

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

OVERVIEW

Formal Religious Education (RE) is delivered through the scheme **The Way the Truth and the Life**, which is followed according to the Shrewsbury Diocesan guidelines and implemented from Early years through to year 6. At St James' Catholic Primary School, we want every child to follow in the footsteps of Jesus and to be happy and enthusiastic learners of RE. We want them to do everything for the glory of God and for them to be eager to achieve their very best in order to fulfil their God-given talents.

Our principal aim is that children leave St. James' Catholic Primary School with a wide range of joyful and rich memories in Religious Education. Our intent, implementation and impact statements set out how we will achieve this aim.

INTENT

1. To provide pupils with interesting and exciting experiences driven through an engaging and comprehensive curriculum.
2. To develop pupil's knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith, enabling them to develop a living and personal faith in Jesus Christ and allowing them to know and love God.
3. To ensure that RE is the foundation of the entire education process and permeates all areas of the curriculum and school life.
4. To make the whole of our community feel welcome. Parents, family members, friends (of whatever faith or no faith) and parishioners will be invited to attend Masses and religious celebrations within both school and our Church.
5. To develop pupils (and their parents) knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the Sacraments.
6. To ensure that at St James', pupils will be prepared for life in a multi-faith society by fostering respect for and understanding of our rich cultural diversity.
7. To give pupils opportunities during RE lessons to obtain transferable skills such as making links and connections; engaging and responding; analysing and evaluating and using sources of evidence.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. Each year group will study six units over the year. The units are developmental, building on previous knowledge, skills and experience and taking into account the children's age and understanding. The topics covered by each year group are as detailed on the curriculum overview.
2. Carefully designed schemes of learning in RE ensure consistency and progress for all learners. Children will be highly engaged in RE lessons through the use of a variety of resources such as religious stories, scripture, artefacts, religious artwork, songs, music, dance and religious signs and symbols.
3. The life and work of key figures in the history of the people of God will be studied for example, lives of the saints or other inspirational people. Particular focus will be given to St James' and to the four House Saints.
4. Pupils will regularly participate in Celebration of the Word which includes: prayer time, Mass, feast days, Holy days, liturgical singing which will involve religious actions and worship, partake in Reconciliation Services, and celebrate the Sacrament of the Eucharist.
5. Pupils will plan and prepare their own Celebration of the Word in class, for assemblies and for Mass. This is usually based on their current RE topic or the Liturgical Season.
6. We will provide pupils with opportunities to learn about world faiths including Islam and Judaism through artefacts and visits to places of worship.
7. Pupils at St. James' will take great pride in their RE work and are enthusiastic to share and discuss their ideas.

IMPACT

Children are happy learners, and they experience a wide range of learning challenges in RE and know appropriate responses to them. Children of all abilities and backgrounds achieve well in RE, reflected in progress that reveals a clear learning journey. Children talk enthusiastically about their learning in RE and are eager to further their learning in the next stages of their education. Clear outcomes focus and guide all RE development plans and drive improvement. The children will grow to know and love God, develop their moral and spiritual nature and deepen their faith. Through studying other faiths children will develop an appreciation of the diverse world we live in and will become more tolerant of people. Children will know they are unique and made in the image and likeness of God; they will have understanding that we are all different but special and unique in our own way. Children will be able to define, describe and discuss areas of RE. They will confidently use skills such as: retelling, describing, comparing, giving reasons, analysing, explaining the meaning of biblical stories and considering the impact of beliefs.

Revised and adopted by the Governing BodyDate.....Review Date.....