

St. Augustine's Catholic Primary School



Religious Education Policy

Content:	Religious Education (R.E.) Policy
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Last reviewed on:	September 2023
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Next review due by:	September 2025
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School Mission Statement

Joyfully, we at St. Augustine's Catholic School
celebrate our love for God,
our love for ourselves and our love for each other
as we play, learn and pray together.

Joyfully – this is the spirit of our school, that is why it is the first word of our Mission Statement. St Paul says that one of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit produced in the lives of Christians is joy (Galatians 5:22).

Our joy is based on our community. This is why the second word of our Mission Statement is **we** and not I. Our individuality is celebrated in conjunction with that of everyone else. Togetherness.

St Augustine's Catholic Primary School is the name of our school. St Augustine is our Patron Saint. He prays for us all and inspires us all to be a Catholic school. We teach the Catholic faith in union with our Pope, Francis and our diocesan Bishop, Richard. The word school tells everyone we are here to educate and to learn.

In keeping with our opening word 'Joyfully', we exist to celebrate. We are here to be a living community of love, growing in an awareness of our gifts and talents.

Our celebration is motivated by our love for God. We love God Our Father, Jesus His Son and the Holy Spirit, one God in three persons – The Trinity. We celebrate our love for God in our school Masses and liturgies, in assembly, in class services and in daily prayer. We are wide-eyed to the beauty of God in His creation and are people who praise Him for all He is for us. We worship our God with celebratory joy.

Self-image is important for healthy human beings, so we love ourselves in the true Christian way. We celebrate our love for ourselves by recognising that God has loved us into existence and that we have our own individual gifts and talents.

Caring for others is at the very heart of Jesus' teaching so we can celebrate our love for others by treating others as we would expect to be treated. We work to end selfishness and promote kindness and friendship and sharing. We celebrate the gifts and talents of the others in our school community too.

Play is good for everyone. It is a life-giving experience of fun and imagination and allows the human spirit to grow and develop.

Learning is our experience here at St Augustine's. Sometimes we learn on our own, sometimes with a partner or in a small group, and sometimes we learn as a class. All of us in the community are open to learn new things every day. It is exciting!

Prayer is a way of life. It is a remembrance of God being with us and in us. We pray formally and spontaneously. We pray personally and together. To pray is to raise our mind and our heart to God. This is our daily experience at St. Augustine's. All of this we experience together.

Our mission statement is centred on the core teaching of Jesus that we must love God and love our neighbour as we love ourselves. Christ is at the very centre of our mission statement. We want Him to be at the very centre of our school. This love of Jesus for every

human person can be understood from Early Years all the way through to our Year 6 children. Our school mission statement includes everyone.

1. Aims

Every child will have the opportunity to:

- Grow in and reflect God's love;
- Develop high self-esteem and motivation;
- Be self-aware and become an independent learner;
- Have high levels of self-confidence and respect for others;
- Achieve to the best of their ability.

In order to do this, the school, in partnership with parents and the community, will:

- Create a safe, stimulating, creative and enjoyable environment which is underpinned by Gospel values;
- Respect and value the uniqueness of the individual;
- Foster an ethos of high expectations where the pursuit of excellence is a part of all aspects of school life;
- Provide a climate to equip them for the future;
- Promote a dynamic culture of challenge and support for all.

Policy Statement

In our school, Religious Education will be according to the rites and practices of the Catholic Church.

Religious growth and development, which must be the aim of Religious Education, are not confined to RE lessons; it is a basic aim of the whole school experience that the total curriculum stimulates religious growth and development, together with academic and social progress.

Aim for Religious Education

The aims and objectives are underpinned by the school's mission statement. This encapsulates our will to:

- Welcome and care for everyone and each other, promoting strong links between home, school, parish and community.

- Learn about God through the teaching of Jesus in the gospel and recognise His presence in and around us.
- Celebrate God's love through daily prayer and worship.
- Develop the children's understanding of the structure and teaching of the Catholic Church and their place within it.
- To value and respect the uniqueness of each individual on their own journey of faith and learning and to meet that person wherever they might be on that journey.
- Stretch our learning and talents and to appreciate qualities in other people.
- Respect each other and the beliefs, traditions, values and cultures of others.
- Develop a positive attitude towards living in a society of diverse religions and cultures.

2. Curriculum Entitlement

All children will have equal opportunities within RE lessons. Children with other faiths, cultures or backgrounds will be recognized, respected and welcomed into the school. Individual children will be at different stages in the knowledge and faith development and this will all be planned for by the teacher. The child's individual development is important and recognition will be made of the more able child. Teachers will plan for these children as with any other subject, and differentiate tasks or objectives as appropriate. Children with SEND will also be fully supported and offered appropriate assistance, e.g. one-to-one assistance, where this is possible or necessary.

The governing body have wider responsibilities under the Equalities Act 2010 and will ensure that our school strives to do the best for all the pupils, irrespective of disability, educational needs, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, sex, gender identity, religion or sexual orientation or whether they are looked after children.

3. Curriculum

Planning

The teaching of RE is mainly based on 'Come and See' syllabus which is recommended by the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton. We are currently embedding the new 'Religious Education Directory – To Know You More Clearly' into Early Years, Year 1 and Year 6 as directed by our Diocese. The Directory will be embedded across the whole school in the next two years. All values and beliefs will fully support, and where appropriate, be integrated into all other curricular activities, particularly in PSHE. The planning and delivery of RE will be achieved by:

- Giving staff guidance, support and training where necessary.
- Whole school themes based on the Church, Sacraments and Christian Living.
- Marking dates in the Liturgical year of the Church.
- Recognising and reflecting on the differences in the children's spiritual and moral development and using this to inform planning.
- Collective Worship (community, school and class), prayer, celebration, liturgy, assemblies and mass.

RE is largely delivered through class lessons. These lessons will involve the use of scripture, discussion, drama, role play, prayer, reflection and celebration. Activities may be individual, group or whole class based. RSE is taught using the Journey in Love programme as recommended by the diocese.

Each class also has the zones of regulation which indicate to staff if there is a child who has a matter which they wish to speak to them privately about.

The parish priests visit the school on a regular basis. They reinforce themes of R.E and special days in the liturgical year. They celebrate regular liturgies, masses and class worship sessions.

10% of curriculum time is allocated to Religious Education. This does not include Collective Worship.

Assessment

Recording of the children's work takes many forms – pictorial, written, drama, wall displays, photos and assemblies. All children have an RE exercise book to record their work. In Early Years, children's work is recorded in the whole class floor book. In Year 1, individual exercise books are used, with the whole class floor book used for the recording of the whole class discussion and activities.

Each term the staff assess the children's knowledge and understanding in RE using assessment guidelines given to the school by the Diocese. Levels are recorded on our Arbor data system so that leaders can monitor progress and attainment in RE. Staff moderate standards and assessments within school and across other schools within the Deanery. Learning Walks take place which enable the Head Teacher and the RE subject leader to monitor the standards of teaching and learning in R.E. Book scrutinies and monitoring of planning also regularly take place as part of the annual monitoring schedule.

Resources

A range of resources are used to supplement 'Come and See' syllabus and the Religious Education Directory which form the basis of our school approach to the teaching of Religious Education. The resources for RE are reviewed and updated when appropriate. We have a range of multi-faith materials available for staff also. The budget for RE (as for all other subjects) is allocated each year according to the curriculum needs.

Each class teacher has access to 'Come and See' programme and its resources stored on school shared area, as well as materials produced by the Diocese for the R.E.D. Relevant staff attend the Diocesan courses on the delivery of the new RED, where detailed explanation on how to use the new resources for RED is provided. Each class also has its own collection of books, Children's Prayer Books and Bibles. Planning overviews and resources are available for staff for PSHE and RSE (Relationships and Sex Education). Godly Play resources are being developed with the appropriate training to be provided for staff to widen a range of strategies and delivery of RE lessons.

Training

The Head Teacher and the RE leader regularly attend all meetings, courses and training days which recommended by the Diocese. All key information is shared with staff. INSET training for staff has also been provided by the Wintershall Estate team. Staff attend any relevant courses for their year group with the Diocese and the RE subject leader provides much in-school support. She is also a Leading Teacher so provides demonstration lessons for those within school and across other schools.

4. Prayer

Prayer is the primary aim of forming a personal relationship with God. Jesus teaches us to pray and therefore formal prayer is the cornerstone in the faith development of the children and all member of the school community. Prayer is encouraged in different forms, including: individual, group, school and community. It may be within formal or informal surroundings and will take place on a daily basis. In order to make prayer pertinent and rewarding for children, the following elements should be included:

- The use of silence, music or song
- The use of Scripture and time for reflection/contemplation
- Public and private, meditative prayer
- Christian meditation
- Candles, statues and artefacts
- Use of traditional prayers such as the Lord's prayer, the Hail Mary, the Glory Be, the Rosary, Morning and Evening prayers, Act of Contrition, Grace at meals etc.

Each class will have a prayer focus where the readings for the day will be displayed. These areas should act as a stimulus for prayers and may include artefacts such as candles, rosaries, statues, a bible and a crucifix.

5. Multi-Faiths

In accordance with guidelines from the Diocese, the children will learn about Judaism and Islam as part of the 'Come and See' syllabus. In the new RED, when studying Branch Six: Dialogue and Encounter, children have an opportunity to learn about other faiths as outlined in the Directory. Children at St Augustine's are taught to respect everyone, regardless of their religious denomination.

6. Links with Home, Parish and the Wider Community

This policy recognises that the school represents only one integral part of the three-fold partnership that is responsible for the education and faith development of the children. Parents are the children's first teachers and primary role models. The local church and community are responsible for nurturing our children, encouraging positivity and hope within their lives. Our school aims to work in partnership with the home and the wider community, by teaching our children through positive example and use of the gospel message.

Parents are invited for parents evenings to discuss their children's progress and development in all curriculum areas including Religious Education. At the end of the academic year, parents are given an annual record of achievement which comments on children's level of Religious knowledge, skills and attitude developed in all areas of the curriculum. We will also be including attainment in R.E. on our mid-year reports, sharing targets for further improvement in Spring '24. Each term parents are emailed a curriculum overview for 'Come and See' programme and the RED topics with key liturgical dates. Parents are also kept fully up to date on the Catholic life of the school, R.E. and Collective Worship through the weekly newsletter.

Useful links and websites

The link to the Come and See programme online:

<https://www.comeandseere.co.uk/>

The link to the RSE Journey in Love

<https://www.mccrimmons.com/shop/books/a-journey-in-love-volume-1--book/>

[https://www.mccrimmons.com/library/files/Parents Overview-MR.pdf](https://www.mccrimmons.com/library/files/Parents%20Overview-MR.pdf)

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to:

- Collective Worship Policy
- Relationships and Sex Education Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Equality Policy and Objectives

