



Intent

Religious Education is at the core of our school. Our school ethos is a commitment to helping children to develop strong relationships which will enable them to thrive.

We believe children's relationship with God is central to this development. From EYFS through to Year 6, we follow a religious education programme which aims to strengthen our Catholic faith. The primary purpose of Catholic Education is the step by step study of the mystery of Christ, the teaching of the Church and its application in daily life, therefore the principle aims of the school in terms of the Religious Education which it provides are:

- to lead the children to a deepening knowledge and understanding of our Catholic Faith.
- to provide opportunities for the children to develop a loving relationship with God and their neighbours.
- to encourage children to respect and be fully aware of the needs of others as equal members of God's creation

The school uses the Religious Educational Directory (RED) which includes a model curriculum from the Diocese of Westminster to support the delivery of the RE Curriculum across the school. The resources draw on foundational documents of the Church, universal and local, and well researched best practice in Religious Education as an academic discipline. Content is arranged deliberately to mirror the Liturgical Calendar and so the life of Jesus is explored 'logically', at the same time in school as it is in the Church. The content of this Model offers a systematic programme of study which comprehensively covers all the strands and requirements of the Curriculum Directory. Each topic plan sets out the areas taught from Revelation, Church, Celebration and Life in Christ ensuring progression and depth of provision. As part of our Religious Education programme the children are taught about world faiths, we study Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Judaism and Islam. Each term begins with a week long study, where children are taught about different faiths. The school has deliberately chosen a curriculum which offers a whole school approach to Religious Education, one in which all pupils explore a common theology or practice at an age-appropriate level. This is to enable the school to live out each area of learning consistently through all aspects of school life, to deepen their learning experience and develop the children as lifelong learners.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework and the National Curriculum

At St. Bernadette, we begin learning about Religious Education in our EYFS. In the EYFS, Religious Education sits within the Understanding the World and Personal, Social, and Emotional Development (PSED) areas of learning. The Religious Education Curriculum in the Early Years Foundation Stage aims to be at the heart of the curriculum and at the core of learning where appropriate. The curriculum informs schemes of work and programmes of study to enable well-written, quality holistic planning and resources for early learning. The curriculum for the Early Years follows each of the six branches and provides the adaptation of the statutory framework to suit Early Years planning, teaching, and learning.

Effective teaching and learning for Religious Education activities should involve playing, exploring, active learning, creating, thinking critically. Our scheme of work encourages wonder and awe, thinking about the astonishing things in nature and in everyday life. Experiences of even the smallest of wonders will enable children to welcome God's presence and experience a sense of amazement.

Implementation

Religious Education is taught explicitly 10% of the curriculum time but lived out in school 100% of our time. At the beginning of each topic, the children will be given the opportunity to **explore** the new topic area. The children will be expected to form opinions/questions based on prior knowledge and learning.

Each lesson follows the same procedure of:

Revise - FFB	Four From Before - This will provide links to previous learning within the topic and to previous religious concepts studied.
Teach	The teacher will be the expert introducing a combination of new facts, vocabulary and informed religious opinion.
Practise/Demonstrate	Working as a whole class, in groups or in pairs, pupils will produce written, artistic or dramatic outcomes to show their understanding of the new content.
Apply	Independent work, based on teacher modelling, that uses the learning and understanding of the previous sections.
Green challenge	Specifically targeted questions that extend greater depth skills, encouraging the children to think about their own life experiences, relating these to scripture and prayer and what they can learn from it.

Pupils will be introduced to religious practices and beliefs through teaching and experiences, such as real life experiences, religious scripture and visits to places of worship. They will be guided to respond to these experiences within lessons using their senses and extensive use of role-play, drama, art and other activities. Furthermore the children will respond to key religious beliefs and scripture through child initiated prayer, school worship, religious meditation and class worship. Pupils will be given opportunities to experience the traditions and phenomena of religion.

Impact

Successful religious education will provide children with a secure knowledge and understanding of:

- A range of religious scripture
- A range of religious beliefs
- A range of religious symbols and steps in worship

This then will enable children to make links between belief and sources / worship / lived experience. They will be able to use a wide range of religious vocabulary confidently to articulate informed decisions about their own beliefs and moral values. It will provide children with clear knowledge of different religions and worldviews. Children will begin to form opinions and be able to contribute to discussions about religious beliefs and practices, showing respect for the beliefs of others.