



OUR LADY AND ST BENEDICT CATHOLIC ACADAEMY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY STATEMENT

Our Mission Statement:

‘Loving, Learning and Looking forward with Christ.’

Following the example of Our Lady and St. Benedict we are rooted to Christ in all that we say, do and think. Within our safe Catholic family we love, learn and ensure children are ready for their next step in society with Christ as their purpose.

Core Values

At Our Lady and St. Benedict Catholic Primary School we aim to:

Provide opportunities for every member of our community to strengthen their spiritual relationship, belief and faith with Christ and one another through daily prayer, worship, liturgy and learn to live out their relationship based on the teachings of the Gospel Values.

Believe every person matters and that they are entitled to equality of opportunity. Each individual’s unique God-given talents are nurtured and celebrated and through an excellent Catholic education each member will achieve their full potential and come ever closer to understanding their vocation.

Be committed to a strong, loyal and supportive partnership between pupils, parents, Governors, staff, parish and community where the teaching of Christ and the Church are used as our guide to ever strengthen this relationship and service to one another.

Endeavour to provide an environment in which children understand that they are made in the image of God and develop self-discipline, respect and care for all through their words, actions and thoughts.

Encourage all through the teachings of Christ and the examples of Our Lady and St. Benedict to be privileged to act as ambassadors for the school now and for their future place within God’s world.

‘Let them prefer nothing whatever to Christ. Any may He bring us all together to everlasting life.’

Rule of Saint Benedict

Intent:

We Intend to provide our children with:

- To develop children's spirituality and support them in developing their own unique relationship with God.
- We promote the Values and Virtues which allow children to know that they are growing to be people of God.
- To guide and help pupils to recognise and nurture their God given gifts and talents, to achieve their true potential and recognise and fulfil their vocation.
- To enable children to learn and understand the values, we believe that children will need to treat each other with respect.
- To enable children to understand that we are all created in the image and likeness of God to help children to show love and respect to all people of different faiths, race, gender and nationality.
- Develop and an awareness of God's presence in the lives of our children.
- RE is the foundation of the entire education process and permeates all areas of the curriculum and school life.
- Allow individuals to develop their physical, moral and intellectual qualities enabling them to make sound judgements in the light of their personal commitment to Jesus Christ.
- Encourage a well formed conscience allowing each individual to make sound moral judgements in the light of a personal commitment to God.
- Encourage pupils to be involved in parish activities outside school times.
- Involve all appropriate family members, friends and other pupils, of whatever faith, to all relevant religious meetings and celebrations

It is our intention that pupils leave Our Lady and Saint Benedict Catholic Academy with a sense of belonging to a community, and to be well equipped and prepared for their life in our diverse and multicultural society.

Implementation-Teaching and Learning:

Religious Education is taught through the Diocesan RE Strategy 'Learning and Growing as People of God' from Foundation Stage to Year 6. It provides the core of spiritual and doctrinal teaching of the Church. The programme is tightly structured and well balanced across four areas of study – Revelation, The Church, Celebration and Life in Christ. The programme incorporates clear guidelines on how to communicate the unit objectives and suggests activities, scripture links and resource ideas to support delivery. It also provides preparation for sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation. Religious education pervades all areas of the curriculum and is the foundation of all other subjects. It stands with the core subjects of the National Curriculum and is allocated 10% of the timetable

Each classroom has its own prayer corner which follows the liturgical seasons and a display area which celebrates children's work linked to values and virtues or key liturgical celebrations. The entrance to our School and the main hall always displays children's religious education work.

The Religious Education curriculum is also taught through practises which uphold the Church's traditions of prayer and worship. These include:

- Celebration of mass every other week in the parish church, prepared by staff and children. Nursery children join us on Holy days and for special celebrations
- Celebrations for Holy Communion and Confirmation
- Masses for Feast Days and Holy Days
- Children serving at mass
- All children not receiving Holy Communion are invited to receive a blessing
- Appropriate observation of liturgical season eg Lent, Advent
- Daily whole school or key stage assemblies / collective worship
- Weekly Hymn practise

FS1 – Complete a floor book for each unit of work. This demonstrates pupils understanding towards the RE objectives. It will showcase pupils learning in RE such as role-play and class reflections.

FS2, KS1 and KS2 – RE work is completed in an RE book. Each book should display a unit title page to begin each unit. Each class also, has a Catholic life floor book. This will showcase pupils learning in RE such as role -play and class reflections. The floor books will also demonstrate aspects of catholic life that each class has participated in throughout the year.

Collective Worship

As part of our RE curriculum we develop children's relationship with God through worship and prayer. We do this by:

- Starting each day with meaningful prayer
- Providing opportunities for private prayer
- Celebrating mass together every other week
- Holding whole school, phase and special occasions assemblies to which parents and friends are invited.
- Preparing our children for the sacraments of Penance. Holy Eucharist and Confirmation
- Teaching the Catholic faith, its beliefs, truths and traditions
- Developing knowledge and tolerance of other faiths and beliefs

Impact-

- Through RE, children deepen their appreciation of their faith and fulfil their God-given talents .
- Visits within RE have enriched the lives of the children and they are able to discuss how the experience impacted their knowledge and understanding.
- Children of all abilities and backgrounds achieve well in RE, reflected in good progress that reveals a clear learning journey.
- Children talk enthusiastically about their learning in RE and are eager to further their learning in the next stages of their education.
- Fundamental British Values are evident in RE and children understand how RE can celebrate difference. We are all made in the image and likeness of God – each and every one of us are special and unique.
- Children will understand the Catholic virtues which will be focussed on each half term and how these relate to their personal life and to British Values.
- The children will grow to know and love God, develop their moral and spiritual nature and deepen their faith.
- Children live their faith in an active and positive way, always aware of the presence and love of Christ guiding them.
- Children develop their relationship with God and become religiously literate.
- Through religious practice, the church's traditions of prayer and worship will be upheld.
- Faith plays a central role in the lives of the children and the decisions they make.
- Children are confident, resilient and actively engaged in the wider society.
- The school environment will reflect and celebrate our Catholic faith.
- Children are able to define, describe and discuss areas of RE. They will confidently use skills such as retelling, describing, comparing, giving reasons, explaining the meaning of biblical stories and considering the impact of beliefs.
- Children are able to reflect and consider important questions about RE. Through wider reading in RE, children know about a wide variety of Saints, how we can learn from their example, and historical religious events and figures. They are able to make links between Jesus' life and teaching and link it to their own lives, making links between different forms of Christian action, such as in rituals and charitable acts.
- Children leave Our Lady and Saint Benedict Catholic Academy with a sense of belonging to a community, and are well equipped and prepared for their life in our diverse and multicultural society and for their next step in education.

Assessment

Pupils' work is assessed against the unit objective being taught and the expected learning outcomes as defined at the beginning of each unit of work.

Work is marked according to our marking policy which is known as 'Tickled Pink and Green for Growth'. Work matching the objective or showing good elements has a pink key word or short comment and areas for future development are written in green. 'Green for Growth' comments should mainly be focussed on AT2 'Learning from Religion' to enable children to understand how the teachings of the RE curriculum applies to their lives today. Staff provide written feedback to move learning forward which children read and try to use in their next piece of work. Younger children receive verbal feedback alongside their marked work.

The Academy follows the Arch Diocese of Birmingham Education Service's procedure for Assessment. End of Unit assessments are carried out by class teachers three times a year.

The focus for assessment follows a four year rolling programme based on the following themes: The Liturgical Year, Scripture, The Sacraments and Living as Christians.

The assessment schedule identifies which units are to be assessed by each year group and are used in conjunction with the relevant class record sheets.

These assessments should be completed based upon a 'best-fit' approach with judgements made from a range of work activities done throughout the unit and not on a single assessment 'test' activity. 3 focus pupils in each year group are used in order to moderate pupil's work against the assessment criteria and ensure there is evidence across the unit in order to support teacher judgements.

Attainment on Entry

The Academy follows the Arch Diocese of Birmingham Education Service's Baseline Assessment. This is carried out when children first start school. It is used to find out what children's prior religious knowledge, vocabulary and experience is. The Academy then repeats this assessment at the end of Foundation stage. This information helps schools to show how much progress is made from that initial starting point.

Levels of Attainment

The Academy uses the Arch Diocese of Birmingham Education Service's Levels of Attainment. The Levels of Attainment for RE provide expectations for the development of skills in RE progressing through all four key stages. Each year group selects 3 pupils to use as focus children. One at Emerging, one Expected and one Exceeding. One piece of work per unit is assessed for the 3 focus pupils against the levels of Attainment. This enables the Academy to ensure that work is planned at the correct level and meets ARE in each year group. It also allows the Academy to ensure that work is set across all assessment points within the Levels of Attainment.

Inclusion:

This policy relates to the school's philosophy for promoting equal opportunities. Children, irrespective of ability, race or gender, are given full access to the RE Schemes of Work. In order to provide work that is appropriate to the learning experiences of individual children, it is necessary for the teacher to be aware of the EHCP/Pupil Passports that apply to children being taught in the class. For pupils with SEN, tasks are differentiated accordingly so that all pupils are included. There are occasions when the resources may be different from those of the class but these will be in keeping with the pupil's Pupil Passports. More able and talented pupils will be identified and their work differentiated accordingly. Teachers take account of the three principles of inclusion, set out in the National Curriculum, which relate to: setting suitable learning challenges, responding to the diverse learning needs of pupils, over coming potential barriers to learning and assessment for individuals and groups of pupils. The above principles are considered in medium and short term planning. Teaching assistants may support individuals or groups of children within the lessons.

Religious Education and Non Catholic Children

Non Catholic children take part in all religious activities including readings, bidding prayers at mass, collective worship and retreat days. Other religious beliefs and customs are respected and children of these faiths are encouraged to share their experiences and attend their own place of worship.

Monitoring and review

Monitoring of Religious Education is the responsibility of the RE lead and the head teacher. This includes monitoring of lesson plans, lesson observations, book trawls and pupil conversations. This will take place inline with the school monitoring policy. Feedback is provided to staff and support and CPD provided where needed.