

**FEDERATION OF ST ANNE'S AND ST MARTIN'S CATHOLIC
PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

St Martin's Catholic Primary School



Learning to live by faith and to be known by love

Religious Education Policy and Procedures

Policy Management

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Introduction

St Martin's Catholic 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

As a Catholic school, we hold the Gospel of Jesus Christ at the heart of our school family. We therefore value our pupils as children of God, entitled to be educated to their full potential. The school shares with parents, the Church and the wider community, the responsibility of leading children to know and love God and to develop an appreciation of His world.

Mission Statement

Learning to live by faith and to be known by love

Vision

We are all unique, but one in Christ. Therefore, we aim for our children to know their faith and value themselves and one another as unique children of God. As a community, we strive to reflect Christ's love as we learn together.

We foster a safe, vibrant and stimulating learning environment where all feel welcome, and we promote independence and responsibility by caring for our school, the wider community and all of God's creation.

St. Martin's staff bring the world to the children and the children to the world through a wide range of engaging and inspiring learning experiences. We aim to ignite children's curiosity and passion for life-long learning and create an environment where everyone feels valued and their voices can be heard. Children are encouraged to develop the personal skills they need to be effective learners.

All members of the community work to create a culture of excellence where everyone is inspired to be the best that they can be, the whole child is nurtured and all achievements are celebrated. We encourage each child to recognise and respond to God's purpose for them.

The RE Programme

RE is allocated 10% of the curriculum in line with the expectations of the Archdiocese. Collective worship does not constitute teaching curriculum time; likewise, Worship Through Song is not part of the allocated 10%.

Learning and Growing as the People of God

St Martin's 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.

Planning Religious Education

The Long-Term Planning is contained within the Programme of Study for each year group. The Diocese 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. Short Term Planning can be recorded on a separate RE planning sheet, or in an electronic format such as PowerPoint or Google slides. Medium term planning should detail resources and teaching approaches that are to be used. All lessons should be planned using the 'Learning outcomes' detailed within the Learning and Growing as People of God strategy document for each unit and teachers should ensure that teaching activities ensure that the children are able to meet the required learning points of each unit. Scaffolded activities should be planned that allow children to meet the necessary attainment points in the Learning and Growing as the People of God strategy document. The age-related standards should be identified on planning. Teachers should highlight the relevant coding to identify the skills being developed either through specific activities or Big Questions or Key Questions.

How we teach RE

Religious Education is taught to the whole class. The class teacher, in his/her planning will decide the most appropriate approach for the lesson.

Children are encouraged to challenge themselves, selecting a starting point based on their prior knowledge and understanding. Marking in RE follows the school marking policy and the WILF attained should be highlighted in pink. All marking should in Religious Education should relate to Religious Education objectives. At the beginning of the next lesson, children are guided to make progress towards the next WILF or, in the case of a child who has already demonstrated learning at greater depth, are asked a deeper question on which to reflect. During RE, 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 aims 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.

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. The School follows Diocesan guidance with regard to assessment against national standards.

A formal programme of assessments (at 3 points each year) has been devised by the diocese focusing on one of 4 strands on a rolling programme over 4 years. Each year group has 3 assessed units per academic year. At the end of an assessed unit, EVERY child must be assessed against the attainment statements detailed on the strategy documents for that unit. Judgements should be submitted (LA/MA/HA) by inputting levels into the spreadsheet provided in the shared drive by the RE Subject lead. Analysis of the resulting data by the RE lead

means that comparisons across the school can be made and progress by years and groups of students can be monitored.

In addition, each class teacher should have a 3 focus children (LA/MA/HA) and their attainment against ***Age Related Standards for Religious Education (National)*** should be recorded for every unit taught. This should be recorded on the sheet provided by the RE Subject Leader. At least one piece of work per unit should be assessed against the specific Age Related Standard for the appropriate phase. The focus children should remain the same over the two years they are taught in phase (EYFS/KS1/LKS2/UKS2). Where evidence is recorded against the standards, teachers should use a red pen to record this in the children's books. These books should be retained for inspection and moderation purposes.

Assessment data will be moderated using the following methods.

- Moderation activity with subject leader
- Moderation with federated school and year group teacher
- Key stage moderation to ensure progression

How we monitor the teaching of Religious Education

The monitoring of teaching and assessment is the responsibility of the RE Subject Leader who will :

- Support 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 organise resources
- Uses specially allocated regular subject leader time to review evidence of children's work and to observe RE lessons across the school
- 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 Diocesan Primary Advisor for Religious Education

The RE subject leader will monitor the teaching of Religious Education by conducting:

- Learning walks and lesson observations
- Book looks
- Pupil interviews

Findings will be feedback to the Headteacher. Where areas of improvement are identified, teachers will be informed and the necessary support will be put in place to address any issues.

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 practice this faith to give further explanation of how they practice their faith. Each year, the whole school plans to teach the children about two other faiths in timetabled faith

weeks. During this time, children are offered the opportunity to learn about other faiths in more detail. One of our main aims in doing this 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. From time to time, where the need is identified, we will deliver Religious Education using an adapted curriculum that addresses the needs of the child, whilst adhering to the strategy document provided by the Diocese.

Religious Practices

(Also see Collective Worship Policy)

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. 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 class worship and class liturgies
- Celebration of Mass: We regularly celebrate mass in school Masses may be whole school, key stage or individual class masses. The themes of the mass are linked with the liturgical year, the RE curriculum as well as the values and virtues from the Catholic Schools Pupil Profile.
- Observance of feasts and the Church calendar
- Regular hymn practices
- Involvement in Parish and Community Celebrations: Christmas Children's Mass in church, the receiving of Sacraments within Sunday Parish Masses, Family Masses on the first Sunday of every month.
- We encourage those who attend Mass at St Michael's Catholic Church to become altar servers both for parish and school masses.
- A PowerPoint is displayed during school masses which allows the children to join in with the Mass responses.

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, in partnership with the parish, 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 evening meetings during the year where they meet with the parish priest. The sacrament of reconciliation usually 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 the SDC resources for Confirmation

alongside the Strategy which is followed by all pupils. Sessions for sacramental preparation usually take place outside of school hours.

Pastoral Care and Behaviour

(see our Behaviour Policy and RSE policy)

Pastoral care is the responsibility of all staff and any concerns should always be communicated with the class teacher and/or SLT. For matters of safeguarding, please see the Safeguarding Policy. The ELSA is particularly important in supporting children, running group and 1:1 sessions as well as lunch club. The school follows therapeutic principles in managing behaviour.

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 some 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 a family mass is held once per month in the parish church. Children actively participate by reading, taking the Offertory and by being part of the choir. Children are also encouraged to be more actively involved by altar serving. For Masses celebrated in school, the parishioners are invited to attend.

Links with other Curriculum Areas

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. As an academic subject, RE has close links with History, Geography and Art. ICT is used for research, presentation and word processing.

Liaison with other local Catholic Schools

St Martin's is federated with St Anne's Catholic School. In addition, we are involved in and attend meetings for 2 other Catholic Cluster groups

- GRCC
- Local diocesan Cluster group