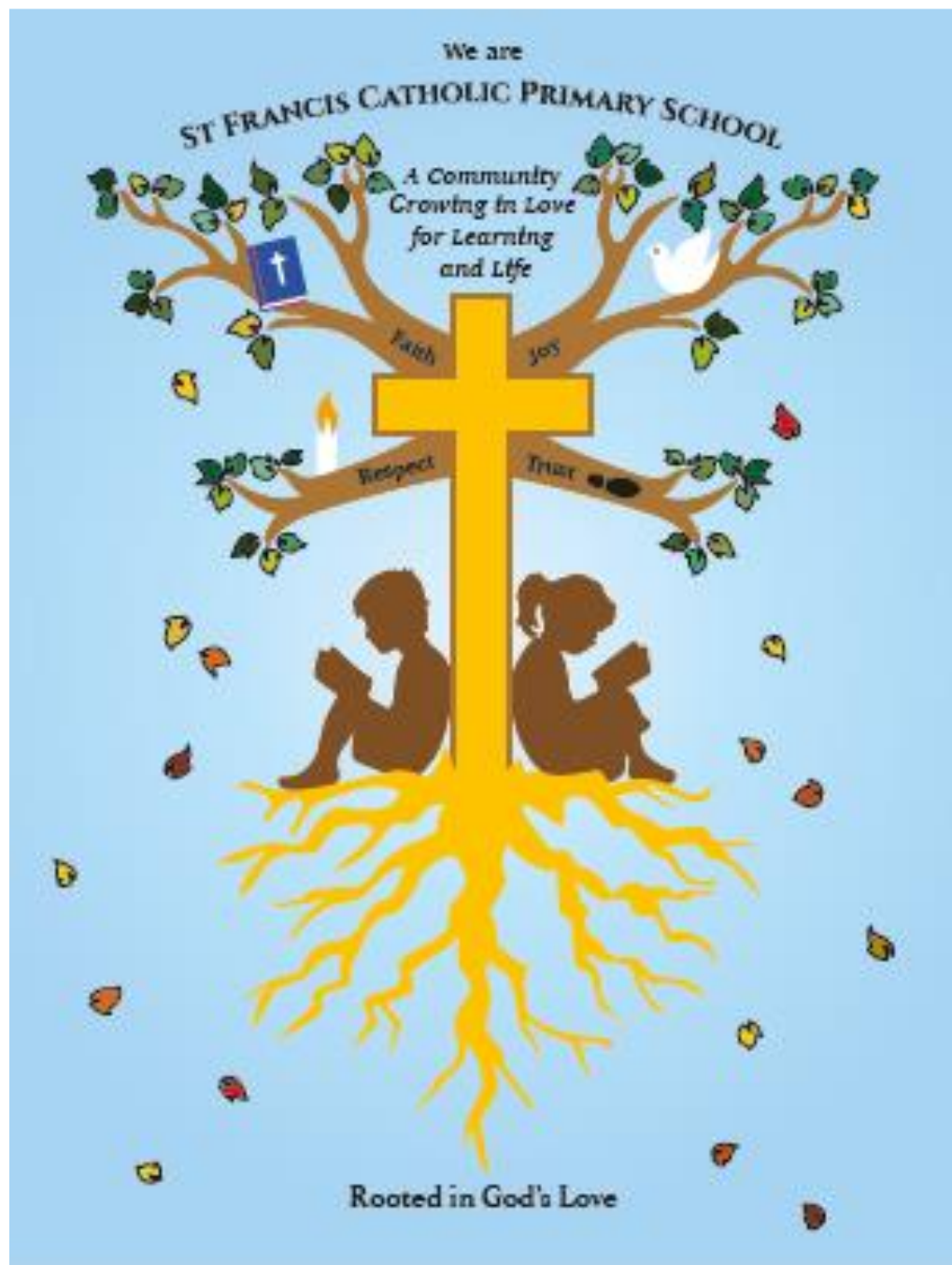


St Francis Catholic Primary School

Policy for RE



Mission and Vision Statement

Mission statement.

At St. Francis we work in partnership with the parish and parents to develop our children's awareness and appreciation of the Catholic faith.

We create a Christian environment where adults working with the children promote a deepening of the child's spirituality and uniqueness in the family of God. We seek to develop children to their full potential.

Our Vision.

Religious Education (RE) will be the foundation of the entire educational process at St. Francis school. We aim to instil in each child a positive attitude to learning and a desire to face challenge with enjoyment. We will nurture an attitude of respect towards all people and celebrate the uniqueness of the individual. We aim to provide all children with a structured, progressive and stimulating programme of study that will produce independent learners. A broad and balanced curriculum will provide the children with opportunities to develop skills for the 21st century. Pupils will have time to appreciate the awe and wonder of God's world.

All adults working with the children will be sensitive to the needs of the individual offering challenge or support where appropriate. We will foster high expectations in work and behaviour.

Staff Prayer

Lord Jesus, when you lived and walked and talked among people here on earth, they called you teacher.

Help me to remember always the greatness of the role that has been given to me.

Let me never forget that I work with the most precious materials in the world, children – created in the image of God.

Help me always to be conscious that each interaction I have with a child is shaping that child's future.

Give me special patience with those who find it difficult to learn and those who do not apply themselves.

Help me to excite children with their learning and enable me to assist them in achieving their full potential.

Loving Lord, when I need to discipline let it always be in love.

Keep me from the sarcastic and biting tongue and help me always to encourage.

In all the worries, irritations and frustrations of my work help me to remember that the future of these pupils rests in my hands.

All this I pray in your Holy name.

Amen.

A celebration of vocation – CES – Career profile of a teacher within a Catholic school, 2000.

Policy Statement

RE in St. Francis school seeks the development of the whole child; in our planning and Programme Of Study (POS) content we aim to bring about spiritual, moral, social, aesthetic

and cognitive growth. The policy content recognises that the children we teach are called by name to praise and serve our Lord in a multi cultural technological society. The acquisition of basic skills are therefore perceived as an essential part of the RE process.

We the teachers of St. Francis School believe that it is only with Christ, that the children we teach will become fully alive. Therefore we aim to set time aside each day for prayer, reflection and the linking of daily life to the Christian experience.

The POS for RE will seek to develop basic skills so that the child is empowered to enquire, investigate, celebrate and communicate his/her joy and satisfaction in being a child of God and a member of the community of the Body of Christ.

Teachers and assistants of St. Francis School value the process of teaching and learning as a vocation and they commit themselves to the sacramental task of creating an environment where RE is not just a subject but also a way of life. The community of the school embraces the ideals of equal opportunity for growth, reconciliation and communion as desired outcomes for all.

The Way The Truth and The Life is used for RE class teaching. At appropriate times and opportunities other recognised Christian agencies' materials may be used for liturgical celebrations and charity appeals.

Following diocesan guidelines, the school will study other faiths throughout the school year. This will be through a combination of explicit teaching and cross curricular links where appropriate. Children will be encouraged to learn to respect the beliefs and traditions of other people in the multi-cultural society in which we live. Other cultures will also be celebrated through subjects such as English, Maths, History, Art and Music.

Assemblies, liturgies and Masses are seen as sacramental units of the school life and all members of the community are expected to take an active role in preparation, celebration and thanksgiving.

The RE policy appreciates that parents are the primary educators of their children, therefore the school's role is seen as that of appointed nurturing guardians, whose task it is to work with the parents and parish to bring the child to full development within the context of a Christian family.

AIMS

The aim of our RE policy is to help the children through their school life to answer the basic questions of faith:

Where did I come from?

Who am I?

Why am I here?

In following our RE & RHSE programmes of study our children will discover that Christ lives and dwells amongst us. In the celebration of the sacraments they will learn to build relationships and community. It is in the friendships and professional relationships we build and nurture that the community of St. Francis demonstrates its Christian identity, uniqueness and purpose.

The development of basic skills and planning for a rich variety of lifelong skills in RE and RHSE brings about an articulate, skilled and communicative Christian who can take an active role in liturgy, sacramental preparation and Christian life. Our children will be taught how to recognise injustice, inequality and prejudice; they will be skilled to respond through action, prayer and petition.

Spiritual development will be brought about by a rich curriculum of opportunities for the experience of God's creation and redeeming love through dance, art, music and observation. The use of the environment for liturgy and sacramental celebration will help individual pupils to appreciate the wonder and awe of the Holy Trinity ever present and visible in every day sights and sounds.

The daily demonstration of Christian living by all adults, use of display and focal points to attract all to a greater awareness of the living truth, and the provision of rich liturgical celebrations will we hope; bring about the appreciation of church, as one body.

Teaching and Learning in RE.

All teachers will follow The Way, The Truth and The Life scheme for the teaching of RE and the school overview plan which identifies the topics for the term. Additional resources may be used with the agreement of the RE Co-ordinator(e.g. Here I Am).

RE is identified as a core subject in this school and receives 10% of curriculum time to teach the content from the Religious Education Directory. This equates to 2 ¼ hours in the Foundation stage and Key Stage 1 and 2 ½ hours in Key Stage 2. RHSE receives additional time and it is expected that every teacher over the course of a term will allocate approximately 3 to 5 hours depending on the topics to be covered and the needs of his/her class.

Time for circle time should be separate from the RE time allocation.

Catholic Social Teaching is incorporated into the curriculum and children are encouraged to put their faith into action. Acts of Worship and assemblies make reference to the Catholic Social Teaching Principles and the children are taught about what these look like in our everyday lives.

Morning, lunchtime and evening prayers are the normal expectation of the teacher's daily routine. Every class will attend at least three assemblies a week and participate in a class liturgy or Mass termly. On special days/feasts the whole school is expected to attend Mass. During Lent children in KS2 will be provided with the opportunity of participating in the sacrament of reconciliation.

In KS2 parents, at the invitation of the parish priest, will seek catechetical preparation for the children, for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion. Class teachers and the RE co-ordinator support parents and parish in the catechetical formation process through the use of The Way, The Truth and The Life and assembly input. The headteacher /Co-ordinator liaises with the parish catechetical team.

Within the context of the RE policy all adults of the school have a commitment to the following:

- To follow the teachings of the Catholic Church
- To be good role models through prayer and reconciliation
- To seek to share their understanding and knowledge of the Catholic faith
- To direct pupils to other sources when in doubt
- To use accurate and appropriate language when involved with RSE
- To have respect for other faiths
- To maintain an environment and ethos centred on the beatitudes.

The content of the POS for RE will bring about the following learning outcomes:

1. Knowledge of the Holy Trinity
2. Knowledge of Mary the Mother of God
3. Knowledge of the Bible
4. Knowledge and awareness of the liturgical year
5. Knowledge and recall of prayers of the church
6. Knowledge and participation in the sacramental life of the church
7. Knowledge of holy men and women
8. Knowledge of the purpose and structure of the church
9. Knowledge of practice of the Christian way of life
10. Development of Christian values and attitudes
11. Development of individuals spirituality and prayer life
12. Development of basic skills.

Resources

Resources for the teaching of R.E. are held in the cupboard outside the Yr5 classroom and these resources are updated annually using a curriculum budget similar to Maths and English. The Way, The Truth and The Life scheme for all classes is in use. Resources have also been purchased to support the teaching of other faiths.

Charities.

The school supports a number of charity organizations and appeals throughout the year. Additional appeals may be supported on request to head teacher by staff or pupils but an application may be refused if it is considered that too many claims have been made upon the purses of our parents and friends.

We appreciate that the demands of family care are expensive and at times the answer must be no.

St. Francis supports the following charities every year:

1. CAFOD
2. Poppy Day Appeal
3. Support for the Parish
4. Local Hospice Care
5. Missio

Assessment

Assessment within the context of R.E. policy follows the whole school policy and is identified as integral part of teaching and learning, without assessment there is not future learning and therefore all teachers at St. Francis spend time establishing what is known, what questions are still causing doubt and identify what has been experienced and revealed. Assessment is moderated.

Outcomes for pupils are recorded on Pupil Asset termly, in line with Literacy and Maths, to be tracked.

End of year transfer information to the next teacher will include the previous years completed assessment levels.

Our aim in the assessment process is to recognise the uniqueness of the individual's attainment, to highlight and share achievement for the enrichment of the community and to identify the needs for future learning.

Teachers' marking is an assessment tool and its purpose is to highlight revelation and basic communication skill. At times teachers' marking may require a pupil to clarify revelation, or develop learning through an additional response. Literacy skills will be encouraged and corrected as part of the marking process because to live as a Christian requires a relationship of dialogue with God and each other. Interactive marking is encouraged and also peer assessment and self-assessment.

Monitoring and Evaluation.

The teaching and learning content of R.E. will be monitored by the R.E. Leader termly and will consist of classroom observation of teaching and learning, review of liturgy script and presence at liturgical celebrations, pupil questioning and scrutiny of pupils' work.

The purpose of the monitoring and evaluation is to ensure quality of provision in R.E. to support induction of new members of staff and non-Catholic members of staff in the teaching of R.E. to identify needs for staff development and training and to introduce new resources where necessary.

Role of the Head teacher

The role of the head teacher is to:

Maintain the Catholic ethos

- To ensure the ethos of the school is the living Body of Christ
- To maintain the mission and vision of the school
- To welcome all of the wider community into the family of St. Francis School.

Role of the R.E. Leader

The role of the leader is to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of R.E. teaching and learning throughout the school; he or she will be responsible for:

Policy implementation and review

Monitoring and evaluation of teaching and learning in RE

Liaison with Parish and catechetical team

Induction of ECTs and Non-Catholic members of staff

Training of all staff on the use of The Way, The Truth and The Life
Implementation of diocesan guidelines and policy for R.E and R.H.S.E.
Contribution to Deanery INSET
Organisation of CAFOD and other charity appeals
Organisation of school pilgrimage to Aylesford (link with Good Shepherd Liturgy).
Co-ordinate R.H.S.E. policy including selection of materials

Role of the Parish Priest

The role of the Parish Priest is a planned one and involves the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and RE co-ordinator, meeting with parish priest to work out a yearly planner of commitments and celebrations. Parish clergy visit the school regularly to participate in a Mass/liturgy, talk to teachers and pupils about their work and concerns, contribute to lessons, provide sacramental input on sacraments of initiation and reconciliation, liaise with the Head teacher on matters of school management.

Role of Parents

Parents are seen as the primary educators of their children in all things and the school works in partnership with them and the parish to support them in their vocation. The school as a trusted guardian works to promote unique development of every child in the knowledge and love of God. We seek to develop their basic skills so that they can communicate God's revelation of divine love and redemption. In partnership we work to bring our children to the discovery of their unique identity and purpose within the Body of Christ.

Parents are asked to help the school through sacramental example, modelling of Christian way of life, and through the sharing of scripture and prayer.

The school responds through the creation of a Christian environment and ethos, sacramental communion and reconciliation, modelling of Christian attitudes and values, daily prayer and the transmission of Catholic Church beliefs and teachings.

Home School Liaison

Communications between home and school include the following:

- Newsletter
- Yearly reports
- Parent interviews formal and informal
- Help with outings and pilgrimages to Aylesford
- Parent invitations to assemblies/liturgies
- Parent invitations to Masses
- Basic skills development work
- School Website www.st-francis.kent.sch.uk
- New entrants parents evening input from Parish Priest (when possible)
- School prospectus
- Sharing of R.H.S.E. policy

Equal opportunities

All children have an equal opportunity to benefit from our POS for RE and the emphasis on the acquisition of basic skills is an important strategy in ensuring all have the opportunity to learn and understand the basic concepts and can communicate their thoughts, ideas, attitudes, beliefs and values. To this end it is the teacher's responsibility to identify needs, provide differentiated approaches, to follow assessment policy and to plan from the known attainment in RE.

Review Date: Autumn 2023

Next Review Date: Autumn 2025