ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

"For it is in giving that we receive"

Religious Education Policy

Policy compiled by:	Head of RE
Responsible committee:	Full Governing Board
Approved by Governing Body:	October 2026
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Guidance used	DABCEC Guidelines Bishops Conference of England and Wales
This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.	

Our Mission

I have come in order that you may have life - life in all its fullness'. (John 10:10)

With Christ as our guide, we pray together to nurture faith; we learn together to seek truth; we look to our future with hope; we aspire to be the light; to make our school a place of joy.

Our Values

And now I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. If you have love for one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples. (John 13: 34-35)

With Christ as our guide,

The values Christ embodied, the Gospel values, are the basis of our school life. The Gospel values are: love, forgiveness, reconciliation, justice, faith, integrity, humility, service, peace, hope and prayer.

we pray together to nurture faith;

We understand that prayer brings us into a closer relationship with God and we can pray to God whenever we want and he will listen to our prayers. We can have formal and informal prayers which we can say.

we learn together to seek truth;

We learn in a safe, encouraging community of high expectations for the achievement and conduct of all. The British Values - democracy; the rule of law; individual liberty; mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths – underpin our curriculum. We encourage all our children to develop the qualities of a St Francis learner: enthusiasm, perseverance, confidence, reflection, collaboration and independence.

We look to the future with hope;

We know that we can change the world to make it a better place for all. Through the understanding of Catholic Social Teaching, we can impact others in our school, local and global communities.

We aspire to be the light;

At St Francis, we remember that Jesus said "I am the light of the world" and that we can follow his example, sharing love, our faith and the Bible message with the world. Jesus shared how we should shine through love: "Love one another". We believe that it is important to value and respect others; forgiving and reconciling when mistakes are made.

To make our school a place of joy

We work hard so that learning is stimulating, challenging and engaging. Our expectations for all children are high, for both work and behaviour. We celebrate the talents and achievements of all so that children can develop spiritually, academically, physically and emotionally.

Our mission statement is centred on the core teaching of Jesus that we must love God and love one another as He has loved us. Christ is at the very centre of our mission statement. We want Him to be at the very centre of our school. Our mission statement has been devised by all and is accessible to all. We call on each child and adult in our school community to live out the mission statement each and every day.

Religion is at the heart of everything we do and pervades every aspect of our school life:
"…Religious Education is not one subject amongst many but the foundation of the entire education process. The beliefs and values it communicates should inspire and unify every aspect of school life." (Bishops Conference of England and Wales 1988)

St Francis Catholic Primary School, in partnership with the Parish and Parents, will provide high quality Catholic Education. Through the love of God, we will foster individual pupils, spiritually, socially, culturally and academically, by encouraging each child to strive for personal achievement and by developing awareness that his/her contribution is necessary for the good of the community.

We believe the outcome of excellent RE teaching and learning is religiously literate and engaged young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills – appropriate to their age and capacity – to reflect spiritually, and think ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.

Aims of Religious Education at our School

- To deliver a curriculum which is grounded in the teachings of the Catholic faith.
- To help the children to deepen and develop their relationship with God.
- To help the children to develop a sense of love and responsibility, for themselves, one another, and the world around them so that they can relate their Catholic faith to daily life.
- To help children recognise and celebrate moments of awe and wonder.
- To help children foster attitudes of wisdom, understanding, knowledge, moral judgement, courage and reverence.

Our Approach to Religious Education

- We aim to provide a learning environment where every child feels secure.

- We teach children how to respect and value each other as individuals and how to care for one another other help to foster a calm, happy and caring community.
- We discuss out attitudes and behaviour and how they affect the wellbeing of other members of our school community.
- We aim to teach the children and each other, by example, in the daily life of the school.
- We pray together, teaching both specific prayers and how to pray spontaneously and peacefully.
- We gather for Worship, Liturgies and Mass throughout the school week.
- We teach concepts, knowledge and attitudes in line with the teaching of the Church.
- We encourage home, school and Parish links, actively encouraging the involvement of the Parish Priest (including preparations for Reconciliation and First Holy Communion).
- We follow the Religious Education Programmes- 'Come and See' and 'To know you more clearly'.
- We promote awareness of local and wider communities by encouraging the school community to participate in charitable activities and fundraising.
- We acknowledge that everyone is equal in the sight of God.

Religious Education Programme

The RE curriculum is delivered through the 'To know you more clearly' document with the diocese input, shared with St Mary's College Twickenham under the title of "Day by Day". This is in line with Diocesan guidance and The Curriculum Directory. Ten per cent of teaching time 2 ½ hours, will be allocated to Religious Education, which does not include Collective Worship.

The Religious Education Directory (RED) 'To know you more clearly':

This has four structural elements: knowledge lenses, ways of knowing, expected outcomes and curriculum branches. The four lenses are Hear (Section 1 of part 1 of the Catechism), Believe (Section 2 of part 1 of the Catechism), Celebrate (Parts 2 and 4 of the Catechism), and Live (Part 3 of the Catechism). The names of these four lenses reflect the language of the Catechism itself which states that the mystery of faith which we hear and receive requires us to 'believe in it', to 'celebrate it' and to 'live from it'. (CCC 2558)
(Religious Education Curriculum Directory 2023).

Multi-faith Programme:

Learning about the religion and cultures of those who do not share the Catholic faith is one of the ways in which Catholic schools embody the call to love one's neighbour. As part of the two RE programmes we follow, children are given the opportunity to explore and understand other faiths. The 'Come and See' programme teachers Judaism during the Autumn Term and Islam during the Summer Term. The 'To know you more clearly' provides the opportunity for children to discover and discern other faiths during the Summer Term.

The St Francis Expectations of RE Teaching, Learning and Planning

At St Francis, we use a variety of teaching strategies to support the development of our children's' knowledge and skills. This is in line with our teaching and learning strategies across the wider curriculum and includes:

- Whole class discussion and teaching
- Group discussion and feedback
- Partner work

- Individual research and study
- Creative learning activities
- Use of Artwork
- Oracy activities
- Use of Knowledge Organisers
- Role play and drama opportunities
- Use of scripture, songs, hymns

The children's work is record both in their individual R.E. books and their spiritual journaling books. Each class teachers is responsible for marking RE books. Marking is in accordance with the school marking policy. Class teachers may set RE homework where appropriate.
Equal opportunities are provided for all children to be able to access the knowledge, skills and understanding at a level appropriate to their needs and abilities. Adaptations are made to learning and teaching as required to support children with SEND needs.

Assessment

Assessment in Religious Education is ongoing and pupil progress is assessed according to the National Standards in Religious Education and by using the Standards Indicators provided in the "Day by Day" Programme. Assessment follows the Diocesan guidance. Each pupil's attainment is recorded on the school's assessment recording system termly. Comparison and analysis is then made with pupil's performance in other subjects, particularly Writing. This enables the class teacher and RE Leader to ensure progress is being made for every pupil.

RE is reported to parents at progress meetings with parents. Parents are informed of the level their child is working at and a next step for RE. Similarly, RE is reported in the end of year report to parents- the child's final attainment level and a comment from the class teacher is provided.

Displays

All classrooms have a prominent RE display relating to the current RE Topic. This should include: the topic title, key vocabulary, images/ artwork, children's work and key scripture. The border of the display should reflect the liturgical colour. Alongside the display, each classroom will also have an altar which should be sacred and special. The cloth on this table should reflect the liturgical colour. It will display items such as a Bible, candle, rosary beads, prayer card etc.

The Mission statement is displayed in every classroom in the school. The hall has a central RE display to reflect the overall RE topic for the school and is used as a focus point.

Monitoring

RE books and planning are regularly monitored by the RE lead and the Head teacher. Every Monday briefing an RE reminder or focus is shared with staff. The leadership team and RE lead regularly visit RE lessons and make use of Step Lab coaching to support the development of our RE teaching in line with other subjects. The RE lead meet regularly with the RE governor to share updates, monitor data, review provision and complete book looks/ learning walks/ pupil voice.
RE work is moderated during sessions internally with our staff during CPD as well as during sessions with RE leaders from Xavier Trust.

CPD Opportunities

CPD opportunities are provided in-house as well as by DABCEC. The aim of our CPD is:

- For staff to develop their own religious and spiritual life.
- To improve the teaching and learning of Religious Education.
- To enable the staff to level and moderate attainment.
- To increase and develop the knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Faith and Traditions.
- As Induction for new staff and to offer support to non-Catholic teachers.

All new members of the staff must read very carefully the R.E. Policy. They are encouraged to ask the R.E. Co-ordinator for any help in any matter relating to R.E. They attend training at DABCEC to help support induction.

Spiritual and Moral Development

St Francis has always tried to create the atmosphere needed to fulfil our Mission Statement. We try to emphasise the qualities of self-discipline, self-control, perseverance, determination, a sense of fair play and thoughtfulness for others in school and in the wider community. (See Positive Behaviour Policy, Relationships and Sex Education Policy and Mental Health and Emotional Well-Being Policy.)