

In the Light of Jesus, we Learn to Shine - Primary Aims of our School Curriculum

Religious Education (RE)

At St Joseph's, we follow the 'Come and See' programme, emerging from 'The Religious Education Curriculum Directory (3-19)' published by The Department of Catholic Education and Formation of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales (2012), which can be accessed here and which sets out the main aims of the RE curriculum for Catholic schools. The following statements outline the broader intent, implementation and impact of our RE curriculum for St Joseph's beyond those stated in the above documentation:

The broader aims of the St Joseph's Key Stage 1 and 2 curriculum for RE are:

- for all members of our school community to live as Modern-Day Disciples, valued and respected as special and created in the image and likeness of our loving God, and capable of achieving their God-given potential.
- to nurture each child's innate capacity for wonder, awe, reverence, responsibility, respect and spirituality.
- for children to gain experiences of Catholic and Christian traditions, as well as being taught to be respectful and understanding of people and traditions from other faith backgrounds.
- for children to learn about their unique place within the home, school and parish community.
- for all children, regardless of starting point, faith or background, to develop in their understanding of the Catholic faith and their own journey of faith.

RE will be implemented across Key Stage 1 and 2 for all pupils at St Joseph's by:

- interweaving our School Mission Statement: 'In the Light of Jesus, we Learn to Shine' and our Gospel Values through every aspect of school life, and explicitly teaching the meaning of these across all aspects of school, curriculum areas and particularly through the means of RE lessons, prayers and worship.
- allocating 10% of the curriculum to RE, a core subject, in line with the Bishops' Conference recommendations in addition to opportunities for collective worship.
- following the 'Come and See' Religious Education Programme from EYFS through to Year 6, which provides opportunities for celebration, prayer and reflection both implicitly and explicitly. It equips children with the language of religious experience and is a 'systematic presentation of Christian event, message and way of life' in ways appropriate to the age and stage of development of the child and utilises stages from the National Curriculum. It provides appropriate materials about other faiths and academic respectability as in other curricular areas and progresses sequentially.
- exploring life, dignity, purpose, beliefs, values and ways of life through Catholic religious dimensions, linking wherever possible to children's own experiences and providing opportunities for questions to be explored, for reflection and debate, using oracy as a tool to support discussions and understanding.
- distinctive RE lessons, resources and books, signified with clear routines and high-quality opportunities for learning for all pupils which provide challenge and support.
- coming together as a community: through links to The Church, parishioners and parents e.g. liturgical events/masses.
- providing children with opportunities to work independently and collaboratively as well as take pride and enjoyment from the learning of RE.
- embedding the RE curriculum through all subject areas
- supporting the unique role of Faith Ambassadors to enable them to display leadership skills and contribute to the further development of RE at St Joseph's.

INTENT

IMPLEMENTATION

The impact of the St Joseph's Key Stage 1 and 2 curriculum for RE is that:

- children talk openly, deeply and confidently about their faith, and show an understanding and respect for the faith of others.
- pupils are reflective and have strong questioning skills.
- children have strong outcomes in RE and make good progress from their starting point.
- children live out the Gospel Values in their daily lives and in the way God would want them to through the way they treat their neighbours and the world around them
- pupils are happy and confident members of society, impacting positively in their school and local community.