



## The Federation of St Joseph's and St Thomas More Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary Schools



### Religious Education Statement

#### Intent

At The Federation of St Joseph's and St Thomas More Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary Schools we believe that Religious Education is 'the core of the core curriculum.'

*'Therefore 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.'*<sup>1</sup>

Religious Education is the systematic study of the teaching of the Church and the mystery of Christ and is a rigorous academic subject in its own right.

*'Religious Education is regarded as an academic discipline with the same systematic demands and the same rigour as other disciplines.'*<sup>2</sup> As such it is taught, developed and resourced with the same commitment as any other subject.

*'Excellence in religious education, then, will be characterised by a clarity of succinct religious learning objectives and of key content, by appropriate methodologies, rigour, richness of resources, achievement of identified outcomes and accurate methods of assessment. Classroom RE will be a challenging educational engagement between the pupil, the teacher and the authentic subject material.'*<sup>3</sup>

Whilst evangelisation and catechesis are happening in our school for some pupils, the specific contribution Religious Education makes to the Catholic Life of the school is primarily educational and is planned, taught, assessed and monitored with the same rigour as other curriculum subjects.



*Live fully, act justly*



## Implementation

At The Federation of St Joseph's and St Thomas More Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary Schools 10% of curriculum time is allocated to Religious Education. This does not include Collective Worship. Our RE lessons aim to:

- *present engagingly a comprehensive content which is the basis of knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith;*
- *enable pupils continually to deepen their religious and theological understanding and be able to communicate this effectively;*
- *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;*
- *raise pupils' awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities in order to respect and understand them;*
- *develop the critical faculties of pupils so that they can relate their Catholic faith to daily life;*
- *stimulate pupils' imagination and provoke a desire for personal meaning as revealed in the truth of the Catholic faith;*
- *enable pupils to relate the knowledge gained through Religious Education to their understanding of other subjects in the curriculum;*
- *bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture.<sup>4</sup>*

To fulfil the above aims and to address the four areas of study outlined in the Religious Education Curriculum Directory, 2012 – Revelation, Church, Celebration and Life in Christ - the 'Come and See' programme is used as recommended by the Diocese.

Religious Education is taught through the process of *Explore, Reveal, Respond*. This follows the pattern of: the human **search** for meaning, God's initiative in **Revelation** and the **response** in faith. This pattern is outlined both in the Catechism of the Catholic Church and in the Curriculum Directory.

As the Directory states: *'Teaching in Religious Education ....should help people be attentive to the meaning of their experiences, illumined by the light of the Gospel, so that they may respond to God more fully. Experience can also make the Christian message more intelligible.'*<sup>5</sup>



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A variety of teaching and learning strategies will be used from across the curriculum adapted appropriately to the needs and learning styles of pupils.

All pupils in our school, irrespective of ability, faith and background will have appropriate differentiated access to the Religious Education programme. The governing body have wider responsibilities under the Equalities Act 2010 and will ensure that our school strives to do the best for all of the pupils, irrespective of disability, educational needs, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, sex, gender identity, religion or sexual orientation or whether they are looked after children.

### **Impact**

The outcome of Classroom Religious Education is:

“religiously literate and 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 are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life”.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Religious Education in Catholic Schools, Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales, 2000, para 4

<sup>2</sup> Religious Education Curriculum Directory, Department of Catholic Education and Formation, Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales, 2012, p.3

<sup>3</sup> Religious Education in Catholic Schools, Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales, 2000, para 7

<sup>4</sup> Religious Education Curriculum Directory, Department of Catholic Education and Formation, Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales, 2012, p.6

<sup>5</sup> Religious Education Curriculum Directory, Department of Catholic Education and Formation, Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales, 2012, p.7

<sup>6</sup> Religious Education Curriculum Directory, Department of Catholic Education and Formation, Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales, 2012, p.6



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