

Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Religious Education And Collective Worship Policy



We live, love and learn together in the light of God by...

praying together

learning together

playing together

and

respecting each other.

Approved by:

Linda Mockler

Date: 10th July 2025

Next review due by:

July 2026

Introduction

Holy Family School was founded by, and is part of the Catholic Church. The school is to be conducted as a Catholic school in accordance with Canon Law and the teachings of the Catholic Church and in accordance with the Trust Deed of the Archdiocese of Birmingham and in particular:

- Religious Education is to be in accordance with teachings, doctrines and general and particular norms of the Catholic Church
- Religious worship is to be in accordance with rites, practices, disciplines and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church; and at all times the school is to serve as a witness to the Catholic faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ

Mission Statement

As God's family we work together as brothers and sisters in a safe, happy and compassionate environment. We take pride in everything we do ensuring that our children are motivated to achieve and be the very best they can be.

Built on the foundation of Christ and through teaching of Gospel values, we develop the whole child in a setting which has an understanding and appreciation of all faiths.

Inspired by Pope Francis we endeavour to 'light a fire in the hearts' of our children, empowering them to make a real difference in our diverse, ever changing society.

Aims

Our aims are:

- To nurture our children in the **Catholic Faith**
- To acknowledge, respect and learn about **other faiths**
- To provide a living example of **Gospel Values** in our relationships with one another
- To teach the children a range of **values and virtues** that can be used in the pupils' **spiritual, moral, vocational, social and cultural** development.

- To provide a high quality education where each child develops to his/her full potential and acquires the knowledge, skills and personal qualities to become useful, responsible, respectful and happy members of society through our **Catholic Social Teaching (CST)**

How we meet our Aims

In order to achieve these aims, RE is presented through the following strands:

- A) The RE Programme of Study including Multi Cultural Education
- B) Religious Practice
- C) Sacramental Preparation
- D) Pastoral Care, Behaviour and Discipline
- E) Links with other Curriculum Areas

A The RE Programme

RE is allocated at least 10% of the curriculum in line with the expectations of the Archdiocese. Prayer and Liturgy services, including Mass, does not constitute teaching curriculum time; likewise hymn practices are not part of the allocated 10%.

All nursery classes are expected to make provision for the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of their pupils. As our Nursery is an integral part of this Catholic school, we believe the children in our school must be given opportunities to "Experience what it is to be part of a Catholic Community". Our nursery follows the RE strategy Learning and Growing as the people of God. (Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools)

Learning and Growing as the People of God

Holy Family Catholic School follows the model curriculum strategy published by the Archdiocese of Birmingham in response to the Catechism, the Curriculum Directory and as a continuation of the Curriculum Mapping.

The structure of the Strategy is designed to deliver the elements of the Curriculum Directory in a systematic and progressive order. The common themes delivered annually are those based on the Liturgical Year. Other elements such as the Sacraments and Scriptural Knowledge are delivered

annually but each year group has a different emphasis and focus and therefore each year group does not study each sacrament or the same scriptural passages.

How we plan Religious Education

The Long Term Planning is contained within the Programme of Study for each year group. The RE Department provides a long term plan in accordance with school term dates and the RE Subject Leader allocates each unit to specific dates throughout the year.

Medium Term Planning is the responsibility of the class teacher and is done on a unit by unit basis. Each year group has a unit marker containing the 'most children should' statements.

Short Term Planning is recorded on a separate RE planning sheet, which is loaded onto the school system every week.

How we Assess, Record and Report

The assessment of individual pupils in RE is the responsibility of the class teacher. Teachers report to parents via consultations in the Autumn and Spring Terms and by a written report at the end of the school year. School follows the RE Department's guidance with regard to assessment against national standards.

Because of the large number of topics contained within the strategy, it is not possible to assess each child on each unit. Therefore, a programme of assessments has been devised focussing on one of the 4 strands on a rolling programme over 4 years. (The Liturgical Year, Scripture, The Sacraments and Living as Christians including Prayer) As a result, comparisons across the whole school can be made; progression by year groups can be monitored. Assessment data for the diocesan is recorded on the Excel Spreadsheet provided by the Diocesan.

For the National assessment, three children per phase group are selected and their work is moderated at various points throughout the year against the age related expectations published. The work is moderated during consultation meetings between Class Teacher and RE Subject Leader.

The monitoring of assessment is the responsibility of the RE Subject Leader who also

- Supports colleagues in their teaching by keeping them informed about current developments in RE and by providing a strategic lead and direction for this subject;
- Purchases and organises resources;
- Uses specially allocated regular subject leader time to review evidence of children's work and to observe RE lessons across the school;
- Sets whole school themed targets for each academic year;
- Gives the Governors an annual summary report in which s/he evaluates the strengths and weaknesses in RE and indicates any areas for improvement;
- Works with the parish priest to organise whole school/parish masses and celebrations as well as sacramental programmes. Masses are celebrated both in Church and the school hall;
- Liaise with other RE Subject Leaders in cluster schools and with the Primary Advisor for RE.
- Meets with the RE Link Governor, Linda Mockler, on a formal basis termly, but also informally throughout the year.

How we teach Religious Education

Religious Education is taught to the whole class. The class teacher, in his/her planning will decide the most appropriate approach for the lesson. The work may be scaffolded according to ability of the children and to the nature of the task being undertaken. The children may be offered opportunities to work individually, with partners or as part of a group.

Religious Education seeks to develop social and emotional skills as well as those of knowledge and understanding. It also seeks to develop a range of skills which can be used in other areas of the curriculum such as skills in thinking, investigating, interpreting, communicating and evaluating.

Multicultural Education

The RE Strategy contains information about other faiths in various year groups. The class teachers use this information and if appropriate may call upon the experience of the children in the class who practise this faith to give further

explanation of how they practise their faith. Annual Interfaith trips are also organised for KS2 classes: Y3- Hinduism, Y4- Judaism, Y5- Islam and Y6- Sikhism. The school has also purchased several artefacts of other faiths in order for the children to have a greater understanding. One of our aims is to: "acknowledge, respect and learn about other faiths"

Equal Opportunities

All children have equal access to the RE curriculum, regardless of religion, gender, culture or special educational needs. Full participation in all aspects of RE is expected.

We strive hard to meet the needs of those pupils with special educational needs, those with disabilities, those with special gifts and talents and those learning English as an additional language, and we take all reasonable steps to achieve this.

With regards to the sacramental preparation in Years 3 and 6, all children follow the units of work in the Strategy and extra support is provided for those who will be receiving the Sacraments.

B Religious Practices

Prayer, worship and liturgical celebration are central to our Catholic tradition. It is of prime importance, however, that sound educational and pastoral principles determine the ways in which these are extended in the school community. It is the task of the school... to promote and develop as appreciation of and a more active participation in prayer, worship and liturgy.

(Evaluating the Distinctive Nature of a Catholic School)

It is through the observance of and participation in acts of prayer, worship and celebration of the Liturgy that the child has the opportunity to express his/her faith and to develop a relationship with God. School, for many of our pupils is their first, sustained experience of the Catholic tradition. Parents wishing to understand more about this practice and express their parental rights have the opportunity to discuss this further with the HT. Thus, we provide a range of opportunities where Catholic faith can be practised.

- Formal prayer: morning, afternoon, at mealtimes

- Reflective prayer in the form of guided meditations
- Collective Prayer in the form of whole school assemblies
- Celebration of Mass: class led every first Thursday of the month both in church and in school, important feast days, the beginning and end of each school term, and joint Masses with St Bernadette's Primary School. Year 3-6 lead a Mass over the year.
- Observance of feasts and the Church calendar
- Regular hymn practices
- Involvement in Parish and Community Celebrations: Advent Liturgies, the receiving of Sacraments within Sunday Parish Masses, Church Fete.
- We encourage those who attend Mass at Holy Family Church to become altar servers both for parish and school masses.
- Children have been provided with Mass cards to help them join in with the Mass responses.

C Sacramental Preparation

Preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist currently takes place in Year Three. In addition to the Strategy which is followed by all pupils, the school provides extra resources and sessions for the Catholic children to enable parents to take an active part in their children's preparation for these sacraments

The parents are asked to commit to the Parish Programme of Preparation. They are invited to attend 4 afternoon meetings during the year where the children are taught in a session by catechists and the parents work with their children at deepening their understanding and faith. The four themes are belonging, making peace, sharing a meal and the Eucharist.

The sacrament of reconciliation takes place during Lent and The Eucharist in the summer term.

Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation takes place in Year Six. The school uses aspects of the Diocesan programme "Gifted in the Spirit" for the Confirmandi alongside the Strategy which is followed by all pupils. The children

take part in an Inscription Mass to confirm their commitment to the Sacrament. Holy Family School join with the parish to celebrate this Sacrament.

D Pastoral Care, Behaviour and Discipline

"Our aim in Christian moral education is to help the children grow into mature Christians who will live for the Father in accordance with the teachings of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit" (Veritas)

Please refer to the relevant policies

Involvement with parents and the parish community

The parents are positively encouraged to involve themselves with the religious life of the school. They are invited to attend all school masses and any class assemblies. Sacramental preparation work is sent home so that parents can have an active involvement with work being done in school.

The school encourages children to attend Sunday Mass and to be more actively involved by altar serving.

The Masses the children attend are split between being celebrated in church and school. For Masses celebrated in school, the parishioners are invited to attend and stay for a drink and catch-up afterwards.

E Links with other Curriculum Areas

Religious Education is at the heart of our curriculum. We use the main principles of Catholic Social Teaching and make links to all areas of the curriculum:

The dignity of the Human Person

Family and Community

Solidarity and The Common Good

Rights and Responsibilities

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

Stewardship of God's creation

The Dignity of Work

Our class saints have been chosen to reflect these principles and link in with the vocational work throughout the year.

Religious Education has close links with other curriculum areas. Many of the skills that are developed in RE are transferable to other subjects. Research and referencing skills are used in all subjects and varied writing skills in English can also be found in RE.

Health and Safety

All children go to the church via the playground entrance.

It is advised that no teachers go into church with their class unless another adult is present.

Any matches kept in classrooms must be locked away securely. The teacher is responsible for lighting candles for worship focus and ensuring that lit candles are used safely and extinguished correctly.

Resources

There is a range of resources to support the teaching of RE across the school.

All classrooms have teacher copies of "Learning and Growing as the People of God". Each class also has a collection of artefacts to support prayer and meditation. Each classroom also has a designated RE area/table, covered by the appropriate coloured liturgical cloth which is a focus for prayer.

Further resources are stored in the RE Resources cupboard, which are accessible to all staff. These include pictures, posters, artefacts, as well as a selection of prayer books, bibles and teacher guidance books.

Access to the Internet is available both through the classroom whiteboards and the ICT suite.