



## Religious Education Policy St. Bernadette Catholic Primary School

### Our Mission Statement

*“Living and Learning through Christ”*

At St Bernadette Catholic Primary school Catholicity permeates all aspects of teaching and learning. Our values and beliefs aim to provide a strong level of coherence and focus which enriches the whole child. High standards are expected and articulated so that they are made explicit to all.

### **Our Mission**

**St Bernadette Primary School enables children to succeed and learn for life by providing them with:**

- An inclusive ethos of support, challenge and encouragement where Catholicity permeates all aspects of school life.
- An opportunity to develop their relationship with God through worship, prayer and belonging to a Catholic community where Christian values are all encompassing.
- A broad, balanced and challenging curriculum.
- High quality innovative teaching from committed and enthusiastic staff, with a collaborative approach to learning and teaching.
- Up-to-date learning resources to match the requirements of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, both recreational and educational.
- An enriching programme of extra-curricular activities and visits.
- A secure, supportive, challenging and stimulating environment which is stress free and happy.
- Spiritual and moral growth through a learning partnership between the School, Parish and Family.
- Clear and open channels of communication between staff, children and parents.

### **Rationale.**

“Catholics believe that Religious Education is not one subject amongst many but the foundation of the entire education process. The beliefs and values it communicates should inspire and unify every aspect of school, life.” (Bishops Conference of England and Wales 1988).

We also recognise that our children come from a range of backgrounds and abilities and that our teaching of Religious Education will reflect this.

### **Aims.**

Curriculum Religious Education in school aims to promote:

- knowledge and understanding of Catholic faith and life.
- knowledge and understanding of the response of faith to the ultimate questions about human life, its origin and purpose.



- the skills required to engage in examination of and reflection upon religious belief and practice.

### **Objectives.**

- to develop knowledge and understanding of the mystery of God and of Jesus Christ, of the Church and of the central beliefs which Catholics hold.
- to develop awareness and appreciation of Catholic belief, understanding of its impact on personal and social behaviour and of the vital relationship between faith and life, life and faith.
- to encourage study, investigation and reflection by the pupils.
- to develop appropriate skills: for example to listen, to think and to respect the view of others: awareness of the spiritual, of moral responsibility, of the demands of religious commitment in every day life and especially the challenge of living in a multicultural, multi-faith society.

### **Religious Education in the Classroom**

Since the total curriculum in our school is based on the values of the Gospel and because we see all education as revealing the mystery of God, we recognise two aspects of Religious Education in the school:

- Implicit or unstructured RE: those opportunities which arise in the course of the school day to lead pupils through curriculum content or through relationships to a religious understanding of their implications. It is the policy of the school to use such opportunities as they arise.
- Explicit or Curriculum RE: those timetabled or planned periods of time given to an explicit consideration of RE in the classroom. It is the policy of the school to give 10% of the timetable to KS1 (2 hours) and 10% to KS2 (2 ½ hours).

### **Other faiths and other world religions**

Vatican II was a major step forward in openness of attitude and relationships with believers of other faiths. Catholics are called to be committed to respecting people of other faiths and to recognise that God is at work in them.

In the multi-faith society of today, RE should introduce children to the background and beliefs of people of other faiths so that prejudice and misunderstanding can be overcome from an early age.

We explore Judaism, Islam, Hinduism and Sikhism. We follow the recommended approach and teaching material for other faiths provided in 'God Matters', using other resources and visitors to supplement this.

### **Guidelines.**

To fulfil our aims and objectives we use the God Matters programme to adhere to the Curriculum Directory as prescribed by the Diocese..

We adhere to the process recommended by the Curriculum Directory of Search, Revelation, Reflect and Respect parts of the process. Revelation in the Relate section and Response in the sections involving Rejoice, Remember and Renew.

### **Special Educational Needs & Equal Opportunities**



In our school we teach RE to all children, whatever their ability. The teaching of RE is a vital part of our school curriculum policy, which states that we provide a broad and balanced education for all our children. When teaching RE we ensure that we provide learning opportunities matched to the needs of children with learning difficulties. We take into account the targets set for individual children in their Individual Education Plans (IEPs).

Spiritual, Moral and Social Education The Jigsaw and Journey in Love programmes encourage the children to think about their relationships and act responsibly. Year 6 children take on responsibility roles within the school. The chaplaincy group is composed of Year 5 and Year 6 pupils. Our behaviour policy is founded on the principles of restorative justice.

### **Role of RE Lead**

The Role of the Religious Education Co-ordinator is to:

Liaise with the Parish Priest to arrange School Masses, Paraliturgies, Classroom Celebrations, Reconciliation, Special Feasts and Masses in school and Church.

Observe, monitor and evaluate RE across the school.

Lead staff meetings with an RE focus.

Liaise with Governors.

Attend diocesan RE Subject leader CPD opportunities and meetings.

Organise and distribute planning and assessment documents to colleagues.

Provide guidance to colleagues when requested.

Have an overview of RE in the school.

Be responsible for RE resources and the purchase of new materials within the confines of the school spending plan.

### **Home, School, Parish links**

We recognise the importance of parents and carers as the child's first teacher and their role in faith development. Parents and staff do everything possible to work in close partnership. There are many opportunities for parents to engage in school life.

St Bernadette Catholic School seeks, in partnership with parents and parish, to develop and nurture the Catholic faith of our children. We strive to bring pupils to a fuller understanding and knowledge of the Roman Catholic tradition.

We celebrate mass in school and in the parish church. Children are prepared for Holy Communion at the parish churches of St Bernadette and St Gerard Magella.

Christmas and Easter celebrations take place in the school hall and parish churches in consultation with the parish priest.

### **Conclusion**

Successful Religious Education in St Bernadette Catholic Primary School aims to cultivate and educate “religiously literate young people who have:- knowledge, understanding and skills appropriate to their age and capacity to link spiritually, ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.”



We have carefully considered and analysed the impact of this policy on equality and the possible implications for pupils with protected characteristics, as part of our commitment to meet the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) requirement to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

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