tasks rather than another pupil's personal reflections. However, pupils are encouraged to respond to statements made by other members of the class, respecting any difference in belief.