

St Hugh of Lincoln RC Primary School

Religious Education Policy

St Hugh of Lincoln School will nurture, guide, educate and develop all our children on their journey with Jesus.”

Updated: September 2016

Review date: September 2018

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AIMS

Our aim is to put our Mission Statement into practice by providing a school that is a genuine alternative to other forms of schooling.

We aim to achieve this by:-

- Fostering and strengthening bonds with parents, parish and the wider community by providing a living, worshipping environment inspired by all of the gospel values;
- Providing an environment within which each member of the school community is valued and respected and encouraged to treat others in the same way;
- Promoting an atmosphere of reconciliation within which differences are resolved with patience and understanding so that each new day brings a fresh start;
- Developing each child to his/her full potential through a broad, balanced curriculum and through extra-curricular activities;
- Teaching the children the truths and practices of our Catholic faith and recognising that it is these principles that permeate all areas of the life of our school

OBJECTIVES

We intend to achieve these aims through the following objectives:-

- Providing a living, worshipping community through regular school Masses, regular class masses on a yearly basis, supporting the sacramental programme, regular child led and teacher led liturgies. We intend to invite members of the community into school and to accompany children on out-of-school activities. We will continue our tradition of supporting charities both locally and abroad.
- We intend to make all members of staff aware of the school's Mission Statement and the school's aims. We will lead by example in our relationship with each other.
- We will continue to promote an environment of reconciliation whereby children will seek to resolve their issues in a positive way.
- We will introduce role-play situations to develop conscience. We will foster this atmosphere of love and reconciliation in all relationships within the school and will lead by example in our relationship with each other.
- We will give each child the opportunity to become literate and numerate. We recognise that each child has a particular and unique talents and we will provide a whole variety of strategies and activities to enable each child to reach his/her potential.
- We will encourage participation in extra-curricular activities both in and out of school. We will provide an attractive physical environment as far as possible within available financial resources.
- We will fully implement the Salford R.E. Guidelines and review our R.E. Policy, the resources we use and the courses we attend.
- We will continue our Y6 and Y3 Retreat at the Marist Centre and Year group masses. We will also develop a 'prayer programme' of prayers to be taught and the ages at which they should be introduced to the children. We will continue to develop the role of Prayer Leaders.

The implementation of the completed Salford Diocese guidelines in Religious Education has been the main focus of RE within the School Development Plan. Feedback from the teachers will provide future direction of teaching RE within the guidelines. An update in RE resources will continue each year as necessary. RE staff meetings, where minutes are recorded, are an on-going process for the purpose of review and evaluation.

Finances are made available from the INSET budget enabling staff to attend any relevant courses.

An annual joint In-service day is planned. This involves all of the Trafford Catholic Primary Schools of this Deanery.

RE CURRICULUM STATEMENT

St Hugh of Lincoln is a Voluntary Aided Catholic Primary School set in an environment which reflects the *Christian Gospels and Teachings* of the Catholic Church.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

This is A Roman Catholic School and the Religious Education provided conforms to the doctrines of the Catholic Church. Religious Education is provided within a timetable according to a syllabus authorised by the Bishop of Salford.

It is our aim to work closely with parents in the development and practice of a relationship in home, school and parish that nurtures into the presence of *God* in our daily lives, and to create a climate in which child centred *Masses and services* reflect both the major religious festivals and the content of our religious schemes of work.

There is a parish programme of preparation of children for their celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation, Reconciliation and the

Eucharist. Home, school and parish work closely together to support the children in their journey in Faith.

There are no specific arrangements for withdrawal of pupils from Religious Education.

PERSONAL & SOCIAL EDUCATION

The Governors have adopted the 'In the beginning.....' scheme. This has been introduced gradually over the years and will continue its gradual progress until the whole school is covered.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Children with special needs have a full entitlement to the National Curriculum. Special Needs also includes the very able child. Provision is made, as far as possible, within the school, for all children with special needs. Continuous assessment is undertaken so that appropriate provision can be made - supplemented by the Authority's ancillary services as and when available.

PASTORAL CARE AND DISCIPLINE

The Head Teacher and the staff of the school have, as their first concern, the well being of the children. Every effort is made to be aware of the needs of each child and to respond, as far as possible to those needs.

AIMS OF THE RE PROGRAMME

THE RE PROGRAMME

The national curriculum stresses the importance of continuity and progression across the whole curriculum. The school follows the framework (Units of Work) provided by the Salford Diocese, where the Programmes of Study enable us to address these important issues of continuity and progression with sensitive provision made for children's educational needs at different stages.

We use: The Way the Truth and the Life' scheme to aid and ensure the Programmes of Study are being covered. Each year children will also learn about a different religion from around the world. To enhance the teaching of SMRE we use the resource Caritas in Action.

Through sound teaching which reflects the children's capacity for learning and growing, together with the aim to create a stimulating environment, we aim to lay emphasis on the ways of thinking, feeling and acting, which lead children to be reflective, reverent, open and enquiring. This will be achieved by:

- Aim to inform by a range of teaching styles and the whole variety of ways in which pupils learn, which will enable teachers to select from or devise appropriate learning experiences;
- Aim to affirm pupils' value and worth, build on their own experience of living relationships and contribute to the development of positive self-esteem.
- Aim to provide opportunities for pupils to recognise appreciate and develop their talents and skills.
- Aim to promote the development of independence and autonomy in children and young people so that they are encouraged to accept increasing responsibility for their own learning and are enabled to make ever more fully informed, mature and free responses and choices in relation to God, faith, stewardship and the service of others.

- Grow in understanding and appreciation of Scripture and its place in Christianity.
- Grow in experience, knowledge and understanding of the church, her life and teachings, her significance in the world today and her concern for peace and justice.
- Prepare for, participate in and appreciate liturgical prayer and worship and the celebrations of the sacraments.

ASSESSMENT

At St Hugh of Lincoln we believe that assessment must contain the philosophy that it is ultimately for the good of each child. Assessment contributes to the focus of the school's aims. Lessons in Religious Education are assessed through observation and knowledge where skills and concepts are recorded.

Assessment also takes place through monitoring a child's social and moral development. Assessment recognises the unique contribution of every child. Assessment is based within this area of study. Assessment is based on religious matters and ensures children make progress within the area of study. A child's positive self-worth enhances their ability in all areas of the curriculum. Teachers will assess children's work by making informal judgements as we observe them during lessons. The children will also be involved in peer and self-assessment. On completion of a piece of work the teacher will mark appropriately and make comments to guide progress. Our teachers have begun to use APP in RE based on the Salford Guidelines, using the assessment matrix. This information is used to assess the progress of each child, for setting new goals and for passing information on to the next teacher.

MANAGEMENT AND CO-ORDINATION

Each teacher has a copy of the Way the Truth and the Life for their year group. The areas to be covered are split over three terms and are to be completed by the year. Flexibility in teaching is important so teachers may change one particular half-term's work with another to allow a personal approach.

Planning is linked to the overall curriculum context and design.

Religious Education is taught both in the morning and afternoon. Collective worship happens daily.

Teacher's individual styles enable them to select from and devise, appropriate learning experiences which can affirm children's value and worth and lead to their increased responsibility for their own learning.

This enables children to make more informed responses to God, faith and their attitude towards others and the wider world.

Resources: We have sufficient resources in our school to be able to teach the different units. We keep resources for religious education in a central area, there are religious artefacts available to enrich collective worship and the teaching of RE.

Monitoring and Reviewing:

The head teacher and RE Co -ordinator are responsible for monitoring the standards of children's work and the quality of the teaching in religious education. They are also responsible for supporting colleagues in their teaching, for being informed about current developments in the subject and for providing a strategic lead and direction for RE in the school. The coordinator is responsible for writing the RE section in the Head teacher's report to governors.

RE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Planning the RE is part of our overall school curriculum planning. This includes preparing and organising schemes of work and daily plans.

Resources for RE are reviewed yearly and also throughout the year when necessary and Inset days are provided for the future development of the RE Curriculum

RELIGIOUS DIMENSION OF THE WHOLE SCHOOL

As a Catholic school, St Hugh of Lincoln fulfils the legal requirements for the education with an 'overall religious perspective' as a faith community. The faith community is made up of the family, the parish and the school, which is instrumental in making Catholic Schools distinctive by 'attempting to generate a climate in the school that is permeated by the gospel spirit of freedom and love'.

The Sacramental Programme, Religious Assemblies held and led by classes, liturgical services, collective worships, thanksgiving services and charity work contribute greatly to the school as a Catholic community.

RELATIONSHIP WITH WHOLE SCHOOL DOCUMENTS, POLICIES AND STATEMENTS

RE is strongly related to all the school policies and documents in all areas of the curriculum.

The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of each child is catered for through their own individual needs. Equal opportunities is the concern of all those involved within the school and we promote the development of caring attitudes to people of all communities.

Discipline within the school is firmly based upon the quality of relationships sought with children, parents and staff reflecting the Mission statement values of love, respect and reconciliation. Our behaviour policy is based upon these values. Our links with the clergy are very strong.

We have 'Good news' assembly's each week when presentations of good work certificates are made and where sporting achievements are recognised and praised along with other outside school activities.

Children's work is organised in the classroom with Key Stage displays (linked to liturgical year) as well as class work books. Differentiation is catered for within the class work.