



St. Aidan's Catholic Primary School
R.E. Policy

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School Mission Statement

"Living and growing in Christ"

Christ's ministry, as recounted in the Gospels, and the values he promoted through his teachings are fundamental to the life of our school in fulfilling its purpose as a Catholic institution.

This is reflected in our Collective Worship, our teaching and learning and the way in which we treat one another.

Living and growing in Christ, the children are at the centre of all that we do and their potential to achieve is recognised. Their time in our school is characterised by a sense of belonging, security, challenge and appreciation.

At St. Aidan's, the teachers, directors and pupils seek to work together with parents, parishes and the local community to create an environment where we can all grow together, feel valued and develop self-esteem and a sense of responsibility.

We aim to be a worshipping, celebrating, reconciling school, living and growing with Christ.

Policy aims and objectives

- RE and worship in the school is in line with The School Mission Statement which drives all the work we do.
- To establish a loving relationship with Father, Son & Spirit
- To help pupils recognise and appreciate the spiritual and religious and moral dimensions of life.
- To allow space for searching and questioning
- To challenge pupils to examine their own life stance, to deepen their personal faith commitment and to respect that of others.
- To lead pupils to a deeper knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Christian tradition and the ways in which it seeks to express the significance of human life.
- To lead pupils to a deeper knowledge of other religious traditions.
- The school aims to play a full part in fostering home/parish/school links.

Curriculum for Religious Education

The programme for RE is based on the expectations stated in the Religious Education Directory for Catholic Schools. Religious Education is a subject in its own right and is afforded the same importance as the core subjects English, Maths.

The RE Programme

At St Aidan's we follow the programme: *Come and See*.

All year groups follow the same topics which cover a four-week cycle.

Two weeks are devoted to the study of other faiths. We cover Judaism in the Autumn and another faith (all other major faith groups are on rotation) in the summer.

RE lessons and tasks are differentiated and varied to engage the children and to promote learning. Expectations of pupils are high as with other subjects. Teachers are expected to include a period of reflection and prayer at each lesson. Prayer corners are a focal point of reflection in the classroom and include contributions from the children in response to their learning.

Time Allocation

10% of the taught week is dedicated to the teaching of RE. This amounts to 2 hours in FS and KS1 and 2 hours and 30 mins in KS2.

Planning, Assessment, Recording and Reporting

Monitoring is carried out in line with whole school policy on monitoring.

The RE co-ordinator monitors planning, teaching and learning and observes lessons and conducts book scans reporting to the Head Teacher and governor with responsibility for RE.

Planning

Each topic is usually taught on a 4-week cycle using Come and See. The learning objectives for RE are recorded on the weekly overview.

Assessment

The 'Come and See' programme is directed towards spiritual growth and development. This is, in itself, immeasurable. It is particularly important to recognise that personal faith, feelings, beliefs and values cannot be assessed but we can assess and evaluate the attainment of learning objectives in relation to knowledge, skills and understanding. The 'Big Questions' books help to record pupils higher level responses which they may not put into their books.

Assessment in R.E. is against learning objectives in the Come and See scheme and The Levels of Attainment in Religious Education. We assess fully once a term using a whole book approach rather than assess one piece of work. As a staff we look at the assessment strands and find evidence for each of the levels in our books and the moderate across the different year groups.

Assessment is in line with the school policies on assessment and feedback.

Procedures in Assessment –

“Assessment is at the heart of good teaching and does not require highly complex procedures. The unnecessary recording of assessments can tire and stifle the creativity of the teacher, and hamper the learning process and is to be avoided.”

(Assessment, Recording and Reporting of Religious Education. P13).

Recording

End of term assessment is recorded on the summative assessment sheet (see appendix). These are reviewed each term and any adjustments are made according to pupil's progress in each area. In addition to this evidence of each strand of attainment is copied and compiled into our school moderation folder (see appendix).

Marking

Marking is against the learning objective for the lesson and is in accordance with the policy for assessment and marking.

Lesson Procedures

- Reflections must take place at the beginning or end of every R.E. lesson. (2-3 minutes)

Beginning

- Children must be offered a way into their R.E. lesson and given an opportunity to distance themselves from their previous activity. It does not have to relate to the lesson they are about to do. *Examples: Close your eyes and think about one thing that happened in the playground that made you happy. Talk to God and thank him for your friends/Think about one thing you were proud of in your last activity. How can you make yourself and your teacher proud during your next lesson?*

Middle

We think about SOAP (Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer)

End

- The reflection at the end of the lesson must be linked to the lesson
- Have a focal point for the children to look at: Picture, candle, flower, etc
- Read out a prayer, poem or short scripture
- Play a piece of music and children to close their eyes
- After a few minutes give the children something in particular to think about
- Invite children to write their reflection on a post-it and place on prayer corner if they wish

Links with other policies

At St Aidan's we ensure that provision for teaching and learning in RE meets with the requirements set out in our policies for Racial Equality and Equal Opportunities, Special Educational Needs. In our marking of the children's work, we correct the spelling of key vocabulary that links to the children's learning in RE. Our Catholic teaching is closely linked in our SRE and prayer and collective worship policies.

RE Display

Each class has a dedicated area in the classroom for prayer and reflection. There is a prayer focus and display both in the lobby and the school hall. Prayer corners are interactive and they reflect the current Come and See topic. The colours should reflect the liturgical year: purple during Advent and Lent and green at other times – splashes of colour should be used to denote other important events i.e. white for Pentecost.

Prayer Corners

All prayer corners must have the following:

- Crucifix, an appropriate bible for your year group, a candle, key words for the current R.E. topic and a class prayer book
- You must also display an interactive focal area to enable the children to use the prayer corner in lessons for spontaneous prayer
- Please ensure that the prayer corner is draped with the correct liturgical colour. Prayer corners must be ready by the end of the first week of each term.
- Reflection, big question and spiritual journey books should also be on display.

Yearly Spiritual Development Plan for All Year Groups

We encourage the children's spiritual development through our ethos, by promoting a sense of awe and wonder, in our collective worship and through other subjects in the curriculum.

Whole School:

- Mass to begin the school year at St Aidan's Church
- Harvest Mass at St Aidan's Church
- Mass to end the school year at St Aidan's Church
- Advent Service at St Aidan's Church
- Stations of the Cross at school during Lent.
- Lenten Service – The Passion led by Yr 5
- Mass at St Aidan's on holy days of obligation
- End of topic assemblies at school
- Remembrance at school throughout November
- Focus on the Rosary in October and May
- Nativity Play at school led by Reception and Yr 1

Individual Year Groups:

- Reconciliation in Lent for Yrs 4, 5 and 6
- Class Masses: Years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6
- Liturgies and whole school assembly: Reception
- First Communion Masses Yr 3
- Leavers' Mass Yr 6
- End of unit class liturgies led by pupils

Spiritual & Moral development

Spiritual development is a sensitive and personal area for individuals and it is crucial that the shared values of home, school and parish create an environment of trust and openness. Opportunities for fostering Spiritual and Moral development are in line with the Mission Statement.

Spiritual Development

Spiritual development across the curriculum contributes to the wider spiritual development of the pupils in the school, and is not necessarily about Mass, the Rosary etc., but rather it promotes a sense of self, the essence of the individual and the centre of being. This is to say that spiritual development is not limited to the religious life of the school.

Spiritual development across the curriculum is, thus concerned with the individual's growth in the faith through his or her deepening knowledge of creation and revelation.

(Spiritual And Moral Development Across The Curriculum CES1995)

Achieved through:

Ethos – Display, values,

Curriculum – Awe & wonder, open questioning, opportunities to reflect on God's creation

Worship/Prayer – Creating an atmosphere (use of music and candles).

Moral Development

Moral development across the curriculum is about how individuals – pupils and teachers – increasingly live that faith within the community, in school, home, parish and the wider world.

(Spiritual And Moral Development Across The Curriculum CES 1995)

Achieved through:

Role modelling: **Fair and Just Behaviour Policy**

Awareness of the needs of others – in the world

Class rules

Every effort should be made to create in the classroom a community where the children know they are loved, where they feel confident and secure. Love and security experienced by very young children is a basic religious need. The children's concepts of love, kindness, trust, security and forgiveness come first from their parents and teachers. This is their first experience of God as a loving Father.

Spiritual Development and the Curriculum

Religious Education (RE) has a rightful place in the curriculum. At St. Aidan's, RE plays a central role. Within our school the children, staff, parents and governors come together to give it its life and meaning. We strive to provide all children with love and security. The ethos of the school enhances this, and we try to help our pupils develop their spiritual awareness through thinking, appreciating, questioning, wondering, loving, reflecting and working. "In the Catholic tradition, spiritual development is inseparable from growth in faith, from life in "the spirit of truth" (John 15:26), as we each help to bring creation to perfection and to find our own true and lasting fulfilment." (Spiritual and Moral Development across the Curriculum)

R.E. is brought into every area of our curriculum and also into the 'hidden' curriculum reflecting the ethos of the school. Thus we aim to bring the Gospel values into every aspect of the school's life. Discussion is promoted to stimulate the exchange of ideas and encourage children to listen to each other.

Children's developing Spirituality

Children develop best spiritually when:

- all adults work co-operatively to create an atmosphere enlivened by the Gospel spirit of freedom and charity;
- there is a warm and friendly environment;
- there is a supportive and positive attitude that understands their needs and builds on their successes;
- there is mutual respect and consideration for others.

Family Involvement

A termly newsletter is sent to parents. This suggests activities which support the topics being taught that term. In addition, we have introduced the 'Wednesday Word' for families with children in KS2 to help support the faith development of their children. To celebrate The Year of St Joseph, each class has a St Joseph book to send home where pupils record an un sing hero. In Year 6 bible study is prompted within the family with their Bible Bag which goes home on rotation. Pupils record their families favourite bible story and share this with the class.

Conditions for Prayer

Every classroom has a focus area for prayer.

- Give time for reflection possibly on a phrase from scripture
- Enable the children to relax
- Make the best possible use of silence
- Make the best possible use of music
- Lead the children to pray with openness and spontaneity
- Share with the children
- Ensure that our prayer reflects the essence of our lives: happiness, sadness, celebration, upset etc.
- Have a focal point - e.g. statue, flowers, candle, art, Bible.
- Guided meditation.

- Prayer journals are a way of pupils, recoding their own prayers and thoughts at the front of their RE books.

Formal Prayer

Formal prayers are taught.

There is a place for formal prayer relevant to the age group.

Infant children can hear the Our Father and Hail Mary said by the teacher, and by listening will eventually learn to recite them from memory

Junior children can have formal prayers broken down into phrases - and each phrase explained. Grace before and after meals, morning and evening prayers are used throughout the school.

Informal Prayer

Children should be encouraged to talk to God in their own words, whenever they wish. Other opportunities for prayer and spiritual development outside the classroom are offered on a voluntary basis e.g. quiet spaces outside for reflection, prayer journals. The prayer leaders also help pupils to know how informal prayer works for them.

Links with Home, School and Parish

At St Aidan's we seek to work together with parents, parishes and the local community to create an environment where we can all grow together, feel valued and develop self-esteem and a sense of responsibility. (Mission Statement)

Our pupils are prepared for the sacraments of Reconciliation and Communion in the parishes of St Aidan's and St Mary's Old Coulsdon. We support that in lessons, by attending the first Communion Masses and inviting catechists to a celebration Mass of thanksgiving in school. Year 6 children act as prayer partners to those preparing for the sacraments.

Parents have regular updates on religious matters in the Head Teacher's newsletter. Parents receive the termly newsletter on the Come and See programme from the school. They receive an annual report on their child's learning in RE. Teachers work very closely with parents especially where a child needs additional support with learning or behaviour.

Parents are invited to a liturgy, assembly or class Mass each term. They come into the playground after school which allows for regular and immediate contact.

We have hosted RE curriculum evenings where parents are invited into the school to learn more about what the children do as part of RE lessons and to give more information on collective worship. We have also held a curriculum evening to help parents to understand and support the teaching of SRE.

Fr Gerard (a local priest) has also offered evening workshops for parents to come and learn more about individual meditation and reflection.

On Holy Days of Obligation, we take the children to St Aidan's for Mass. We write the bidding prayers and bring up the gifts at the offertory. Year 6 children sing at the Parish Christmas Lunch.

We serve two parishes: St Aidan's and St Mary's Old Coulsdon. Both Parish priests are regular visitors to school. They attend liturgies, assemblies and celebrate Mass for us. Fr Peter (a local priest) is also on the board of directors.

List of appendices

The following appendices are attached:

- Example Year 6 summative assessment sheet
- Strand assessment moderation sheet

	Developing Knowledge & Understanding/ Making Links and Connections/ Specialist Vocabulary	Meaning and Purpose/ Beliefs and Values	Use of Sources as Evidence/ Construct Arguments/ Make Judgements/ Recognise
Year 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show knowledge and understanding of a range of sources that corresponds to the scripture source used. • Show a knowledge and understanding of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a range of religious beliefs - those actions of believers which arise as a consequence of their beliefs - the life and work of key figures in the history of the faith - what it means to belong to a church community - religious symbols and the steps involved in religious worship, including the celebration of the Sacraments • Show understanding of, by making links between: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - beliefs & sources - beliefs & worship - beliefs & life • Use religious vocabulary widely, accurately and appropriately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare their own and other people's responses to the sources about each of the areas in relation to questions of meaning and purpose • Show an understanding of their own and other's decisions informed by beliefs and values 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use sources to support their own points of view • Express a point of view and give reasons for it • Arrive at judgements • Recognise differences between different points of view by comparing and contrasting
Exceeding			
Expected			
Emerging			

Age Phase 7-9

This is an example of a pupil's work showing:

- Describe, with increasing detail and accuracy:
 - a range of religious beliefs.
 - those actions of believers which arise as a consequence of their beliefs.

e.g. belief in Reconciliation, Christ as the Son of God, unconditional love, presence of Christ in the Eucharist (It is not an expectation that one piece of work will include a range of beliefs)

Date:	
Diocese:	
School:	
Year group:	
Scheme/programme:	
Topic/theme:	
Context: <i>Description of task</i>	
Level of support provided	None Minimal Moderate High <i>Highlight as appropriate</i>
Resources used to support task	
Teacher's comments:	