



St. William of York Catholic Primary School

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The purpose of St William of York Primary School is to educate children in an atmosphere of Christian love, within the Catholic tradition.

We respect and rejoice in the uniqueness of each child, and aim to make learning a happy and positive experience for everyone in our community.

R.E. and Collective Worship Policy

The values which provide the foundation for education at St. William of York, are based on the Christian way of life. The teachings of Jesus and the fostering of awe and wonder is embedded throughout the curriculum.

The aim of this document is to:

- a) Express clearly the ethos of the school.
- b) Outline the RE curriculum and its role in the school
- c) Explain the role of Liturgy and celebration in the school year.
- d) To provide a method of assessing children's progress in their religious education.

R.E. and the secular curriculum

Every opportunity should be given to set the curriculum in the context of God's love for the world and our role within this. Fostering the love of Christ should be at the heart of all curriculum subjects.

The ethos of the school

The school Mission Statement sets out the principles on which the school bases all relationships and expectations.

The values expressed are the responsibility of all members of the school. They manifest themselves in our policies on all curriculum areas, particularly display, SEN, discipline, staffing, equal opportunities, sex education.

All policy decisions, plans and discussions must be held in the light of the principles laid down by the Mission Statement.

The ethos of the school is reflected in every aspect of school life. It is transmitted through the day to day happenings of the school, so its development has to be promoted and encouraged by practical means.

Context

School is only one, though very important, influence in a child's development. Therefore a child's education is not confined to the hours spent in school. It is also experienced at home with the family, at play with friends and within society in general.

Thus, we consider all these factors within our RE Policy – the link between Home, School, the Parish and the wider community.

Education at St. William of York School incorporates aspects of spirituality, moral, social and cultural issues.

To help the children develop their **spirituality**, we aim to develop their relationship with God and an understanding of:

- who they are,
- where they come from, and
- where they are going.

We endeavour to do this through:

- the general ethos and atmosphere of the school,
- the development of prayer,
- an appreciation for the sacraments,
- the nurturing and development of their God-given gifts and talents,
- the recognition of the wonder and beauty of God's creation,
- the development of their personal relationships.

We believe that there is an opportunity for **spiritual growth** whenever we inspire children with enthusiasm for learning and engage children in the pursuit of knowledge and truth.

Central to the children's **moral development**, is the formation of the individual's conscience and an understanding of the difference between:

- right and wrong
- freedom and responsibility
- justice and injustice
- wealth and poverty

We endeavour to facilitate this, by enabling pupils to develop a clear understanding of moral issues and values. Pupils are encouraged to conduct their lives on sound moral principles, impacting on their relationships with other people, the world and its resources.

In partnership with the home and the parish, we have a responsibility to assist in the formation of positive social attitudes amongst our pupils. In doing so, we recognise and affirm the first social grouping to which each child belongs, namely the family. Through formal and informal structures, we encourage our pupils to discover ways in which they can contribute to the good of both their local community and the wider world.

We aim to make provision for **Social Development** by:

- providing opportunities for co-operation and partnership, leadership and responsibility
- highlighting the importance of family, community and other social groupings

In fostering pupil's **Cultural** development at St. William of York, we endeavour to help them value the uniqueness of all. We encourage our pupils to appreciate that they belong in a multi-cultural society where they can proclaim their love of our neighbours, justice and peace.

We try to do this by giving our pupils a range of resources and experiences to reflect and promote awareness of our multi-cultural society.

The R.E Curriculum

We follow the RE scheme of work, '*Come and See*' which is based on the theological foundations of the Second Vatican Council and integrates the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, the *Catholic Levels of Attainment* and the revised *Religious Education Curriculum Directory*.

'*Come and See*' is developed through three themes; Church, Sacraments and Christian Living. The topics are underpinned by one of the above themes and the structure of the four week topics are opened up through; explore, reveal and respond. Each time the themes are taught, they are gradually explored in greater depth and differentiated according to the needs of the children. In each topic, there are attainment level indicators and attainment level summaries which assist teachers in the differentiation and assessment process.

It is expected that 10% of school time will be spent on teaching R.E. including the time taken for Assemblies and Liturgies. Assemblies will serve to promote understanding of RE themes and to reinforce learning.

The RE coordinator will offer support to all staff in the planning of the RE curriculum and other issues arising from the teaching of RE in school.

Assessing RE

The school has been moved towards using the Age Related Standards (3-19) document. Staff training on Assessment in R.E is a priority for the 2018/19 year. Progress in RE and spiritual growth, can be recorded in a variety of ways which include art, drama, music, writing and discussion.

The children are given the opportunity to discuss what they have learned, reflect on its importance to them and celebrate its impact on their lives.

Class teachers will evaluate their teaching at the end of each theme and/or topic. This is a useful way to assess and inform future planning according to the needs of the children.

Whilst our RE curriculum provides a structure for religious teaching, Religious Education permeates all aspects of school life. All that we do, and say, is based on the Gospel values of love, respect and following the teachings of Jesus. We ensure that we provide every opportunity to enhance the religious dimension of our teaching and encourage wonder, awe and thanksgiving.

The aim of our Religious education programme is to develop a love of God in our children by making them aware of His world and to develop a Christian attitude to those around us. We also aim to help the children understand their role as Catholics, in our community and within the wider world.

RE teaching cannot be kept as a separate area of the curriculum.

Assemblies and Liturgies

Weekly:

Monday	9am	Whole school
Tuesday	9:05am	Liturgical Singing Assembly
Wednesday		Class Assemblies
Thursday	9am	KS2 Assembly
	10.10am	KS1 Assembly
Friday	9.05am	Whole School Sharing Assembly

Format for Assemblies

Assemblies can take a wide range of formats. The RE resource section has a range of books offering suggestions which teachers can adapt to their needs. Video clips are used to enhance the teaching and learning of the current theme. Children are encouraged to lead Thursday Key Stage Assemblies. They are supported by a class teacher to explore and present the theme.

The RE Co-ordinator will organise a list of weekly topics for assembly to support the themes in the RE curriculum and Liturgical Year. When planning assemblies, we need to bear in mind the following:

- The topic needs to be clear and appropriate.
The method of delivery should be accessible to all children.
- Assembly is a positive contribution to the school day.
- Assembly is a time for reflection and prayer.

Pupil voice in Assemblies is paramount. Thursday assemblies are planned between the teacher and the children. We actively encourage the children to lead these. On a Friday the children share and celebrate their work from that week. Prayer and celebration is a key focus in these assemblies.

As the assemblies are closely linked with the themes and topics from the RE Curriculum, it is also pre-supposed that assembly time forms part of the allocated time required for RE teaching within the school timetable.

Liturgies and Masses

The school will celebrate any feast days that fall in term time with the parish community.

At the start of each academic year, dates will be discussed and classes allocated the responsibility of organising specific masses or liturgies throughout the year. This will be done in consultation with the Parish Priest, the Head Teacher and the RE co-ordinator.

Masses and liturgies can take place within the Parish Church or the School Hall where all children will participate. We ensure that the younger children in KS1 understand the theme of the liturgy where they may require some preparation.

RE and Display

Each class must have a focal point for RE work within the classroom. This area may include a display of Religious artefacts or posters and will also celebrate children's work.

Children's bibles, copies of God's Story and Church's Story should be available and seen to be regularly used by the children and the class teacher. Additional bible stories may be found within the book corner of each classroom.

Each class will take the responsibility of the RE display in the entrance hall, on a rota basis. The display will be a clear reflection of work within the class RE curriculum, linked to the liturgical year or special events within the life of the church e.g. Reconciliation and Eucharist.

Non specific opportunities for the teaching of RE

It is strongly felt that there are many opportunities throughout the school day to promote an understanding of the teachings of Jesus Christ. By its very nature, discussions about relationships, behaviour and the way we relate to the world around us occur frequently in dealing with every day situations.

All members of staff will draw on the teachings of the Gospels when endeavouring to promote positive behaviour and attitudes. Our aim is to foster a love of Christ and a love and respect for each other.

Music and Liturgy

Music plays an important part within liturgical celebrations. It serves to support and reinforce prayer and it ensures full participation in celebrations.

Each week, a 'Singing' Assembly provides an opportunity to learn new hymns and prepare for feast days and celebrations. The focus of each assembly is closely linked to the liturgical year and it provides an opportunity to teach to deepen the children's knowledge and experience of 'Call and Response' within the mass setting.