



ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

MISSION STATEMENT

I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full - John 10:10

As a Catholic school, God is at the heart of all we do. We believe that each person is made in His image, deserving to be treated with respect and dignity.

Showing respect, love and care for everyone and everything, we aim to develop harmony between pupils, parents the school and Parish and grow as a Christian community.

We aim to embed the virtues in every child to believe in themselves to be the best that they can be and leave school as well-rounded individuals who care about themselves, others, and the world.

This policy must be read in conjunction with the
Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Date drafted: May 2024

Date ratified by the Local Governing Committee: May 2024

Date for review by Staff and Governors: July 2025

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Religious Education Subject Leads: Megan Gowan & Nicola Tippen

1. RATIONALE

At St Thomas More Catholic Primary School we aim for our pupils to experience Religious Education as the core of the curriculum. Pupils learn about different aspects of the Catholic religion and also other faiths. Lessons are designed for pupils to gain 'knowledge and understanding about stories, scriptures, special people and beliefs, signs, symbols and religious terms'. More importantly, the lessons ask pupils what can they learn and understand from this knowledge and how they or others can apply this in their lives. As they progress through the school, older pupils begin to analyse these views.

In addition, at St Thomas More we ensure that our Mission Statement is lived out every day. This runs alongside our Catholic Ethos and Virtues. We ensure that St Thomas More is a school which is building God's kingdom by:

- Providing a place where Jesus' actions are lived out every through asking 'What would Jesus do?'
- Giving children the opportunities to become independent learners in the whole school environment.
- Allowing equality for all.
- Providing high expectations of all staff and pupils.
- Providing an environment in which behaviour, self-discipline and showing respect for the rights and views of others is everyday practice and consistently kept to a high standard.
- Ensuring that the curriculum gives every child an opportunity to learn through their own learning style.
- Providing a place where everyone feels valued and respected as members of a community.
- Celebrating all the individual and collective achievements from children, staff and parents.
- Having a thriving community, where staff and parents can work together to ensure excellence for each child.

But most of all to ensure that every member of our community can '... have life and have it to the full.' (John 10:10)

2. AIMS

Through Religious Education we aim to:

- Help pupils to grow in confidence in God's love.
- Continue to develop their sense of awe, wonder and reverence in the world around them.
- Develop within children a reverence for God and all things of God.
- Help children in their search for the meaning of life through the way in which God reveals himself in Christ, developing an understanding of the Gospel.
- Ensure that Religious Education is a prominent subject and is treated as a core subject in the curriculum.
- Put God, and therefore religious education, at the heart of the life of the school.
- Teach RE in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- Provide opportunities for children to celebrate their faith through liturgy, sacrament and prayer
- Develop a respect for each other and all people, including those of different faith and cultural backgrounds.
- Contribute to the child's understanding of morality, choice and responsibility for their present, youth and adult life.
- Foster in all the understanding of God's Kingdom through work in our local and wider community.
- Ensure the liturgical year is reflected in the life and activities of the school.
- Develop an understanding of other world faiths.
- Strengthen the relationship between home, parish and feeder schools.
- Work with the other Catholic schools in the Little Way partnership.
- Provide adequate resources in terms of both personnel and materials required to implement the policy.
- Use ICT in a meaningful way to extend pupil's learning.
- Provide in-service training for teachers so that they have opportunities to deepen their own faith.

3. OUR APPROACH TO THESE AIMS AT ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Teaching and Learning

At St Thomas More all subjects are taught with God at the centre and in the light of the Christian faith. We use a variety of teaching and learning styles in Religious Education lessons. We share the learning intention based upon the "God Matters" programme, as recommended by Clifton Diocese, alongside support planning and resources supplemented by Clifton Diocese. We are complying with the Diocese on the introduction of the new RED curriculum. For the academic year 2023-2024, the RED curriculum will be introduced in Reception and Year 3.

Within each week, there is a Guided Reading Scripture based lesson, an oracy lesson and a Religious Education lesson, which all link together for a focus of one Learning Objective. The scripture session, during guided reading time, focusses on a key piece of scripture, prayer, psalm linked to the learning of the RE unit or particular lesson. VIPERS questions are

used to ensure a deeper understanding of the key text, which can then be referred back to in the RE lesson. Each R.E session then begins with an oracy session. In these sessions, learning intentions, key scripture and teachings are explored through active sessions which include: role play, reading, research, questioning, debates and in-depth discussions. This helps promote and provide a deeper understanding, which can then be applied in written responses and through actions.

The Religious Education Subject Lead provides teachers with a yearly overview, which the teachers use to support them in planning R.E. sessions based on the relevant "God Matters" teachers' book from which they formulate lessons plans. Teachers also have access to updated "God Matters" documentation from the Clifton Diocese website, which is used to support subject knowledge and planning.

To support teachers further, the R.E. Subject Lead provides medium term planning along with vocabulary and scripture progressions to ensure progress and so that key learning can be reinforced and embedded.

Differentiation

We differentiate by:

- Dialogue
- Giving extra time to some groups
- Scaffolding
- Asking different level questions to match ability
- Varying the level of adult support given to groups

Use of ICT

ICT will be used as appropriate to assist the recording of responses and research in supporting children to access the subject.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

The children's work in R.E. lessons can be recorded in a variety of ways, including written, photographic, art work, etc. This is used in assessment, as well as their participation in Celebration of the Word. It is recognised that discussions and oral assessments are often valid forms of assessment.

Children may be assessed on their knowledge and understanding of the "God Matters" topics studied and their moral development and attitudes. Children's spiritual development cannot be readily assessed, although some children may give indications of this through participation in class discussions and their attitude and behaviour towards adults and each other.

Attainment is tracked for each year group using the Insight assessment system. With these, teachers are now able to indicate each pupil's attainment in R.E. three times a

year, in accordance with age-related expectations. Pupils' attainment is recorded against the following areas:

- AT1: Learning about (KS1 and KS2)
- AT2: Engage and respond (KS1 and KS2)
- AT3: Analysis and evaluation (KS2)

Marking

Marking will be in line with the school's Marking Policy. Pupils will also have written and verbal feedback.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The R.E. Subject Leads, in conjunction with the Senior Leadership Team, are responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of R.E. standards and provision within the school. Our 'Timetable for Subject Monitoring and Evaluation' sets out the annual cycle of activities. The R.E. Subject Lead maintains a 'Monitoring and Evaluation Portfolio' of evidence from monitoring and evaluation activities. This is built upon, evaluated and informs future actions. Governors are supplied with the key findings and relevant documentation and the governors responsible for the curriculum make visits to discuss and observe teaching and learning.

Monitoring and evaluation activities include:

- Work and assessment scrutiny
- Drop in Glow & Grow lesson observations
- Sampling children's work and discussion
- Pupil conferencing
- Analysis of standards achieved

Role of the Subject Lead

The role of the Subject lead is to co-ordinate the teaching of Religious Education within the school and to monitor the use of the Policy and Scheme of Work. They are also expected to monitor and maintain resources for the whole school. The lead would also be expected to provide information about R.E. for the School Development Plan. They should also provide support to staff as they teach R.E. and inform them of courses and developments in R.E. The R.E. Leads attend Diocesan training and Little Way Partnership meetings to keep abreast of the developments and share good practice. Staff are notified of courses available for CPD and are kept informed of new information and initiatives. Any training attended by staff is disseminated to the rest of the staff.

Local Governing Committee

Link governors will carry out a link governor visit meeting with the Subject Lead and class teachers to ensure that they have a comprehensive picture of the subject, pupil's

learning and Policy. This will be recorded in a link governor Summary Report as part of our monitoring process.

Resources

The R.E. Subject Lead, with support from the Senior Leadership Team is responsible for ordering and updating resources to support the teaching of R.E. Materials used will be regularly reviewed by staff and updated. Resources will be managed by the Subject Lead and teachers.

Informing Parents

Parents are informed of the R.E. Programme of Study through the unit RE Newsletters. They are also invited into the school to see class teachers twice a year to discuss their child's progress and development in all curricular areas, including Religious Education. In addition, throughout the year, parents are invited to attend Class Liturgies and Whole School Masses. At the end of the academic year, parents are given an Annual Report which comments on their child's level in Religious Education, and the skills and attitudes developed, and participation in discussions and collective worship.

Inclusion

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School is an inclusive school. We aim to make all pupils feel included in all our activities. We recognise the entitlement of all pupils to a broad and balanced curriculum. We have systems in place for early identification of barriers to their learning and participation so that they can engage in activities with all other pupils. We acknowledge the need for high expectations for all children.

Equal Opportunities

All children have an entitlement to participate fully in R.E. lessons, regardless of gender, race, age or ability, in accordance with the school Equal Opportunities Policy. Children for whom English is an additional language (EAL) will receive additional support as appropriate.

To be read in conjunction with the following additional policies:

- Equal Opportunities
- Teaching and Learning
- SEND and Inclusion