



Our Lady Catholic Primary School

Religious Education Policy



The Diocese of Westminster Academy Trust
A Catholic Academy

October 2021

Values and aims

Our values and aims are rooted in the school mission statement.

Our primary aim

To encourage our children to know, love and serve God. In a desire to achieve this we aim:

- To provide a Christian environment, where mutual care and love of each other, respect for life and love of God are encouraged and developed.
- To celebrate our Christian and Catholic beliefs in daily acts of worship service of the word and communion, liturgies, class and school assemblies, meditations, and school Masses which celebrate important events and feast days.
- To familiarise the children with the Gospel message.
- To enable children of all abilities to develop their full potential in an environment where they know they are loved and can love others.
- To enable our children to search, question and examine their own personal lives in the light of what they are learning.
- To continue our growth as a united community inspired through prayer.
- To recognise and respect members of other religions and cultures.
- To encourage our children to grow in understanding, love and respect of the sacraments.
- To encourage positive self-esteem where each individual can recognise their importance within the school, home and in the wider parish community.

Objectives – Learning

Each child is unique and comes with their own gifts of the Holy Spirit to develop and to share with others. We aim to draw out these gifts and help the children value each other and their opinions and accept and appreciate that everyone has something to offer.

At Our Lady School our children are encouraged to learn in an environment where all aspects of mutual care and love of each other, respect for life and love of God are continually promoted.

We seek to achieve this through:

- Living the church's liturgical year using our RE programme which explores the beliefs, values and way of life within the Catholic tradition.
- Becoming familiar with the church's liturgical year through the DOW units, school and class assemblies, school Masses and Services of the Word and Communion.
- Our Staff and Governors who model examples of Christian values.
- The school and classroom environment abundant with signs of our faith, especially our classroom liturgy areas.
- Our children learning to appreciate and respond to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural dimensions of life, through a variety of mediums: discussion, personal experiences, written work and practical activities
- Our close links with our parish church, pastoral assistants and Father Tom O'Brien

Teaching and Learning in RE

RE is a core subject in our school, alongside English, Maths and Science, and We devote 10% of our curriculum time to its delivery. At Our Lady School our children are taught using the DOW units. We adhere to the Curriculum Directory guidelines and learning outcomes. This provides a cohesive approach and opportunities for whole school assemblies and celebrations as well as displays which are relevant to the liturgical year and children's own work and ideas.

Planning

Each teacher produces a medium term plan incorporating DOW units and the liturgical events and feast days.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

RE assessment tasks are carried out every term and children's progress and RE levels recorded and discussed at Pupil Progress meetings with the RE leader. A whole school spread sheet is produced termly showing RE levels across the school. Additionally, teachers constantly assess and evaluate their own children's work through discussion, circle time, questioning and observing role play as well as evaluating written work. This is an integral part of the process, with levels decided over a number and range of activities.

Teachers gather evidence by keeping or photocopying work, by taking photographs; recording drama, role play, dance etc. and by keeping their own records.

Parents receive a weekly information sheet specifically for RE which explains the Sunday Gospel taught and how they can support this in the home (Wednesday Word). Parents also receive a written report annually where there are clear indications of what their child has learnt, understood and achieved.

Self Evaluation

The school reviews the SEF form at least annually and uses the outcomes to inform our CPD programme.

Resources

Each class has a prayer corner reflecting the liturgical season, with a selection of books, artefacts or objects which can be the focus of our daily acts of worship. Pupils also can use this area for quiet times of their own.

The library has a selection of religious books for children. A selection of reference, religious festivals and multi-faith resource books and assembly books are available in there and from the RE Subject leader.

A set of bibles can be found in each classroom

Sacred vessels, candles, altar cloths etc. are kept in the staff room cupboard.

Management

Management of Religious Education at Our Lady School is the responsibility of the RE Subject leader/Headteacher. Their role is to monitor and assess the RE curriculum throughout the school to ensure continuity and progression. They also ensure that the aims and learning outcomes in the curriculum directory are identified and fulfilled. The RE Subject leader is responsible for obtaining resources.

Presentation

Children will present their knowledge and understanding in a variety of ways:

- By discussion and written work.
- Research and collating of evidence.
- By whole school and class celebrations, liturgies and Masses.
- By art and written displays in class and around the school.
- ICT

Marking

At Our Lady School we expect and encourage the same high standards and expectations in RE as we do for all our curriculum subjects.

Key words, which are introduced in any lesson, are corrected in pupils work if they are spelt incorrectly.

Health and Safety

Health and Safety in RE is concerned mainly with the use of candles and incense in the classroom. Each class has a prayer corner and care is taken by the teacher to ensure that the candles and incense are held by the children under careful supervision.

Education for Personal Relationships including Sex Education

Our Lady School uses the 'Life to the Full' programme from YR to Y6. (See RSE Policy)

Special Education Needs including Able and Gifted

In Religious Education we recognise the need for resourcing, careful planning and differentiation to cater for children of all abilities ranging from the very gifted children to those of lower ability. Staff are reminded to clearly identify pupils who are achieving at a high level in RE in their planning and adjust their teaching and pupil learning accordingly. RE presents a particular challenge to teacher in that all classes contain pupils who may not have good literacy skills but are very able and insightful in RE. These pupils are catered for at an appropriate level.

Other Denominations and Faiths

Whilst Religious Education at Our Lady School is specifically of the Catholic Church, we welcome input from other faiths and denominations.

We appreciate how the beliefs and values of other faith communities can enrich our own spiritual existence.

Cross Curricular links

"We believe that Religious Education is not a subject among many but, the foundation of the entire education process." (Bishop's of England and Wales)

In accordance with this statement we believe that Religious Education is at the heart of what we teach and therefore permeates the whole curriculum. It is reflected in our prayer life and liturgy, in our personal and extended relationships and through developing

awareness in our children of the need to appreciate and care for the wider community and the world in which we teach.

The Catholic Life of the School

The booklet we produce on the 'Catholic Life of the School' is sent out to all new parents when their child enters our school. It reflects the faith journey our children travel as they move through the school.

Chaplaincy Team

Our Lady Catholic School has a Chaplaincy Team which is made up of our Year 6 pupils. The Chaplaincy Team lead child led liturgies across the school, support the head teacher and assistant head teacher in whole school Masses, services and collective worship. They organise and lead charity events across the school and are role models to all pupils in living out our school mission statement.