



ST. HELEN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

July 2022

**RESPECT YOURSELF
RESPECT EVERYONE IN OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY,
RESPECT EVERYONE IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY,
RESPECT EVERYONE IN OUR GLOBAL COMMUNITY,
BUT MOST OF ALL, RESPECT GOD OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN.**

The governing body of St Helen's Primary School adopted this R.E policy in July 2022

AIMS

Our aims in teaching Religious Education are:

- To encourage the children of St. Helen's School to grow in the knowledge of God Our Father and develop a spiritual and prayerful attitude.
- To promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the children.
- To help our children to recognise, explore and appreciate the religious dimension of questions about the mystery of life, its dignity and its purpose, within the Catholic tradition.
- To stimulate our children to explore their own and universal experiences and to view the world in a religious context.
- To promote our children's innate capacity for wonder, awe, reverence, spirituality and imagination.
- To provide opportunities for celebration, prayer and reflection in implicit and explicit ways.
- To provide our children with the language of religious experience and 'literacy' in religious activities, places, stories, symbols and rituals, people and artefacts.
- To present a systematic presentation of Christian events, the message and the way of life.
- To challenge our children to examine their own life stance; their own religious attitudes, values and practices and to lead them to a deeper personal faith.
- To raise pupils awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities in order to respect and understand them.
- To create an ethos seeking to proclaim the Gospel values such as tolerance, forgiveness, mercy, compassion, trust, peace, be saintly, justice and respect.

OBJECTIVES

- To know how the love and care of people around them helps them to know the love of God and how they can become part of a loving family/community.

- To know about the human need to belong and God's call, celebrated in the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation.
- To know about the gift of God's love in Jesus; and loving as a way of life.
- To know about the people who are part of the local Church in the parish and diocese: their story and how they celebrate it.
- To know about the human need to relate and the Eucharist at the Sacrament of communion with Christ and the Church.
- To know about the sacrifice of Jesus and giving as a way of life.
- To know about the richness and diversity of the world and its people and responsibility to reverence, respect and care for God's gift of the world and one another.
- To know about the joy and challenge of relationships and God's love and mercy celebrated in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- To know about the gift of the Holy Spirit and serving as a way of life.

RE TEACHING

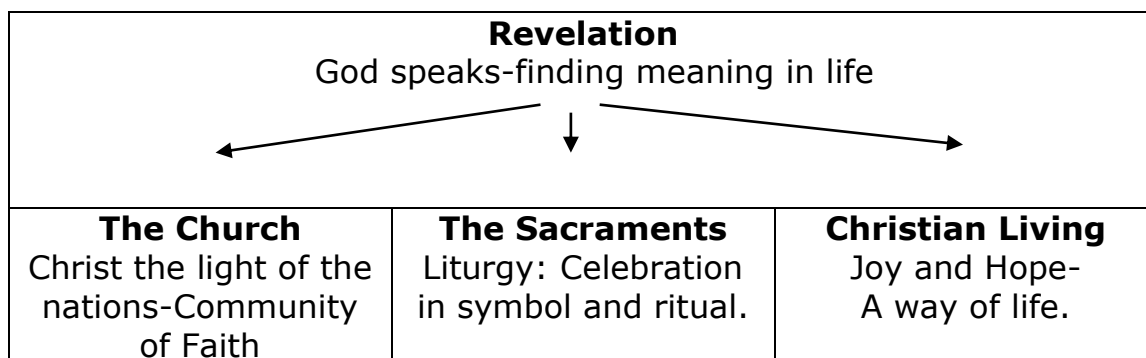
RE is a core-subject and 10% of our curriculum is given to the teaching of it. This is equivalent to two and half hours per week in Key Stage 2 and two and quarter hours in EYFS and Key Stage 1. This includes whole class teaching, group work, discussion and reflection, practical tasks, drama, and music and activities including Bible readings.

CONTENT OF THE 'COME AND SEE' PROGRAMME

Religious Education is delivered using the 'Come and See' programme. Through the 'Come and See' programme we aim to enable children to explore the three basic human questions and the three beliefs that are the church's responses in faith:

Autumn <i>Where do I come from?</i> Life-Creation	Spring <i>Who am I?</i> Dignity -Incarnation	Summer <i>Why am I here?</i> Purpose-Redemption
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'Come and See' has as its foundation four key dimensions of religion:



The 'Come and See' programme is developed through three themes of Church, Sacrament and Christian living.

Revelation is central to the programme.

<p>The Church Themes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autumn <> Domestic Church • Spring <> Local Church • Summer <> Universal Church 	<p>The Sacraments Themes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autumn <> Baptism, confirmation, ordination • Spring <> Eucharist • Summer <> Reconciliation and Anointing of the sick 	<p>Christian Living Themes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autumn <> Advent / Christmas • Spring<> Lent and Easter • Summer <> Pentecost
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In the Autumn term the themes are developed in light of an understanding of Creation.

In the Spring term the themes are developed in light of an understanding of Incarnation.

In the Summer term the themes are developed in light of an understanding of Redemption and the Holy Spirit.

Each topic is developed through **Explore, Reveal** and **Respond**.

<p>Search-Explore</p>	<p>The introduction to the topic where the children's life experience is explored. The questions it raises are wondered at, shared and investigated. The children can then reflect on their significance.</p>	<p>Explore will take One week of Religious Education time to complete.</p>
<p>Revelation-Reveal</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Reveal will take Two weeks of Religious Education time to complete.</p>
<p>Response-Respond</p>	<p>Remember is the first part of the section. The children will respond by remembering and celebrating all that they have learned. Rejoice is the second part of the section. There will be an opportunity to plan and take part in a celebration. Renew the teacher helps each child to make an individual response to what they have learned</p>	<p>Respond will take One week of Religious Education time to complete.</p>

Staff follow the 'Come and See' planning recommended by the Diocese. Teachers also have the flexibility to make appropriate changes or add to the content to ensure it is relevant to their cohort.

DIFFERENTIATION

Activities in the classroom take into account our children's needs and abilities. Differentiation is met by:

- Tasks according to ability in RE-class teachers make professional judgements for the tasks
- Outcomes. These will reflect the abilities of the individual children.
- Additional support by Teaching Assistants where appropriate

In each topic there are level indicators, attainment level summaries and symbols showing the possible ability required for the activity.

ASSESSMENT

At St. Helen's we believe that the development of our children's faith is unique and that our children are on their own personal faith journey. We assess the knowledge and skills that they are acquiring and their level of understanding in accordance with the criteria in the Religious Education Curriculum Directory.

In 'Come and See' assessment bears the title Renew. It involves **looking back** in order to recognise and value what has gone before; **holding onto** the discovery of the 'now' and having ownership of it; and **looking forward** to shape and make the future.

Throughout the topic the teacher will assess what new knowledge the children have gained. The remember questions will be used to support the children in prompting new knowledge.

At the end of each topic the teacher assesses each child's progress using the topic assessment sheets. At the end of the year the children are given an overall assessment using the Religious Education attainment targets. AT1-Knowledge and understanding (learning about religion) AT2-Engagement and Response (learning from religion-the skills) and AT3-Analysis and Evaluation

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SUBJECT LEADERS

At St Helen's we have 2 subject leaders for R.E – I being a member of the Senior Leadership team.

The role of the subject leader is to support colleagues by:

- Updating and developing formats of planning which reflect the full content of the R.E programme and intended delivery.
- Advising and guiding staff on how to plan effectively.
- Updating and developing formats of assessment and record keeping which reflect adequate evaluation of pupil knowledge, understanding and progress.
- Regularly monitor R.E planning.
- To undertake regular book trawls of R.E. books in order to assess coverage of the curriculum, progress and appropriate feedback
- To share ideas and prepare for each new topic with staff.

- Lead INSET sessions relating to the planning, delivery and development of R.E in school.
- Updating and maintaining a good range of resources in order to promote effective learning of R.E in school
- Liaising with the Priests and organising key events such as Masses, Liturgies, and Carol Service etc.
- Teaching new Hymns and explaining key Religious Vocabulary/ideas within them.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The 'Come and See' programme supports and enables the faith experience of all children as it starts with their real life experiences and leads them on to reflect and consider the Christian message in all its richness.

All pupils in our school, irrespective of ability, faith and background will have the appropriate differentiated access to the Religious Education programme.

It is essential to take into account all children with a variety of additional learning needs and plan accordingly.

PRAYER

Prayer has a special place in our curriculum and in school life, fostering a special relationship with God. We teach the four types of prayer and that we can pray using formal prayers, personally written prayer, in silence and through song. Children are encouraged to pray for special intentions such as sick or deceased family and friends. We have a special prayer book in the prayer room where children can write their own personal intentions.

We also have two areas in school particularly devoted to quiet reflection and thought. We have our prayer area upstairs, with our beautiful stained glass window which was designed by our pupils. We also have a prayer room downstairs. During May and October these spaces are also used to hold daily praying of the Rosary. Any child who wishes can join this prayer group.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Opportunities are provided throughout the year to prepare for and to participate in a variety of forms of worship. These include:

- School Masses for Holy Days and other special occasions;
- Class Masses or Liturgies as appropriate for the age group;
- Class Assemblies;
- Hymn Practice;
- Reconciliation /Sorry Services, particularly during Lent and Advent.
- Daily Prayers in classroom and in Assembly;
- Rosary on a voluntary basis during May and October;
- Advent preparations;
- Harvest and Easter Assemblies;
- Eucharistic Services where appropriate;
- End of Topic celebrations;
- Gospel assemblies and Key Stage Assemblies;
- Year 6 Retreat.

- In 2022 we also built a new outdoor staging area. This has been used for a Remembrance Day Reflection poppy display, a nativity scene, outdoor Christmas concerts, Stations of the Cross and a grotto area for Mary during the Month of May. Parents are invited to come and pray the Rosary with their children.

LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS

Shared class masses and whole school masses are celebrated during the term and are important features of school life. We aim to make the Mass more meaningful to children by encouraging them to be involved. The children often compose their own prayers and are involved in the choice of hymns.

Class Masses allow a more personal experience of Mass and allow the children to be more involved.

Whole school Masses mark Holy Days of Obligation or special events in the school year such as our Feast Day.

The children are involved by collecting the communion numbers, choosing or reciting the readings of the day and the prayers of the Faithful, choosing the hymns, supporting the priest by being Altar Servers, taking part in the offertory Procession and sometimes acting out the Gospel.

An important part of the leaving process for year 6 pupils is a Year group Mass.

During Advent and Lent we have Reconciliation Services in school. All the children are encouraged to think of something they've done wrong and to say sorry.

In December we have Nativity services, Christmas performances as well as Carol Services. These are very important school events where parents/ Carers can celebrate their child's abilities, whilst remembering the important Christmas message.

PARISH LINKS

St Helen's has a close relationship with the parish community, families and priest. The parish priests are regular visitors to school, to celebrate Mass and to visit the children. They are also welcoming to the children when we visit St Helen's church for Reconciliation services, Carol concerts, etc.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Catholic Education involves the parent, parish and school in educating the child. We acknowledge that parents are the first and main educator of their child in their religion and we aim to support families in this responsibility.

RESOURCES

Classroom resources vary and they include a range of religious artefacts and books including the appropriate 'Come and See' folder and bibles. Each classroom also has a class prayer table/shelf. We have a resource box for each of the other religions we study. These are stored in our upstairs prayer area.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

The R.E Subject Leaders along with the SLT are responsible for monitoring the standards of children's work and the quality of Teaching in R.E. This will include learning walks, book trawls, in school moderation of samples of work, collection of topic planning sheets and lesson observations.

H Curtis