



Policy for Religious Education

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Reviewed: Autumn Term 2025

Review due: Autumn Term 2027

Our Mission Statement

Our school is proud to serve to the children and families of the Parish of Holy Infant and St Anthony, Astley Bridge, Bolton.

Our Mission Statement:

'Inspiring each other to excellence, guided by the light of Christ'

- Promoting excellence in Teaching and Learning with high expectations for all.
- Striving to witness the teachings of Christ reflected in all aspects of the school's life and in the relationships within our whole school community.
- Working in partnership with parents and families, who are the first educators of their children, the parish and the wider community.
- Ensuring that all children are given equal opportunity to achieve excellence; spiritually, academically and socially.
- Nurturing the care and welfare of all our children.
- Encouraging children to develop self-discipline, self-respect and self-confidence so that they can contribute to the good of all.
- Recognising that this is a community where we enjoy learning and grow together to become lifelong learners.
- Providing outstanding experiences, which will recognise the gifts of each individual and fulfill each child's entitlement to a broad and balanced curriculum.

Our Aims

- To faithfully respond to the call to live as a Catholic community at the service of the Church's educational mission.

To develop pupils as religiously literate and to develop their knowledge, skills and understanding in RE.

- Develop sensitive, responsible people who respect and have consideration for others.
- To engage and form pupils to be active participants in all forms of worship to enable them to develop spiritually and morally.

Implementing the Aims

In order to provide a comprehensive and systematic study of Catholicism, we follow 'Come and See' as the core scheme of RE, as advised by the Salford Diocese.

RE within the Curriculum

In our Catholic school, Religious Education permeates every aspect of our school lives including the curriculum. Our overall aim in teaching RE is the religious growth and development of the children. Through our RE programme, the children are helped to grow in experience, knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Church, its life and its teachings, its place in today's world and its concerns for justice, peace, brotherhood and reconciliation.

The Teaching of RE

Religious Education at Holy Infant and St Anthony is regarded as the core of the core. It is therefore allocated a total teaching time of 10% of available curriculum time for each year group. Planning and timetables need to take account of this. The 10%-time allocation does not include collective acts of worship, assembly time, singing, etc. – it is specific R.E. teaching.

The teaching of RE throughout the school is based on the Come and See programme, supplemented by teachings about the Liturgical Year, religious celebrations, the lives of the Saints and other faiths. A range of materials and supplementary resources are used to ensure a breadth of knowledge and understanding. RHE is delivered through the Ten Ten 'Life to the Full' programme. We encourage our staff use the programmes to provide the children with a range of creative, thought provoking activities.

Through the parish priests, and our school, the children and their families will be encouraged to appreciate, understand and participate in the liturgical cycle and the sacramental life of the church.

On a rolling programme, we also celebrate a different 'World Religion'. In addition to the 'Come and See' World Religion modules, all classes look at a different faith each year so that by the time they reach Year 6, they will have studied all of the major religions. We invite faith experts into school to immerse the children in these different faiths and bring it alive for them. In addition, we encourage children of other faith to share the similarities and differences of their own religions.

Inclusion

At Holy Infant and St Anthony, we are committed to inclusion by providing equal opportunities for all children, whatever their ability, gender, race or social background. Teachers set high expectations and provide opportunities for all the children to access the whole curriculum, including RE, at an appropriate level.

Pastoral Care

As members of a Catholic school, we are all involved in developing a caring and supportive atmosphere where good behaviour is encouraged and the safety and welfare of each child is of fundamental importance. We aim to develop self-discipline in our children so that they become responsible individuals and committed members of our Catholic community. Our approach to discipline reflects that of a concerned and reasonable parent. It is our intention to maintain a happy, ordered environment where effective learning can take place.

We believe in a positive approach and always seek to reward rather than punish. We want all children to feel that their efforts are appreciated and their achievements are valued. We use regular praise oral and written, stickers, Gold Cards, house points, Class Dojo points, allocation of responsibility and recognition in weekly celebration assemblies.

Catholic Life and Mission

The Mission of the Church is to:

- Evangelise – to make Christ known through what we do
- Transform the person - fuelled by the Holy Spirit
- Transform society - educating our children to make changes for the common good

Christ is at the centre of all that we do in school and runs through our children's day. Children are encouraged to participate in leading prayer and worship and make decisions about the types of prayer and worship they would like to celebrate. The school holds fund-raising events and supports national and local charities such as Cafod, Urban Outreach and St Joseph's Penny. Our Eco Team and Faith in Action Group (Caritas Ambassadors) lead our social action with support from everyone in school.

We wish to promote strong and close links between home, school and parish in order to provide a spiritual, loving and caring background for our children. All parents, relatives and friends are invited to join our liturgical celebrations such as class assemblies. They also join us in church for holy days and special masses that are held throughout the year. Our Year 4 children take part in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion which is led by the Parish Catechists and supported by Ms Grime and Fr Nathan. Each week, a year group from school shares in the Thursday morning mass in our church to which their parents are encouraged to attend. The Sacramental Programme also provides strong links between school and parish.

Prayer and Worship

Collective worship takes place each day in school in the form of class or whole school assemblies, prayers and liturgies. By following the church's liturgical year we are able to develop the children's awareness of the main teachings and events of the Roman Catholic faith.

On Wednesday, the school shares the 'Wednesday Word', a resource which shares the upcoming Sunday Gospel with families through primary schools and enriching the Home, School & Parish partnership. Each Key Stage has an assembly to guide the children through this week's word, prompting thoughtful discussion about the Word of God and how they can witness their faith.

In class, the children are taught to say appropriate prayers beginning every day with their morning prayers, then before lunch and at the end of the day. The children are given opportunities to lead these prayer times. Every class has two prayer leaders who lead worship in their class.

Also, we subscribe to the Ten Ten, a leading provider of faith based resources for Catholic primary schools. From their Collective Worship resources, we use their Daily Prayer programme, which links to the Gospel from the previous week's Sunday mass.

In addition to the traditional daily prayers and the Ten Ten prayers, we have established a school prayer progression to develop the children's prayer knowledge. These are appropriate to the age of the children at each key stage.

During the whole school masses, the children take part in the Readings, Responsorial Psalm, offertory, Procession and Bidding Prayers.

Gift Chaplains – Growing in Faith Together

Our pupils understand, value and contribute to the school's Catholic life and mission. Following a selection process by interview, our Pupil Gift Team create and lead Worship throughout school and with small groups of children at lunch times throughout the year which focus on the Liturgical Year. They also lead and promote a number of charitable collections and organise displays in the Prayer Room to reflect a theme, a Liturgical Season and children's prayers. Our Gift Team take their role very seriously and attend meetings with the Head teacher, R.E co-ordinator and Gift Team Leader, to plan their activities in school and discuss future events. They reflect on Catholic Social Teaching when leading prayer and worship.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- The Diocese of Salford recognises the importance of reflecting on, self-evaluating and celebrating as continuous process that is complemented by regular external inspection under Section 48. The National Framework for the Inspection of Catholic Schools provides both the school and the Bishop with a means of ensuring that matters of significant importance such as the Catholic life and mission of the school, teaching and learning and pray and worship are recognised and supported.
- Staff at Holy Infant and St Anthony evaluate teaching and learning in RE through annotation of lesson plans, achievement against targets and through discussions.
- The Head Teacher and RE Leader is responsible for carrying out lesson observations and work scrutiny to monitor standards within the subject.
- Joint moderation of work is undertaken by all staff with the support and guidance of the RE Leader to enable staff to gain a greater understanding of levels within Religious Education.
- Linked Governors make regular visits to the school to observe and to meet with the RE Lead.
- Regular moderation with other local Catholic schools ensures standards remain high.

Assessment and Feedback

Formal and informal feedback will be given to pupils and parents. Through:

- The marking of pupils' work. Regular challenges are given to children deepen their understanding and make further connections with their developing faith.
- Driver words are used by teachers to assess each child in every lesson and then used to target specific children to address any misconceptions, to enable them to meet the expected standard or exceed the expected standard for their year group.
- All classes complete a checking in task at the beginning of each topic to assess children's understanding at the start. At the end of the topic, a checking out task using the same questions allows the children to show what they have learned and see the progress that they have made. Teachers assess this progress, celebrate their achievements and communicate what they can do to improve.
- At the end of the school year, class teachers consider the overall achievement to provide a final assessment.
- Parents will receive termly feedback on their child's progress and a written report at the end of the academic year that contains a teacher comment on the child's progression within RE for that academic year as well as an indication of the child's achievement against targets.

Role of the Subject Leader

- Monitoring of standards across the whole school.
- Collating and monitoring of assessment data.
- Support staff in the implementation of curriculum RE.
- Managing subject budget.
- Purchase and management of resources including visits and visitors.
- Organisation of CPD for staff (Inset, courses or in house training via staff meetings).

Other relevant policies

- Prayer and Worship Policy