**The Federation of St Bernadette's and St. Patrick's Catholic Primary Schools**

# RE Policy

| | |
|---|---|
| Policy Reference: | RE1-F |
| Responsibility: | Curriculum and Standards Committee |
| Designation: | Statutory (Diocese) |
| Reviewed by: | Alison Tong |
| This Review: | April 2026 |
| Next Review Due: | April 2027 |
| Cycle: | Annual |
| Ratified by Full Governing Body on: | |
| Signed: | |
| Gerard Owens | Chair of Governors |

***At our school, with Jesus in our hearts, we have:***

***The passion to learn;***
***The courage to fail; The strength to love.***

***With Christ as our guide and example we celebrate the uniqueness of the individual.***

***Together we will try to:***
***Learn from Jesus;***
***Love like Jesus;***
***Live like Jesus.***

The RE policy in the federation of St Bernadette's and St Patrick's supports the mission statements of both schools.

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 Statements. Our commitment is based on the Gospel values of dedication, empathy, forgiveness and generosity, as well as 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 school values 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**

- Teach the main principles of the Catholic faith underpinned by the mystery of God and the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.
- To deepen the children's understanding and communication of and involvement in the Catholic faith.
- Enable children to become familiar with religious language, symbols, and different styles of worship and prayer.
- To know and engage with the Church's moral and social; teaching to provide a guide for living.
- To provide children with an understanding of religions and world views present in the world today and the skills to engage in respectful and fruitful dialogue even when those views differ to their own.
- Be able to reflect on their own experiences and to develop a personal response to the fundamental questions of life including the relationship between faith, life and culture.
- Provide opportunities to develop a personal relationship with God and how this impacts on their lives.
- To enable pupils to relate the knowledge gained through RE to their understanding of other subjects in the curriculum.
- Assist parents in their role as the first educators of their children.
- Build on the experience of belonging to a faith community and complement the work of the parish.

**Teaching and Learning**

- 10% of teaching time is to be given to RE (in line with the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales).
- The diocesan scheme God Matters will be taught according to the guidance given in the syllabus, which is relevant to the age group of the classes. The topics for the year are fixed and represent a whole school approach. However, the Diocese may request that changes be made to the order of the units in order to accommodate special events or celebrations.
- RE will be taught through direct teaching, integrated lessons, visits, visitors, and prayers.
- A variety of teaching and learning strategies will be used from across the curriculum adapted appropriately to the needs and learning styles of pupils.
- Celebration of the word is to take place either as a whole school, key stage or in individual classes, on a daily basis and is covered under our Prayer and Liturgy Policy.
- The School will follow the Liturgical year, alongside God Matters, with emphasis on Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost.
- The children will be encouraged to see themselves as part of a wider community of God's World. They will be encouraged to consider others through outreach activities, which will range from those set on a yearly bases, those which arise out of the children's own ideas, world events and school and Diocesan initiatives.
- Parish and school initiatives are encouraged through reciprocal advertisements and contact is made with the Parish Priests or relevant Parish Pastoral Council to help maintain this continuity.

- Planning will account for progression through the Standards;
  - Knowledge and Understanding (learning about)
  - Engagement response (learning from)
  - Analysis and Evaluation

*The above will change when the RE Directory becomes statutory in September 2026. At this point, both schools in the Federation will move to teach a new RE curriculum, structured in accordance with the RE Directory, and this will be reflected in the next policy.*

**Outcomes**
The outcome of excellent religious education is religiously literate and consciously engaged young people who have the knowledge, understanding, and skills – appropriate to their age and capacity – to reflect spiritually, and think ethically and theologically, and who recognise the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.

**Assessment and Reporting**

- All planning will start and end with a Big Question focus and each lesson will build on the children's understanding of scripture and events so that they are equipped to go back to this big question at the end of the unit with new-found knowledge and skills.
- Children's work is marked in line with the School's Marking Policy
- Learning is formally assessed and recorded three times a year in line with diocesan guidance.
- Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to parents/carers in a written report at the end of each academic year.

**Monitoring and Evaluation**

- The RE Leader 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 / Staff CPD. This will be included in the school Monitoring Evaluation & Review cycle.
- The RE leader is responsible for supporting colleagues in the teaching of RE, for being informed about current developments in the subject and for providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in the school.
- The self-review of RE will be shared with governors through the Curriculum and Standards committee.

**Staff Development**
All members of the federation community are encouraged to develop their own confidence and expertise through in-service training. Training needs will be identified and coordinated by the RE Leader in conjunction with the Headteacher.

**Preparation for the Sacraments**
The school supports the parish in preparing pupils to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist.

**Right to Withdraw**
Parents of pupils are permitted to request that their child is withdrawn from receiving all or part of religious education and/or collective worship given at the school and any such request shall stand until such time that the parent's request is withdrawn. Please contact the school if you wish to discuss this.