



## **RE POLICY**

**2022-2023**

Ratification Table:

<b>Approved by:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Last reviewed on:</b>	
<b>Next review due by:</b>	

## **RE Curriculum Intent**

"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."

**(Statement from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, May 2000)**

It is our intent at St Nicholas of Tolentine Catholic Primary to see our mission and vision embedded across the RE curriculum. This sits alongside the Gospel Values and Virtues which are inextricably linked through everything we teach.

It is also our intention that pupils at St Nicholas of Tolentine will enjoy their RE lessons and they will not be seen as a way of either promoting the Catholic faith exclusively, nor for them to be something in which they are purely 'taught'.

RE lessons should be faith-filled, enjoyable lessons where each child feels they belong to our school community and not excluded because they are not Catholic. Lessons should be places where everyone is respected for their beliefs and expressions of faith, but where ultimately, they all achieve. Using the subject specialists in RE from The Clifton Diocese we plan for children to make good progress at St Nicholas of Tolentine Primary School.

## **Mission Statement**

Where Charity and Love are, God is there

### **Rationale**

Our school community aims to provide a welcoming secure and caring learning environment in which children are happy, motivated and enthusiastic about learning.

As a Catholic School, we aim to present Gospel Values and Virtues which are actually lived out in our daily lives and expect pupils and staff to respect and value people of different backgrounds, cultures and faiths.

These Virtues are:

**Compassion** 'Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you' Ephesians 4:32

**Responsibility** 'Work hard and cheerfully at whatever you do.' Colossians 3:23

**Respect** 'Show respect to everyone' 1 Peter 2:17

**Community** 'Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.' 1 John 4:7

**Success** 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me' Philippians 4:13

**Enjoy** 'This is the day that the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it.' Psalm 118:24

We aim to prepare the children in our care to become independent, caring and responsible members of society.

### **Aims**

The Aims of Religious Education as stated in the RE Curriculum Directory are:

- To present engagingly a comprehensive content which is the basis of knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith;
- To enable pupils continually to deepen their religious and theological understanding and be able to communicate this effectively;
- To present an authentic vision of the Church's moral and social teaching so that pupils can make a critique of the underlying trends in contemporary culture and society;
- To raise pupils' awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities in order to respect and understand them;
- To develop the critical faculties of pupils so that they can relate their Catholic faith to daily life;

- To stimulate pupils' imagination and provoke a desire for personal meaning as revealed in the truth of the Catholic faith;
- To enable pupils to relate the knowledge gained through Religious Education to their understanding of other subjects in the curriculum;
- To bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture.

### **For Parents**

Parents are informed through Class Dojo and the website regarding the topics being studied within Religious Education. Termly Mass is open to parents to attend.

### **Implementation:**

We are a Catholic school, and proud of this. We have lots of different faiths at St Nicholas of Tolentine and enjoy celebrating these. The Catholicity of the school underpins what we do every day. This also directs us, with the help of God and the implement an RE curriculum whereby the Catholic faith permeates everything we do.

For RE we follow the the God Matters Scheme of Learning which is supported by Clifton Diocese Educational resources.

**Creation** - this unit explores the Creation story, considers why we should take care of God's creation and why we should all be stewards.

**Prayer, Saints & Feasts** – this unit explores our relationship with God and how we celebrate our Saints.

**Advent** – this unit looks at the season of Advent and how we prepare for the birth of Jesus.

**Christmas** – the story of Christmas and what it means to us all. **Revelation** – Develops understanding of how God reveals Himself to us through the life of Christ and through the Holy Bible.

**Lent** – Through this unit children learn how to prepare for Easter during the Lenten period.

**Holy Week** – Children reflect on the events of the week, empathising with Jesus and the disciples.

**Easter** – Children explore the sacrifice made by Jesus and God at this time.

**Pentecost & Mission** – Explores the events of Pentecost and the importance of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

**Sacraments** – Children develop a deeper understanding of the seven sacraments in the Catholic Church.

In addition to the units, classes also learn about events within our Liturgical Year, relevant Saints and times of particular focus

Every year there are two separate 'Other Faiths' weeks where children learn about the other five major faiths followed across the world.

RE should present our pupils with the same academic demands and challenges as any other curriculum area. It should promote knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith; its relevance to the ultimate questions of life and the skills required engaging in religious thinking.

At St Nicholas of Tolentine, we have a structured way of teaching RE. On Monday all classes teach a skills and knowledge based lesson which is recorded in our RE floorbooks which give the children the skills, knowledge and vocabulary needed. The following day these skills taught and vocabulary learnt is then applied in a morning writing session. We have chosen to structure our RE lessons in this way to enable our children to remember and apply what they have learned and spoken about over the course of two consecutive lessons.

The Catholic Life of the school is also fundamental in the children's religious experience. There is regular reflection time in each class, so that prayer and spirituality are at the heart of every day's learning. Assemblies, School and Class Masses and weekly Reflections also ensure that the children

come together as a family to pray, sing and reflect on different aspects of their faith. A strong Chaplaincy team supports the development of Catholic Life within St Nicholas.

### **Teaching and Learning style- Curriculum Time Allocation**

In line with Bishops' Conference recommendations, 10% of curriculum time is allocated to Religious Education. This does not include Prayer and Liturgy.

### **Assessment**

We recognise that assessment, recording and reporting are a natural part of teaching and are integral to the learning process. They are continuous processes requiring a close partnership between teachers and pupils, and the involvement of others as appropriate. They are the responsibility of all teachers.

Teacher assessment is completed at the end of every unit and RE assessment sheets are completed with the children.

### **Impact:**

Through moderation of planning, lessons and books, we can be sure that progress is made across all year groups. We are also fortunate to have help from the Clifton Diocese where support is in place for planning, teaching and assessment. If progress is not being made, support is immediate and steps provided to ensure all pupils achieve and make progress.

Evidence of impact in RE is not just collated through writing books. We use floor books where the children's learning and understanding of skills and their responses are captured. All our pupils contribute to Prayer and Liturgy and the Catholic life of the school.

At St Nicholas of Tolentine we want RE to be at the heart of our school and for this to shine through in all areas of our curriculum. Children have a deep understanding of their own uniqueness and their value and purpose in the world. They treat everyone with respect and care as they know that this will show that they are true witnesses and that this will have a ripple effect. This understanding of their role is evidenced in their committed responses to charitable work within the school, their contributions to the liturgy of the school and the school parish, in the reflective, thoughtful work they produce in their RE books and through their articulate and passionate contributions to discussions within their RE lessons.

