

Cottesmore St Mary Catholic Primary School

Religious Education Policy



'Manus nobiscum Domine'
(Abide with us O Lord)

Date of policy review: Sept 2017
Next review: Sept 2020

Policy written by: Rachel Breen (all staff and children consulted)

Policy reviewed & passed by: Pupils, Parents and Community Committee

Key people responsible for Religious Education: Cath McLoughlin,

Key Governor responsible for Religious Education: Wayne Ashton

Other policies linked to this policy:
Collective Worship and Prayer Policy, Spirituality and Moral Development Policy, EPR
Policy, RSE Policy, Behaviour Policy

Our Mission

God made each one of us, we are all His disciples.

We believe in ourselves and help each other to do our best, respecting each other's differences and including everyone. We show care for others, especially by helping those in need and acting as God wants us to whilst living the Gospel daily.

We pray and worship together and so grow closer to God and each other, celebrating when others do well. We are part of God's family, supporting other people in school, at home, at church and in the world around us.

Mane nobiscum Domine - Abide with us Lord.



We want the children who leave our school to make the most of every learning opportunity so that they can grow into the best people they can be, fulfilling their dreams and God's special plan for them, being happy and confident and joyfully showing to others their faith in God.

The Mission of Cottesmore St Mary Catholic Primary School is to enable all in our school community to be Christ in our world, recognising the unique dignity and worth of each individual.

We aim to achieve this by:

- Providing a foundation of knowledge and experience which stimulates and motivates the individual to strive for excellence
- Creating a caring environment founded on values of love, hope and faith. This community is modelled upon that of the early Christians – who shared the WORD of God with each other, WORSHIPPED together, gave WITNESS to their faith in their daily lives, and looked after the WELFARE of others.

Strengthened by the support of our Christian family, Cottesmore St Mary School will be a beacon of faith in the wider community

Aims of RE at Cottesmore St Mary Catholic Primary School

- develop relationships with God, provide knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith, its relevance to the ultimate questions of life and the skills required to engage in religious thinking, so it will:
- stimulate and promote growth in understanding and the acquisition of skills, attitudes and values appropriate to that which is of value to their own personal faith journey, namely the value and importance of prayer as central to their whole growth and not separate entity
- to provide a challenge to move onward in understanding so that the best choices can be made with regard to God, self, other people and the world in which we live
- for RE to be evident throughout the life of the school and in all subject areas through creative, cross curricular planning
- to implement the Come and See religious education programme throughout the school by means of planning, suitable resources, a time allocation of 10% in line with diocesan guidelines and develop a spiritual, moral and cultural awareness.

At Cottesmore St Mary Catholic Primary School

The school family will be helped to:

- explore the importance of story in the human quest for meaning
- understand the role of Christian scripture reflecting upon the personal and community response to God invited by scripture, and explore the writings of other faith communities
- reflect on the human experience of belonging to the community at various levels and that they come to know that Christians are called to that community which is the church

- develop a knowledge and understanding of people and roles in the church and explore the relationships between the Catholic Church and other denominations and faiths
- explore the values that underpin beliefs and actions in the human family, reflect on the values which Christ expressed in his life and teaching and explore the values and the way of life of other world faiths
- explore the meaning of celebrations, which marks the growth and development of every human being, understand that spiritual growth and development is rooted in the church's sacramental life, reflect on the place of prayer in the life of the Catholic community and of individual Christians and develop a knowledge and understanding of prayers in other faiths and world religions

All of this underpins the first two aims.

The organisation of RE at Cottesmore St Mary Catholic Primary School

RE is intended to be evident throughout the life of the school

How this is achieved

- In every class there is evidence of the work, through display, being undertaken within the topics of Come and See.
- In every classroom there is a prayer table intended to bring attention to the importance of Christ at the centre of our lives and reflect the liturgical season.
- Displays in the school's entrance area reflect our distinctive nature. Here the Liturgy of the Word for the week is displayed for all to read as well as the Liturgical daily readings of the week.
- Assemblies in both Key Stages are linked to the topics, the Liturgical Calendar and the Gospel teachings from the Sunday readings.
- Masses and liturgies also reflect the elements of the topic and the needs of the wider community e.g. harvest
- Wherever possible, the children are encouraged to have an awareness of others. Collections for charities are made over the year, including CAFOD, Cabrini Society, Love in a Box and St Anne's Day Centre for Homeless People

Through our EPR (Education in Personal Relationships) Programme, which is linked to the revised Diocesan document in conjunction with the SEAL resources, together with Come and See, the children are encouraged to have respect for themselves and for one another. This includes Citizenship and Personal and Social Education.

Medium Term Planning - Topics

Each year group plans RE as a team. The medium term planning sheet includes:

- Themes
- Evidence parity across the year group classes
- Learning objectives and outcomes
- Concepts, attitudes, skills and related key critical questioning
- Activities/grouping and differentiation
- Resources
- Assessment opportunities using Assessment for Learning (AfL) strategies
- Timing of the topic

- Feast / Holy days, school / parish celebrations
- Multi Faith weeks
- Evidences progression and continuity from year group to year group

To ensure a holistic approach to growth, each sheet will include creative opportunities, differentiation, use of ICT and cross-curricular links as mentioned in the short term planning section.

Planning is saved on the school staff shared server, monitored and reviewed by the RE team leaders to ensure continuity, progression and equal access.

Opportunities are provided by the Head Teacher to discuss topics and the theology underlying the themes. Prior to beginning each new topic time is spent in a staff meeting talking through the teacher's page for each topic. The staff have an opportunity to discuss the theme of the topic and what this means to them as well as the underlying theology. Teachers may also spend time discussing ways to present this theology to their class.

At school we plan to cover 10% of the curriculum time in the teaching of RE. This works out at 2 hours 30 minutes teaching time in Key Stage 2 and 2 hours 15 minutes in Key Stage 1, including time for prayer and reflection but is exclusive of time set aside for assemblies and masses. There must be an opportunity for prayer and reflection within the RE lesson

Short Term Planning - Lessons

Medium term planning should inform the following occurs in lessons:

- Level descriptors must be used to ensure lessons are planned with the level of attainment in mind
- Activities must relate to the learning objective
- Critical questions are posed to enable children to reach or exceed the learning objective
- Success criteria is used to support the children's learning and achieve or exceed the lesson objective
- Use of scripture extracts as key resources
- ICT software should be used to consolidate skills and vary presentation of learning outcomes e.g. Microsoft PowerPoint, Word, 2Simple etc
- A variety and range of activities should be provided e.g. visitors, trips, drama, storyboards, written work, art and music.
- Writing should cover a range of genre e.g. note taking, drafting, redrafting, narrative, persuasive, non-chronological reports, instructions etc
- Key religious vocabulary and phrases identified and children to use in their work
- Every topic has a differentiated coversheet which identifies key vocabulary and level descriptors for the ability range of the class
- Level descriptors on the coversheet will be ticked and dated by the teacher when achieved by the child. If not achieved the level descriptor will be marked with a dot.
- Lessons should be differentiated where activities are matched to ability levels and understanding.
- More able children are to be challenged and extended by the activities provided
- A valuing of RE books should be reflected in well presented books. Presentation should be consistent throughout.
- Worksheets are to be kept to a minimum
- There should be evidence of appropriate coverage. The expectation is 4-5 pieces of work per topic with at least half of these being substantial in length/size.
- Photographic or other methods should be used to record class discussions
- There should be one piece of extended writing per topic used as a final assessment piece.

Assessment

Ongoing assessment opportunities are highlighted at the planning stage of each topic, used to inform planning, in the termly plans. These may take the form of the following:

- All children's work is to be assessed against the diocesan level descriptors
- During lessons AfL strategies should be used to address misconceptions, support and move learning on
- Pupils should have opportunities to self-assess their progress against the learning objective using success criteria
- Teacher assessment during lessons is linked to levels of attainment and the children's self-assessment
- Marking should follow the whole school Marking Policy to:
 - Be used to challenge and further children's learning and understanding
 - Be interactive and pupils given time to respond to teacher comments
- Key questions
- Display
- Written questioning
- The school portfolio is used to inform levels of attainment
- Use of digital camera, video, role play, drama, cassette recordings etc.
- Each child should be given an overall level for each topic.
- At the end of each term each child should be given an overall best fit level with sublevel and the information placed on pathways/sims.
- All assessment information must be passed on to the next year group at end of year transition meetings

Each term, one topic is formally assessed and moderated. A record of the assessments is recorded by teachers and the school keeps a portfolio of examples of these assessments.

Monitoring

Monitoring is undertaken regularly by the Team Leaders and Head Teacher. Over the year this is achieved in a variety of ways:

- Review of planning sheets
- Reviewing samples of books across Key Stages to ensure continuity
- Displayed work
- Talking to the children
- Prayer Focus tables

This is to ensure continuity of access to RE across the school in both content and time allocation.

Differentiation

RE is taught in every class with considerations of needs and abilities of each individual child. We take into account the age, stage of development and the child's own faith journey. (See Policy on Inclusion).

Resources

All classes have some class based resources and books to support daily worship and teaching. There is a wide provision of resources and materials to support the teaching and learning of RE. These are centrally resourced in the store room in the KS2 Girls' Cloakroom. Teachers are updated on new resources purchases. Each teacher has access to the Come and See website where there is a range of lesson specific resources.

Celebration of RE

At Cottesmore St Mary we celebrate the work being undertaken by means of Rejoice masses or classes where children come together in key stages, year groups or as a class to talk about the work they have achieved and their understanding of the topic.

Other World Faiths

Multi-faiths are taught on the understanding that Christianity is our one true faith but that we should respect the views, opinions and beliefs of others with sensitivity and understanding. These are taught at least twice a year. Judaism is taught in the autumn term as this is the faith closest to Christianity. Islam is taught in the summer term as this next most common faith within the immediate area.

Chaplaincy

The priests of the parishes of the Sacred Heart (Hove), St Peter's (Hove) and St George's (Hangleton) are welcomed to the school for Liturgy, Prayer and as part of the day to day activities of the school, including class visits.

Governors' Role

All governors are responsible for RE throughout the school and one governor is also a member of the school RE team.

Staff Development

In Service Training and Staff Meetings are regularly provided as well as at the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton Christian Education Centre, Crawley.

All newly qualified teachers attend courses provided by the diocese.

Liaison with Parents

A newsletter is sent out to the parents at the beginning of each term outlining the three themes to be taught in the Come and See programme. Information on masses and other events are included in the weekly newsletters. RE is also a focus at the new parents' meetings and year group termly curriculum parent meetings.

Sacramental Preparation

Preparation for the Sacrament of the Eucharist and Reconciliation usually takes place when the children are in Year 3, though other children in Key Stage 2 may also participate. It is a Parish based programme but members of staff support this both in the Parish and at school.

Worship

At Cottesmore St Mary worship is an integral part of school life. This takes a variety of forms, including masses, services of Reconciliation, assemblies and daily prayers. (See Policy on Spirituality, Prayer and Worship.)

Masses

- Take place in the school hall where we join the parish community for topic celebrations or major feast days.
- Parents are warmly welcomed to come along to mass with the school
- Children are involved in parts of the mass such as readings and serving

Services of Reconciliation

The school joins together for a service of reconciliation during Advent and Lent lead by one of the parish priests based on a rota system.

Assemblies

The children and staff join together both as a whole school and in year groups to pray together. They are as follows:

Monday	Head's Whole School Assembly
Tuesday	Year group worship
Wednesday	KS1 Hymn practice KS2 Hymn practice
Thursday	Class worship
Friday	KS1 Celebration Assembly KS2 Celebration Assembly

A reflective atmosphere is created by the use of candles and quiet music. In either assembly or classroom based session the work done in RE lessons is celebrated by Rejoice.

Prayer

See Collective Worship and Prayer policy