

EMMAUS



Catholic and Church of England Academy

Religious Education Policy

The school's statement of ethos and values

We are a joint denominational school, which means we are part of two church families – the Church of England and the Catholic Church.

Our belief in Christ is at the heart of our school.

We embrace everyone as a unique individual who is precious to God. We nurture the whole child, celebrating their efforts and achievements whilst encouraging their aspirations and developing their potential.

We work in partnership with our families, our parish churches and our wider community.

We respect and care for one another, practising forgiveness and reconciliation, reflecting Gods love.

Our pupils enjoy learning, reflect on their thinking, have fun and have a deep sense of pride in their school.

Rationale of Religious Education

In the life of faith of the Catholic School, religious education plays a central and vital part. At the heart of Catholic education lies the Christian vision of the human person. This vision is expressed and explored in Religious Education. Therefore, religious education is never simply one subject among many, but the foundation of the entire educational process. The beliefs and values studied in Catholic religious education inspire and draw together every aspect of the life of a Catholic school. We are committed to classroom RE, then, because all pupils have the right to receive an overall education which will enable them, in the light of the faith of the Church, to engage with the deepest questions of life and find reasons for the hope which is within them (1 Peter 3.15). Religious education is, then, the core subject in a Catholic school.

(Statement from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales 2000).

Aims and Objectives of Religious Education

At Emmaus we have the following aims and objectives for Religious Education as set out in the Bishops' Curriculum Directory as published in 2012:

- To present engagingly a comprehensive content which is the basis of knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith;
- To enable pupils continually to deepen their religious and theological understanding and be able to communicate this effectively;
- To present an authentic vision of the Church's moral and social teaching so that pupils can make a critique of the underlying trends in the contemporary culture and society;
- To raise pupils' awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities in order to respect and understand them;
- To develop the critical faculties of pupils so that they can relate their Catholic faith to daily life;
- To stimulate pupils' imagination and provoke a desire for personal meaning as revealed in the truth of the Catholic faith;
- To enable pupils to relate the knowledge gained through Religious Education to their understanding of other subjects in the curriculum;
- To bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture.

Religious Education in the Classroom

We recognise two aspects of Religious Education in our school:-

- a. Implicit/informal Religious Education – We see these as opportunities that arise within the course of a school day to lead pupils to a religious understanding of the implications of relationships or curriculum content.
- b. Explicit, or Curriculum Religious Education – those time tabled or planned periods of time given to an explicit consideration of Religious Education in the classroom. It is the policy of our schools to give 10% of curriculum time to Religious Education.

Inclusion

All pupils in our schools, irrespective of ability, faith and background will have appropriate differentiated access to the Religious Education programme.

Programmes of Study

In line with Diocesan guidelines we have adopted the Roman Catholic Programme of Study: Come and See. This programme of study is used to inform planning and teaching from Foundation Stage to Year 6.

The Process of Teaching

We adhere to the process recommended by the Curriculum Directory of Search, Revelation and Response and use Come and See to do this, in the process 'Search-Explore', 'Revelation-Reveal', 'Response-Respond'.

We acknowledge and reflect the Bishops' view of the importance of high quality religious education: "Excellence in religious education, then, will be characterised by a clarity of succinct religious learning objectives and of key content, by appropriate methodologies, rigour, richness of resources, achievement of identified outcomes and accurate methods of assessment. Classroom RE will be a challenging educational; engagement between the pupil, the teacher and the authentic subject material."

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

Assessment, Recording and Reporting of Religious Education is addressed in the book "Levels of Attainment in Religious Education in Catholic Schools and Colleges" (Bishops' conference 2010). It is essential that teachers are familiar with the publication.

Our schools will adhere to the assessment guidelines offered periodically by the Diocese of Hallam, and will respond accordingly.

Assessment in religious education is related to the concepts, skills and attitudes to be developed through learning about and learning from religion. Assessment establishes what children know, understand, can do and how to get there. It offers support and motivation to the termly formal assessment in line with the guidance from the Diocese of Hallam. Alongside this, children are assessed by themselves on their teacher at the end of every topic using target cards in RE books.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is to be reviewed every 2 years.

Approved

Spring Term 2019

Signed on behalf of the Governors

Name