

# *Our Lady of Compassion*

*Catholic Primary School*



*Religious Education Policy*

*February 2023*

# *Policy for Religious Education (RE)*

*Living in the Light of God's Love and Compassion.*



At Our Lady of Compassion, Religious Education (RE) is at the heart of our curriculum, as shown in our Mission statement. We set an example of passing on an awareness and appreciation of the Gospel values and support all members of our home, school, parish and local community, in the name of Jesus Christ by fostering true Christian attitudes in each person by creating a deeper understanding of his/her relationship with God.

## *Aims of Religious Education at Our Lady of Compassion*

Religious Education is an integral part of our daily school life and fulfils all legal requirements. The aims of Religious Education at Our Lady of Compassion are:

- To give every child the opportunity to explore, discover and respond to religions and beliefs.
- To gain an informed understanding of Religious Education through a range of experiences.
- To develop an awareness and appreciation of Catholic beliefs.

RE underpins the values and beliefs of everything we do in our school. As stated in the non-statutory guidance for Religious Education in 2010, 'RE contributes to pupils' personal development and well-being and to community cohesion by promoting mutual respect and tolerance in a diverse society.' We believe in a holistic approach in teaching RE as it can make important contributions to other parts of the school curriculum such as personal, social, and health education (PSHE).

## *Objectives for Religious Education*

The objectives for the RE curriculum at Our Lady of Compassion are:

- To gain knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith.
- To know about and understand a range of religions and worldviews.
- To express ideas and insights about the nature, significance and impact of religions.
- To explore key concepts and questions of belonging, meaning, purpose and truth.
- Develop the skills required to reflect on religious beliefs.
- Develop a deeper knowledge and understanding of Catholic and other religious traditions.
- To provide opportunities for celebration, prayer and reflection.

## *Our School Values underpinning Religious Education*

### **School values underpinning Religious Education**

Respect for self and others  
Knowledge and the search for truth  
Difference/diversity  
Justice and fairness

Honesty  
Tolerance  
Feelings  
Co-operation

## *Religious Education Programme*

To fulfil our Aims and Objectives we use the 'Come and See' Programme of Religious Education recommended by the Archdiocese of Liverpool. We use this programme as a whole school approach from Nursery to year 6. Come and See's objective is to produce religiously literate young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills to reflect spiritually, think ethically and theologically and be aware of religious demands in everyday life.

### **Come and See Content Overview**

Come and See is developed through three themes based on the documents of the Second Vatican Council, which are gradually explored each time in greater depths. These themes are; Church, Sacrament and Christian Living. Each topic is opened up through three sections – explore, reveal and respond.

See 'Come and See' topic overviews document on our school website Religious Education page for a further insight into each year groups topics.

In addition to learning about the Catholic faith, the children have the opportunity to learn about Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism and Islam.

## *Religious Education Inclusion*

We teach Religious Education to all children, regardless of their ability. Our teachers provide learning opportunities matched to the individual needs of children with any additional learning needs.

For gifted and talented pupils, teachers will provide additional opportunities to take responsibility, develop leadership skills, think creatively and use their talents for the good of the class or the wider community.

### **Special Educational Needs**

Within the 'Come and See' programme, teachers tailor and differentiate lessons to suite individual children using SEN resources provided by the 'Come and See' scheme.

## *Teaching and Learning*

Ten percent of curriculum teaching time is set aside for Religious Education. This is approximately two and a half hours per week for each Key Stage and this is clearly indicated on class timetables.

(See schools' teaching and learning policy).

### **Role of the Teacher**

- To plan engaging and interactive lessons using 'Come and See.
- To assess children's learning using formative and informative strategies.
- To be non-judgmental and sensitive to views and opinions.
- To encourage and challenge.
- To respond sensitively to pupils' background and experiences.
- To create a safe learning environment and to enable pupils to respond appropriately.

Our teaching is further reinforced through our assemblies as part of a whole school approach with a focus on attitudes, values and celebrating success. We offer children the opportunity to hear visiting speakers (multi faith assemblies and workshops, charities including CAFOD) to talk about their role in creating a positive and supportive local community.

## *Evaluation, Assessment, Monitoring and Reporting*

Assessment, recording, reporting and monitoring of Religious Education meets current requirements and we adhere to any new Diocesan guidelines.

## *Other Aspects of Religious Education*

### **A Journey in Love**

To support the teaching of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), we teach the programme 'A Journey in Love'. The programme has been approved by the Liverpool Archdiocese Schools team and has been introduced across all schools. All pupils will follow five themes from Nursery to Year 6; Physical, Social, Emotional, Intellectual and Spiritual. The content runs alongside our Come and See, Science and PSHE topics throughout the year. *(Please see our RSE policy for more information).*

### **Collective Worship**

Collective Worship is separate from Religious Education and our normal school day. We believe Collective Worship should be a special and peaceful act to allow everyone in our school community to participate in the act of worship daily. *(Please see our Collective Worship policy for more information and RE newsletters for termly themes).*

## *Co-ordination*

It is the head teacher's duty to ensure the Religious Education requirements are met. The coordination of Religious Education is the responsibility of the RE co-ordinator, under the direction of the head teacher.

### **Role of the co-ordinator**

The co-ordinators role is to:

- Plan and co-ordinate the implementation of Religious Education.
- Establish monitoring and evaluation strategies.
- Monitor, assess and report on all aspects of Religious Education.
- Keep up to date with requirements and advise from Diocese.
- Attend relevant training and improve skills and knowledge.
- Update staff with any information/training for Religious Education.
- Liaise with parents and the wider community on aspects related to RE.
- Establish a staff development strategy to support the implementation of RE.

### **Staff Development**

1. Opportunities to attend courses provided by the Archdiocese of Liverpool.
2. Regular staff meetings/training from the RE coordinator on recent updates/strategies.
3. Awareness sessions that reflect their responsibilities within a whole school approach.
4. Training in sensitive areas where teachers require greater confidence.

## *Parish links and the wider community*

The community in our school, our parish and in our local community provide the context for our Religious Education curriculum. The school will regularly take account of community issues and seek to include them within appropriate teaching and learning experiences through assemblies, workshops, visits, school mass, family mass and Church links.

## *The Governing Body*

The Governing body recognise their responsibility to ensure Religious Education is taking place within school and are following the set curriculum for 'Come and See' and any guidance given. The designated governor for Religious Education and Collective Worship is Mrs Dickinson.

## *Visitors and Outside speakers*

Perhaps unlike other areas of the curriculum because of the importance of the teaching approaches and the sensitivity of many issues, there is a need to be cautious about the process and objectives for such sessions. As with other areas of the curriculum, the teachers will take full responsibility for planning, teaching and evaluation. Teachers are fully involved in all such sessions and visitors are not left alone with a class of pupils. The co-ordinator will review and monitor the visitor experiences to ensure it contributes to and enhances the schools RE programme.

### **Code of practice for involving external services**

1. The service/individual has a remit to work within a school setting.
2. Their aims are compatible with educational aims for young people in a school setting.
3. Their training and resources match the age group they intend to work with.
5. They have vetted staff and clear procedures that will safeguard children (see *Safeguarding Policy*)
6. They are enhancing the work of the teachers rather than duplicating the teacher's role.
7. Whether they have recommendations from other schools.

### **Documentation Consulted**

Ofsted framework, 2012  
Come and See Education Programme  
Religious Education in English schools non-statutory guidance, 2010.  
A Curriculum Framework for Religious Education in England, 2013.  
Religious Education Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools 2012.  
DFE guidance—Sex & relationship Education

This will be reviewed and reported upon each year to the governing body. This Policy will be reviewed in February 2025.

Signed: ..... (Religious Education Coordinator)

Signed: ..... (Head teacher)

Date: .....

### **See also:**

*Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy*  
*Spiritual Development Policy*  
*Moral Development Policy*  
*Social and Cultural Policy*  
*Collective Worship Policy*  
*Sacramental Preparation Policy*  
*PSHE policy*