



Atherton Sacred Heart RC Primary School

Religious Education

THE AIMS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

In our Catholic school, Religious Education underpins learning and the life we have together. It is what gives our school its distinctive nature. Although touching all aspects of school life and the curriculum, RE is also taught as a subject and is given 10% of overall timetable. Although in our role as educators, we do not presume a faith commitment, as a Catholic school our Religious Education is rooted in the traditions of the Catholic Church and the teachings of Jesus in the gospels.

The aims of Religious Education at Sacred Heart are:

- **To promote every child's innate capacity for the spiritual**
- *To achieve knowledge and understand of the teachings of Jesus, 'the Church' and Christianity*
- *To understand how a community of people can share beliefs and that shared 'faith' affects who they are and the way they live*
- *To understand that not all communities share the same beliefs*
- *To understand the importance of ritual, worship and celebration to religious communities*
- *For children to develop a moral awareness and a sense of right and wrong, good and evil, in the world around them*

OBJECTIVES

We achieve these aims:

- *With a systematic presentation of Christianity, its message and the way of life it promotes, appropriate to age and stage of development*
- *By engaging children in activities that get them wondering and asking 'why?'; activities that capture the spiritual imagination*
- *By providing opportunities for reflection, prayer and celebration*
- *By providing children with the language of religious experience, through story, symbol, ritual etc...*
- *By providing children with the opportunity to explore and form beliefs and values*

- *By developing an awareness of community, including religious communities and how they relate to each other and the world around them and to allow children to experience being part of a church community*

THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMME

To fulfil our aims and objectives we use the 'Come and See' programme of Religious Education recommended by the Archdiocese of Liverpool.

OVERVIEW OF CONTENT

'Come and See' is developed through three themes based on the constitutions of the Second Vatican Council: Church, Sacrament and Christian Living.

The basic question  belief for each season time is explored through three kinds of theme.

Community of faith **Church**  **Sacraments**
Celebration in ritual  **Christian living**
Way of life 

[see insert 1 for overview of themes for each term]

Each theme can be explored through seven different topics; a distinct topic for each year group. Pupils study the same themes but through different topics as they progress through the school, at a level of deepening understanding.

[see insert 2 for overview of topics]

THE PROCESS

The process for delivering 'Come and See' has three stages: **Explore, Reveal, Respond**, which enable pupils to develop knowledge, understanding, skills and attitude. The process encompasses a variety of teaching and learning styles, which enable the needs of individual pupils to be met.

The Process: the Word who is life – this is our subject

SEARCH – EXPLORE

The introduction to the programme where children's life experience is explored, the questions it raises are wondered at, shared, investigated and their significance reflected on.

REVELATION – REVEAL

This is the heart of the programme where knowledge and understanding of the catholic faith is revealed through the Word, in Scripture, Tradition, doctrine, prayers, rites and Christian living.

RESPONSE – RESPOND

This is where the learning is assimilated, celebrated and responded to in daily life.

THE APPROACH

Working through this process for any given topic takes four weeks. 'Respond' is the heart of the process for all topics.

'Explore' - week one

'Relate' - weeks two and three

'Respond' - week four

Three themes, three topics are studied by each class, nine in total for the school year.

[see insert 2 for overview of topics]

PLANNING

Long term planning

RE is taught as a distinct subject within the timetable, usually in blocks of 30mins or 45mins, totalling approximately 2 ½ hours per week [10% of timetable]. This time refers to RE subject lessons only and does not include assemblies, collective worship or hymn singing.

Two separate weeks of 'other faith' study are also included in the long term plan [Y1 to Y6 only]. In Autumn Term, we have a Judaism week. In Spring or Summer Term [whichever is the longest], another faith is studied eg. Hinduism.

Medium Term Planning

The Co-ordinator provides an overview of topics and dates to be covered at the start of each term. A celebration calendar, matching topics as well as other dates in the liturgical calendar is also devised [see display in staff room].

To help medium term planning and to root class topics in the shared theme, 'Come and See for Yourself' is reflected upon.

In line with other whole school developments, the medium term planner has been simplified and is used mainly for evaluation of teaching and learning. This is returned to the co-ordinator at the end of topic. The detailed medium term plan is done in the form of an annotated 'Come and See' topic. Plans for 'other faith' study are done in the same way.

CAFOD materials are used regularly throughout the year and with various topics to ensure that there is a 'global dimension' to our planning.

In line with school policy, teachers ensure that there is a **display/ focus area** for each topic, which contains the topic title and key words. Children are encouraged to contribute to displays eg. photographs, artefacts from home. The RE display provides a stimulus and a 'focus' for a topic and is also a space to celebrate children's work.

Short Term Planning

No written documents are expected for short term planning. This is the stage at which the teacher decides on activities, the context to which they are to be done eg. individual, group and the resources needed.

The range of activities will be wide and various and, in line with other whole school developments, there is likely to be a good amount of speaking and listening' and 'key skills' tasks. We are trying to be creative!

ASSESSMENT

Assessment is focused by the overall aims and objectives of Religious Education. In 'Come and See', it is related to the concepts, skills and attitudes to be developed through the exploration of the themes and learning outcomes for each topic. Assessment establishes what pupils know, understand and can do. It does not assess faith or practice of faith. Assessment in 'Come and See' emphasises a wide range of achievement.

Informal Assessment - is the day to day 'assessment for learning' we do. It may happen during interaction with the class or group or as a result of marking pupils work. 'Assessment for learning' allows teachers and pupils to know to what extent learning has taken place and what to do next.

Self Assessment - pupils complete a self assessment task at the end of each topic called 'What I Now Know'.

Formal Assessment - in line with Archdiocesan policy, formal assessment takes place once per term, following the cycle provided by the Archdiocese to ensure all themes are covered. Pupils are formally assessed against attainment targets. Activities are designed around 'driver words' so that an accurate judgement of level can be made.

A portfolio of samples from each class at a cross section of ability is kept by the RE co-ordinator. All entries in the portfolio are first levelled by the class teacher and then moderated by another or by the RE co-ordinator.

RECORDING

Following termly assessment, an individual record of attainment is updated. A colour code is used to indicate year group of the pupil. A highlight indicates that the attainment target has been met; a dot indicates that it has been partly met. The record of attainment follows a pupil through the school.

Written comments in RE books is also a record of some of the day to day assessment

Children record most of their work in an RE book or on paper for display. It is not expected that the outcome of all RE activities is written. It is our intention to engage pupils in a much wider variety of activity, as part of a 'creative' curriculum.

All pupils build up a portfolio of 'What I Now Know' self assessment sheets during the year, completed end of topic.

Each class keeps a portfolio by way of remembering and celebrating topics. Portfolios may include samples of work, photographs etc...

Other memories are captured using technology.

The above documents are also used for monitoring and evaluation.

REPORTING

Attainment and progress is reported to parents three times per year, with the Summer report being in written format.

Teachers report attainment and progress to each other on transfer, using recorded assessment evidence, RE books and portfolio evidence.

Our school community is kept informed of religious events and celebrations in weekly newsletters, which are also displayed in church.

Class teachers also send out a curriculum newsletter every term.

A Religious Education newsletter is sent out termly, giving an overview of the three 'Come and See' themes ahead.

RE is reported to Governors in the termly Headteacher's Report and at Curriculum Committee meetings.

EVALUATION OF TEACHING

Monitoring and evaluation of RE is ongoing by the Co-ordinator. Judgements are made about **teaching** in termly book/ display scrutiny and by lesson observation on a rolling programme. Archdiocese guidelines are used.

EVALUATION OF LEARNING

Monitoring and evaluation of RE is ongoing by the Co-ordinator. Judgements are made about **learning** in termly book/ display scrutiny and by lesson observation on a rolling programme. Archdiocese guidelines are used.

There are also opportunities for children to evaluate their own learning built into 'Come and See' topics eg. 'Remember', 'Renew' and 'What I Now Know'.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

"Come and See for Yourself" is used at the start of topics.

All teaching staff have their own 'Come and See' file.

Staff attend Archdiocese topic days on a rolling programme. Staff new to the school are given priority as part of their induction.

RE forms part of the annual CPD calendar with a minimum of one RE staff meeting per term.

The RE co-ordinator attends Archdiocese meetings regularly.

A record of RE professional development is kept.

Headteachers who form part of the St. Mary's Catholic cluster also meet annually.

The co-ordinator [CM] gives ongoing support and advice and keeps staff up to date with RE or Archdiocese initiatives.

STAFF INDUCTION

An Induction tutor is identified [CM]. The Deputy Headteacher [LD] supports the induction of staff other than NQT's, including supply teachers.

COMMUNICATION

The co-ordinator [CM] communicates keeps staff up to date with 'Come and See' topics, providing planners and displaying calendars. Regular RE 'reminders' are displayed on the notice board. A weekly and daily news board keeps staff informed of events and celebrations etc....

RE matters feature in the staff meeting agenda where there is need for 'feedback' or professional development has been planned.

Consultation is planned and carried out when review is necessary eg. the mission statement [a staff/ Governor half day was dedicated to review, followed by a leadership team meeting, discussion with pupils and a written response from volunteer parents].

STAFF

A list of those staff teaching RE is included is available and updated annually for the CES census. It identifies their year group, qualification, teacher status and any responsibility relating to RE.

RE WITHIN THE 'WHOLE CURRICULUM'

As a Catholic school, RE underpins the whole curriculum and gives us our 'distinctive nature'. Our vision and aims reflects what we aspire to achieve through the curriculum we provide for our children. Principles 'Learning and Teaching Policy' apply to all subjects whether taught distinctly or in a more cross curricular way.

There are often quite close links between RE and the PHSCE curriculum. ICT is also as much part of RE as it is any other subject!

Other relevant policies/ guidelines included in this handbook are:

Policy for Collective Worship
Policy for Spiritual Development
Policy for Moral Development
RSE Policy

'With You Always' – at Sacred Heart, we are back into restored order in 13-14. School and Parish work together to prepare children and families for Sacramental celebration.

RESOURCES

There is a 'Come and See' file for all teachers, including on line access. Some other resources are kept in classrooms eg. a copy of 'God's Story' 'Church's Story' including the PDF format CD, book of children's prayers, articles for focus area eg. candle.

Other resources are stored centrally accessible to staff and distributed when needed by the co-ordinator:

Reference material
John Burland music resources
Other faith topic boxes
Prayer books
Assembly/ celebration ideas
Liturgies for children
Posters
CAFOD materials

