



**Our Lady and St. Hubert's R.C.
Primary School**

**Religious Education Policy
2018-19.**

Rationale

“The Catholic vision of education promotes the dignity and freedom of every person as created in the image and likeness of God.” Religious Education is a core subject in OLSH Catholic school. It must engage the pupil’s intellect, heart and imagination. The beliefs and values studied in Catholic R.E. should draw together every aspect of the life of a Catholic school. Religious Education should also promote tolerance, respect and understanding between those of different faiths.

Document purpose

This document reflects the values and philosophy in relation to teaching and learning in Religious Education at Our Lady & St. Hubert's Catholic Primary School. It gives a framework within which all staff work and gives guidance on teaching, planning and assessment. The policy is intended to be read in conjunction with the school Curriculum Policy, supplementary policies for R.E. and the Diocesan Scheme of Work/curriculum (People of God), which gives details of what pupils in different year groups will be taught and other documents within the R.E. Teacher Handbook.

Audience

This policy document, having been presented to and agreed upon by the whole staff, Parish Priest and governing body, is distributed to all individual members of the teaching and non-teaching staff and school governors and is stored electronically on the school Office 365 portal and SIMS server. Parents can access the policy via the school website or family e-portal. Extra copies of the document are available from the Senior Executive/Headteacher or Head of School.

Pupil Entitlement

Pupils will be taught two hours per week at Key Stage 1 and two and half hours at Key Stage 2. This core entitlement will be enhanced by Sacramental preparation, assemblies, Masses, liturgies and school prayer groups.

Subject aims and objectives

"At St. Hubert's, home, school and parish work together as we grow and learn, knowing that God is with us in all we do." (Mission Statement)

We aim to:

- help all those within our school community, child or adult, to come to know and understand God’s revelation which is fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ.
- lead all within our community, child or adult, to a living and active faith by developing their awareness of God's presence in their lives and the life of the community which is the Church, helping them to know and love God and to respond to God's invitation to enter into a personal relationship with Him through reflection, prayer, worship and celebration.
- provide teaching according to the Catholic faith, where the Gospel of Christ is at the heart of school life and the opportunities for a continuing and deepening experience of Christ through prayer and the sacraments are developed.

- work in partnership with the home and parish to create a Catholic Community and to foster education and faith development outside the school, for example, in the home and in the parish.
- proclaim the Gospel and invite members of our school community, child or adult, to respond to the message of Christ and thereby grow in faith and respond to the call to holiness and understand the fullness of what it is to be human.
- promote an awareness, understanding and respect for other religious beliefs and an appreciation of human achievement and aspirations from many cultures.
- *create an environment and community which highlights the importance of reflecting on and developing new ways to evangelize the world and today's cultures. Pope Francis*
- to help children, boys and girls, young men and women, and adults embark on one of the most beautiful educational adventures - to know and love the Lord ever more – for this comprises the Church. (Re-phrased – Pope Francis).
- open the minds of those within our school community, adult or child, to the larger questions of the truth and the good, linking theology, philosophy and science, so drawing on the gifts of the past to understand the present better and to be able to plan wisely for life, now and in the future (*Pope Benedict XVI*).

The Religious Education Policy for OLSH must seek to ensure that the above principles are implemented in our school. Religious Education is the most appropriate vehicle by which these principles can and should be implemented. For some, Religious Education will be evangelisation and for others, catechesis.

The Religious Education provided in a Catholic School cannot be confined to teaching/learning specifically devoted to Religious Education. The school should seek to ensure that the message and spirit of the Gospel and the ways in which we can respond to God's call (vocational education) permeate ALL aspects of school life, that they inform the approach to and treatment of the whole curriculum and that they are reflected and communicated in the love and care with which both Staff and Pupils are treated and treat each other. Religious education should sow the dynamic seed of the Gospel at the heart of other elements of the pupil's knowledge and education, so ensuring all their learning is undertaken and assimilated in the light of faith.

Therefore, Religious Education is of central importance and should be regarded as an academic discipline with the same systematic demands and rigour as other subjects, taught, developed and resourced with the same commitment. Consequently, OLSH will strive to exemplify best practice regarding Diocesan curriculum expectations and Section 48 framework. However, OLSH is deeply committed to challenging some of the negative, selfish cultures prevalent in modern society and foster a community and culture of active service – be men and women for God in seeking out social justice and incorporating many active initiatives, events and projects in to our wider school curriculum and timetable.

Religious Education in our school should aim to

- nurture pupils' faith
- present engagingly, and in a comprehensive way, content that will deepen pupils' understanding and appreciation of the Catholic faith, its teaching and its practices

- enable pupils to deepen their religious and theological understanding and be able to communicate this effectively
- present an authentic vision of the church's moral and social teaching so that pupils can make a critique of the underlying trends in contemporary culture and society
- develop their involvement with the Church community
- develop the ability to show care for others near and far
- foster the pupils' religious, spiritual and moral development
- raise pupils' awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities in order to respect and understand them
- develop the critical ability of children so they can relate their Catholic faith and the faiths of others to daily life
- stimulate pupils' imagination and provoke a desire for personal meaning as revealed in the light and truth of Catholic faith
- enable pupils to relate the knowledge gained through Religious Education to their understanding of other subjects within the curriculum
- bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture
- develop a sense of awe and wonder
- develop an understanding of how people have responded to God's call
- develop an understanding how God may call us and how we can respond
- develop a knowledge and understanding of the scriptures

Organisation

The Scheme adopted by OLSH has been adapted from the People of God scheme for Religious Education in Primary Schools and aims to implement the RE Curriculum directory. The Scheme provides progression throughout the School within the key areas of Revelation, Church, Celebration and Life in Christ.

1. Revelation:

- To understand the importance of story in the human quest for meaning and the scripture as expression of how we try to understand the nature of God.
- To consider the personal and the community response to God.
- To consider the sacred writings of other faith communities.

2. Church:

- Belonging to a community at various levels.
- That having been created in the image of the True God we are called to be that community which is the Church.
- Church is a witness to the Good News of Jesus.
- Relationships between the Catholic Church and other denominations and faiths.

3. Life in Christ:

- Values which underpin beliefs and action in the human family.
- Following Christ is a call to holiness.
- Reflecting the values which Christ expressed in his life and teaching.
- Explore the values and way of life of other world faiths.

4. Celebration

- Celebrations which mark the development and growth of each person.
- Spiritual growth and development is rooted in the church's sacramental life which is expressed in sign and symbol throughout the liturgical year.

- The place of prayer in the life of the Catholic Community Knowledge and understanding of prayer in other faiths.

We should always be conscious of the need to foster the partnership between home, school and parish. This partnership should be our hall mark.

The People of God scheme also allows opportunities for monitoring and assessment. The Scheme is intended to link in with other curricular areas; it should be resourced by using Bibles, Missals, Children of the Promise, Sacramental Programmes, multicultural resources, ICT resources, real experiences and other resources appropriate to the Programme of Study.

At OLSH, our broad and thematic curriculum is focussed on the Deeper Learning Pedagogies for the 21st Century, which utilises Project Based Learning and active lines of inquiry to seek out real problems in society and around the world, investigate, design and propose real solutions, and then solve the problems. Our citizenship and learning is therefore, permanently centred around trying to transfer our learning about Christ into real world change.

As well as in classrooms, resources for R.E. can be found in the resource area in the resource room/meeting room. The R.E. coordinator or SLT can advise what is available. A list of resources is also listed by unit for People of God, as well as for the Catholic Pupil Profile Virtues and Values and these are available on Office 365

Teaching and learning objectives of the Scheme are:

- to help children become more aware of and to reflect on their experience of living in the world with others (Experiential)
- to reveal to the children some aspect of God's plan for our salvation (Doctrinal)
- to help them respond to God's love in their lives (Moral)
- to help them listen to and respond to God (Prayer)

Like other disciplines, teachers should use a varied repertoire of appropriate teaching methods according to the age and ability of pupils.

Prayer has an important role in the scheme and is taught both as an integral and a discrete area of the programme of study. To highlight the importance of prayer, a separate policy has been written for this area. (See Collective Worship Policy).

As a minimum expectation in OLSH, as we shape the new environment and settle into our new school, each classroom and the hall should have a religious focal point. A Crucifix and a Bible should be displayed in a prominent place. The Prayer Corners should include cloths appropriate to the liturgical season. The school environment should also have focal points for prayer and the distinct Catholic ethos of the school should be visible in its outdoor grounds as well as the corridors and welcome area.

Because of the importance of RE, it should only usually be taught by a qualified teacher. Where the teacher is not Catholic, monitoring should assess the teacher's understanding of the Catholic faith and their ability to promote high quality teaching and learning in RE and in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic church.

SEN provision

Lessons and activities from the scheme should be planned and differentiated sufficiently to allow all children to work at their own ability level and access the curriculum, including extending the most able. Sacramental programmes, liturgical occasions and curriculum planning should encompass the needs of all pupils from the outset and take into account a range of differing needs, abilities and learning styles. The school has had support with this from the Diocesan RE department and the RE coordinator can signpost staff to relevant resources and approaches including multi-sensory experiences and symbol-supported text as well as approaches for those working within P scales.

Sacramental preparation

Sacramental preparation for Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation is an important and integral part of the Religious Education Scheme. It is important that the whole faith community (children, parents, teachers, priest and parishioners) is involved in this preparation.

The following guidelines are in accordance with those set in the Diocesan policy framework "Communicating Christ".

- First celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation should precede First Holy Communion and should be kept distinct from subsequent preparation for First Holy Communion.
- Preparation should be a continuing process in keeping with the age and moral development of the child.
- The child's privacy should always be respected.

Preparation for all the Sacraments is built into the People of God scheme. Timings of the units have been adapted on the school curriculum mapping document for R.E. to take into account the scheduling of the sacraments in the school/parish/liturgical year. The main resource for sacramental education should be the People of God scheme but, as with all teaching, teachers may draw on other resources including published schemes for valuable supplementary material; a range of opportunities for parental involvement should be built into sacramental preparation.

Reconciliation and Eucharist

Catechesis on the Sacrament of the Reconciliation and Eucharist is not confined to the immediate preparation before receiving the sacrament for the first time and instruction should be ongoing throughout the child's school life.

It is important that parents are given the opportunity to be involved in the preparation for the reception of the sacraments, through work at home with the children and through a systematic series of meetings and celebrations, which will include preparatory meetings led by school staff and/or the parish priest as well as masses held in school and with the Parish. Meetings are also held in the church, along with evening preparation sessions following the Service of Light and confession.

Within school, the children who have been confirmed will be encouraged to act as prayer sponsors for the Y3 children and they will form prayer buddies.

Confirmation

Confirmation is a Sacrament of Initiation and the link between Baptism and Confirmation should be made clear. The importance of communal/parish celebration should be observed, with the candidates

for Confirmation being presented at an enrolment mass in the parish. Parents and parish should be involved in preparation as much as possible.

Liturgy and celebrations

Celebration of Mass has an established and important place in the life of OLSH. The method of celebration is adapted to the needs and age of the children within the limits allowed and following discussion with Fr. Roger. Class or part-school Masses are important in facilitating a style of celebration which caters especially for the needs of a particular age group. It is also valuable for the children to participate in Masses celebrated by the whole school and to attend Masses in Church (school days and Sundays) as well as in the hall, classrooms or Key Stage 2 library. A monthly school-parish mass will be held, normally on the second Sunday of each month, with a different class leading the liturgy and the mass promoted through the newsletter and the school texting system. Themes for Masses should flow from the liturgical calendar wherever the readings of the day can be understood by the children. The parish priest should be fully involved in the planning of school masses and the RE coordinator will indicate on the termly mass planner where any feast day should be observed. OSLH school also leads on the organisation and development of the Saint Catherine of Siena feast day mass and Academy celebrations. This involves a number of children celebrating mass at Saint Catherine of Siena Church in Birmingham. Pupils also celebrate mass for other important occasions, feast days or sacramental preparation at other venues such as St. Chad's and St. Paul's secondary school (vocation).

Celebrations of various kinds have a great part to play in the liturgical formation of the children. Religious Education lessons should include the opportunity for prayer, song, services of reconciliation and activities which show our love and concern for each other.

Home/school/parish links

Wherever possible, links with the Parish should be made. The Parish priest plays a large part in school life and visits school on a regular basis and participates in a range of school activities – including residential (e.g. Alton Castle). Parishioners are invited to attend School Masses and community lunches and are kept informed of what is going on in School through and through mentions in the Parish Bulletin. Likewise Parish events are publicised in School Newsletters. A school/parish Mass on the second Sunday of each month also takes place to further these links. The school website has a link to the parish website. The school posts the following weekend's gospel on its family portal the preceding Wednesday with a linked family activity sheet. School newsletters are also used to disseminate information about times of the liturgical year and the home-school partnership book includes prayers used in school, including the termly citizenship theme prayer. The school also plays an active role in the church Fundraising Committee – having a number of representatives – and is therefore heavily involved in the Church Fundraising events and initiatives.

Multi-cultural aspects of Religious Education

'We aim to promote an awareness, understanding and respect for other religious beliefs and an appreciation of human achievement and aspirations from many cultures.'

Multi-cultural education in our school will be based on Christian principles and should reflect the respect that Christ showed for people, regardless of race or cultural background. The study of other faiths is built into the R.E. Scheme with the aim of enabling children to appreciate, understand and respect the beliefs of others while gaining in knowledge and appreciation of their own Catholic faith. We live in a multi-cultural, multi-faith society. Our school must strive to fulfil its function of preparing our children for life in this multi-cultural society.

Inclusion

The implementation of this RE policy is in line with the school's inclusion statement:

"St. Hubert's is an inclusive school guided by the Gospel values that are expressed in our school aims and governors' ethos statement. These aims promote inclusive education in its widest sense in all areas of school life."

Family life education

The R.E. scheme allows many opportunities for the discussion and appreciation of self, of growth, of love, of marriage and of family life. A growing awareness of the facts of physical changes and human reproduction is also covered in the Science scheme. Family Life Education builds on this and follows the key principles of 'Education for Love' (CES, 1998). The school currently follows the All that I am programme in Year 5 and Year 6 which links social and emotional development with physical development. However, it is currently a trial school for King of Hearts. The school also makes use of resources from the BBC scheme of work about puberty, birth and conception, uses A Journey in Love (McCrimmons) and a workshop led by LIFE. More details of the Family Life/SRE programme can be found in the Family and Life policy.

Planning, assessment and recording

Planning

Planning is in line with school planning methods and BDES formats. The curriculum mapping document identifies the subjects and units from the People of God Scheme to be studied by each year group, along with their timing which takes into account other topics studied and the timing of sacramental celebrations. A curriculum mapping document for R.E. is attached as appendix A. Teachers should use this to inform their medium-term, objective based planning, identifying the objectives from the scheme to be taught and learnt that term or half-term, activities, resources, use of ICT and cross-curricular links. A weekly planning sheet will identify which lessons are to be taught when. Both forms of planning will be monitored on a termly basis by the R.E. coordinator in line with the school Monitoring Policy. Unless a note is made to the contrary, it is assumed that all work planned has been covered.

Assessment

On the assessment record sheets, teachers should identify the learning outcomes which should have been achieved during the units studied and identify the different levels of achievement which may be expected within a class, using the People of God teacher handbooks and levels of attainment as a guide.

In addition, the following assessment procedures apply:

At the start of each year, the RE coordinator will share the whole-school assessment focus for the year: there are four different areas of the RE Curriculum that need to be assessed over a four year cycle: The Liturgical Year, Scripture, The Sacraments and Living as Christians including Prayer. The RE coordinator will provide an assessment record sheet specifying the units to which the assessment relates for each year groups. Using the class record sheet, teachers should judge into which band each child in your class fits and colour the box accordingly. Judgements should be based on a 'best fit' approach from the work children did as you went through the unit and not on a 'test' at the end. Teachers will be expected to provide samples of work as evidence of attainment against each band of ability. As the relevant unit is completed, teachers should give pupils a green-amber-red The RE

coordinator will collate data from these assessment sheets in order to monitor attainment and progress throughout the school, including by pupils of different groups.

Teachers should also note on their medium term planning sheets and submit to SLT termly the names of children who exceed or fall below the level of attainment that are expected for the majority of the class. Teachers are free to form their judgements in ways they have identified on mid-term planning proformas using formative or summative assessment.

RE books, notes on planning and work in other books e.g. Big Books and Big Writing will provide evidence of the level of attainment. The levelling of R.E. work against attainment levels for R.E. form part of termly moderation meetings with the R.E. coordinator or Executive Principal.

Teachers should also provide for each child at the end of the academic year a level of attainment for RE for AT1 and AT2 in RE. An overall level will be entered on the school pupil tracker and used to inform target setting and progress monitoring.

Foundation Stage: A baseline assessment in RE is carried out in EYFS. With regards to the three end-of-unit assessments although samples of individual children's work need not be submitted until the summer term of Reception evidence can be submitted in the form of observational notes. A baseline follow up assessment at the end of the year will evidence progress from starting points. The guidance document re. EYFS and RE in the RE handbook can also be used as guidance in planning, teaching and assessing pupils.

Recording

In addition to assessment procedures outlined above, teachers should also provide for each child at the end of the academic year a level of attainment for RE for AT1 and AT2 in RE. An overall level will be entered on the DC PRO school pupil tracker and used to inform target setting and progress monitoring. Although there are no specific descriptors for sublevels, teachers will be requested to indicate if a child is highly secure at the level (a), is working well within the level (b) or is in the early stage of demonstrating attainment at the level (c) in order to inform progress monitoring and target setting.

Children should be further challenged in oral and written feedback through questions which extend or clarify understanding. This should be done in addition to oral and written feedback which give praise or require improvement with regard to features of the work, aspects of literacy or presentation or any other aspect of the child's work and/or attainment/effort in order to promote the same high standards in RE as are expected in other subjects.

Reporting

Teachers are required to report in detail on attainment, progress and targets for development to parents in the end of year school reports. In addition, termly reports provide the opportunity for teachers to indicate current levels of effort and attainment in RE. The comment for R.E. in Summer reports sits at the top of the report to emphasise its importance regarding the overall academic achievement of pupils, and should be a personalised comment.

Evaluation

The R.E. policy is reviewed annually by the coordinator and governors and shared with staff.

Appendix A - curriculum map for RE at Our Lady & St. Hubert's

Long-term plan 2018-2019: Birmingham

Schools starting Monday 3 September and finishing Monday 22 July. NB: Lent begins Wednesday 6 March. Schools are not in for Holy Week.

Pentecost falls on Sunday 9 June.

		Sept				Oct				Nov				Dec				Jan				Feb				Mar				April				May				June				July			
		3	10	17	24	1	8	15	22	5	12	19	26	3	10	17	24	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25	4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29	6	13	20	3	10	17	24	1	8	15	22
N		God the Creator								God Our Father Cares for us				Advent				Christmas	Baptism	God's Family				Lent				Holy Week		Easter		Pentecost	Special Celebrations		Continuous Unit – timing TBD										
	R	Creation								People who Care For Us				Advent				Christmas	Baptism	People Who Help US				Lent		Holy Week		Easter		Pentecost	People Who Care For Us		Prayer												
		Prayer				Harvest																Prayer								Prayer															
I		Creation				Families & Celebrations				Prayer / Remembrance / Jesus T&H	Advent				Christmas		Jesus Teacher and Healer				Lent		Forgiveness		Holy Week	Easter		Sharing Jesus' Life		Pentecost		Prayer		Following Jesus Today											
	R	Old Testament Stories				Sharing in the Life of Jesus					Advent				Christmas	Parables & Miracles		Special Celebrations		Lent		Holy Week		Easter		Pentecost		Our Church		The Mass															
		Belonging				Reconciliation					Advent				Christmas	We Listen to God's Word		Prayer		Lent		Holy Week		Easter		Reconciliation		The Eucharist		Pentecost															
2		Creation				Families & Celebrations				Prayer / Remembrance / Jesus T&H	Advent				Christmas		Jesus Teacher and Healer				Lent		Forgiveness		Holy Week	Easter		Sharing Jesus' Life		Pentecost		Prayer		Following Jesus Today											
	R	Old Testament Stories				Sharing in the Life of Jesus					Advent				Christmas	Parables & Miracles		Special Celebrations		Lent		Holy Week		Easter		Pentecost		Our Church		The Mass															
		Belonging				Reconciliation					Advent				Christmas	We Listen to God's Word		Prayer		Lent		Holy Week		Easter		Reconciliation		The Eucharist		Pentecost															
3		Creation				Families & Celebrations				Prayer / Remembrance / Jesus T&H	Advent				Christmas		Jesus Teacher and Healer				Lent		Forgiveness		Holy Week	Easter		Sharing Jesus' Life		Pentecost		Prayer		Following Jesus Today											
	R	Old Testament Stories				Sharing in the Life of Jesus					Advent				Christmas	Parables & Miracles		Special Celebrations		Lent		Holy Week		Easter		Pentecost		Our Church		The Mass															
		Belonging				Reconciliation					Advent				Christmas	We Listen to God's Word		Prayer		Lent		Holy Week		Easter		Reconciliation		The Eucharist		Pentecost															

4	Creation	Jesus Teaches Us How to Pray	Remembrance	Advent	Christmas	Jesus Light of the World	Old Testament	Lent	Holy Week	Easter	Pentecost	Old Testament	Sharing in the life of Christ	Special Roles and Responsibilities
5	Creation	Miracles & The Sacraments	Remembrance	Advent	Christmas	Baptism	Parables & Sayings	Lent	Holy Week	Easter	Pentecost	The Work of the Apostles		Marriage and Holy Orders
6	The Story of the People of God	Baptism & Confirmation (Mary & Saints)	Remembrance	Advent	Christmas	Followers of Christ & Confirmation	Confirmation and Celebrating Mary & the Saints	Lent	Holy Week	Easter	Pentecost		Celebrating Mary & the Saints	Belonging to the Church Community