



## **St Ambrose Catholic Primary Academy**

***‘Follow the example of Jesus’***

### **Religious Education Policy**

Approved by the Governing body in September 2022

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Chair of Governors

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Headteacher

To be reviewed and revised in September 2024

# MISSION STATEMENT

## Follow the example of Jesus

### To do this we will:

- Show respect by being friendly to everyone, looking after everything that God has created and treating everyone as we would like to be treated ourselves. (Christ centred)
- Provide a high quality education which enables everyone to reach their full potential within a caring and supportive environment. (Education)
- Celebrate the school's place in the community and the wider world. (Community)

### Objectives:

#### (Christ Centred)

- Provide quality collective worship and enriching liturgical celebrations.
- Enable our children to acquire an excellent religious education, through a well taught and resourced Come and See programme.
- Encourage all to develop their understanding of and relationship with God, while at the same time respecting that others choose to express their faith in different ways.
- Be positive role models, who treat each other with respect and are willing to forgive and be forgiven.

#### (Education)

- As teachers, to be both inspirational and creative so that every child's achievements are recognised and celebrated and that they are encouraged to become independent learners.
- To provide a safe and happy learning environment so that every child feels valued and secure within our school family.
- To encourage regular communication with parents by creating a positive and caring support network for the extended school family.

#### (Community)

- To join with the parish and local community to celebrate special occasions throughout the year.
- To enhance the curriculum by uniting as one all of the generations in the community and fostering mutual respect.
- To provide opportunities for the children to visit places of interest and experience a range of different cultural events in order for them to gain a better appreciation of the world around them and to 'fire' their own aspirations.
- To participate in charitable activities and be able to empathise with the needs of others.

## THE MISSION STATEMENT

The foundation of our Religious Education Policy is based on our mission statement. We aim to develop children who 'follow the example of Jesus' in their everyday lives. We understand that this mission permeates through our entire curriculum and throughout our children's education.

At St Ambrose, we aim to create and maintain a loving environment in which every child feels valued and welcomed into our school community – regardless as race, gender or disability.

Our mission statement underpins all that we teach and is evident every day both inside and outside the classroom.

## AIMS

The aim of Religious Education at St Ambrose Catholic Primary School is to offer our children a study of the Mystery of God, the life and the teaching of Jesus and His church, the basis for our faith and the relationship between faith and our everyday life. We aim to achieve this through lessons which encourage our children to investigate, reflect and develop the skills and attitudes required to follow Jesus' example.

*"It is necessary, therefore, that Religious Education in schools be regarded as an academic discipline with the same systematic demands and the same rigour as other disciplines...Religious Education in schools underpins, activates, develops and completes the educational and catechetical activity of the whole school."*

*(Religious Education Curriculum Directory – 2012).*

## THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMME: COME AND SEE

To fulfil our aims in Religious Education, we use the *Come and See* programme prescribed by the Archdiocese of Liverpool which involves:

- Exploring the religious dimension of questions about life, dignity and purpose within the child's own experiences and within universal experiences.
- To value our Christian belief in Jesus Christ, Word and Revelation about God.
- Links to other faiths.

**Children** *come and see the wonder of all that is within them and beyond them.*

**God** *offers the invitation to come and see.*

**Teachers** *facilitate the opportunity for children to come and see.*

The *Come and See* programme is split into 2 attainment targets, these are:

AT1: Learning about Religion; Knowledge & Understanding of (Content based).

AT2: Learning from Religion; Reflection on meaning (Process Based).

Attainment Target 1 has 3 strands:

AT1 (i) beliefs, teachings & sources – CHURCH THEMES.

AT2 (ii) celebration & ritual – SACRAMENTAL THEMES.

AT3 (iii) social & moral practices and way of life – CHRISTIAN LIVING THEMES.

Attainment Target 2 has 2 strands:

AT2 (i) engagement with own and other beliefs & values.

AT2 (ii) engagement with questions of meaning and purpose.

*Come and See* is developed through 3 themes based on the 4 constitutions of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vatican Council, which are gradually explored each time at greater depths. They are Church, Sacrament and Christian Living. Each theme is taught once per term as outlined below:

	Church	Sacrament	Christian Living
Autumn	<i>Domestic Church</i>	<i>Baptism, Confirmation &amp; Ordination</i>	<i>Advent – Christmas</i>
Spring	<i>Local Church</i>	<i>Eucharist</i>	<i>Lent &amp; Easter</i>
Summer	<i>Universal Church</i>	<i>Reconciliation &amp; Anointing of the Sick</i>	<i>Pentecost</i>

Each class follows a different topic based on the whole school theme. These topics are outlined below:

	EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
<b>Autumn 1</b>	<i>Myself</i>	<i>Families</i>	<i>Beginnings</i>	<i>Homes</i>	<i>People</i>	<i>Ourselves</i>	<i>Loving</i>
<b>Autumn 2</b>	<i>Welcome</i>	<i>Belonging</i>	<i>Signs &amp; Symbols</i>	<i>Promises</i>	<i>Called</i>	<i>Life Choices</i>	<i>Vocation &amp; Commitment</i>
<b>Autumn 3</b>	<i>Birthday</i>	<i>Waiting</i>	<i>Preparations</i>	<i>Visitors</i>	<i>Gift</i>	<i>Hope</i>	<i>Expectations</i>
<b>Spring 1</b>	<i>Celebrating</i>	<i>Special People</i>	<i>Books</i>	<i>Journeys</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Mission</i>	<i>Sources</i>
<b>Spring 2</b>	<i>Gathering</i>	<i>Meals</i>	<i>Thanksgiving</i>	<i>Listening &amp; Sharing</i>	<i>Giving &amp; Receiving</i>	<i>Memorial Sacrifice</i>	<i>Unity</i>
<b>Spring 3</b>	<i>Growing</i>	<i>Changing</i>	<i>Opportunities</i>	<i>Giving All</i>	<i>Self-Discipline</i>	<i>Sacrifice</i>	<i>Death &amp; New Life</i>
<b>Summer 1</b>	<i>Good News</i>	<i>Holidays &amp; Holydays</i>	<i>Spread the Word</i>	<i>Energy</i>	<i>New Life</i>	<i>Transformation</i>	<i>Witnesses</i>
<b>Summer 2</b>	<i>Friends</i>	<i>Being Sorry</i>	<i>Rules</i>	<i>Choices</i>	<i>Building Bridges</i>	<i>Freedom &amp; Responsibility</i>	<i>Healing</i>
<b>Summer 3</b>	<i>Our World</i>	<i>Neighbours</i>	<i>Treasures</i>	<i>Special Places</i>	<i>God's People</i>	<i>Stewardship</i>	<i>Common Good</i>

## THE PROCESS

As Religious Education is considered to be at the core of the curriculum in our school, it is allocated a total teaching time of 10% of available curriculum time for each year group.

Each topic is taught using the format below:

Explore – The teacher helps the children to begin to look at and focus on the experience within their own lives – concerning themselves, their relationships and their world. This will involve: exploring experiences through story, dance, drama etc; investigation; discussion; consideration of the *Big* questions and reflecting on the significance of these experiences.  
(This will take one week of RE time to complete.)

Reveal – This is the heart of the process. The teacher and the children together discover the Christian understanding of the mystery of the Trinity; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It involves learning about scripture and linking this with their everyday lives. They will also learn about the teaching of the Church, prayers, rites, psalms, hymns and other expressions of Christian faith as well as the lives of outstanding Christians.

(This will take two weeks of RE time to complete.)

Respond – This is split into 3 parts: Remember (in which the children will remember and celebrate all that they have learnt over the topic), Rejoice (when the children can plan and take part in a celebration) and finally Renew (when the teacher helps the child to make an individual response showing what they have understood about the topic). The work for this part of the learning process is recorded in Learning Journeys which move through the school with each class and acts as a record of their work in RE throughout their time in St Ambrose.

(This will take one week of RE time to complete.)

## OTHER FAITHS

We study one other faith during both the Autumn and Summer Terms. One of these faiths is Judaism since Christians and Jews have a common spiritual heritage. The other is either Islam, Hinduism or Sikhism. The process of teaching these other faiths will be through the approach: 'Look', 'Discover', 'Respect' and lessons will take place over one week of RE time.

## PLANNING

Long Term planning – This is the responsibility of the RE Lead (following the *Come and See* programme).

Medium Term planning – This is the responsibility of the RE Lead (following the *Come and See* programme).

Short Term planning – This is the responsibility of the class teacher (following the *Come and See* programme and on the planning grids provided by the Christian Education Department).

Planning is to be completed and then saved in the RE Section of the Staff Shared Drive.

## ASSESSMENT – UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Like any other area of the curriculum, we assess how the children are developing. We are not assessing their beliefs but rather looking at how they are developing in relation to the 2 attainment targets mentioned earlier.

Early Years Foundation Stage: A portfolio of annotated work from each topic including photographic evidence is kept by the class teacher. This is used as evidence for the formal assessment records. The children also undertake assessment once each term along with the children from Key Stage 1 & 2.

Key Stage 1 & 2: Children are assessed according the Standard Indicators for each topic using their work throughout the term as a guide. This data is entered in O Track at the end of each term to show progression throughout the year.

There are Formal assessment using expectations and Standard Indicators which is carried out once each term and is undertaken in the 'Respond' section. An activity will be given by the

Archdiocese from *Come and See* that enables the children to show how they have met the learning outcome. This will be marked against the expectation statements and attainment levels. This work is recorded in the children's record of attainment in Religious Education which will follow them throughout their school lives. The formally assessed work acts as further evidence of the children's attainment although it is not used as a stand alone piece of evidence.

## MODERATION

For moderation purposes, each teacher will select 3 pieces of children's work to bring to a staff meeting once per term to ensure levels achieved and teacher expectations are uniform within our school. The RE Lead will keep examples of levelled work for evidence and also will cross-moderate pieces of work with Leads from across the Archdiocese to ensure uniformity with other schools.

## REPORTING

Parents and families are advised of their child's topics in the termly Learning Journeys. The information is also put on the school website. Achievements in RE are reported to parents at Parents' Evenings (October/March) and also in the end of year reports. As RE is the core subject in our school, the subject appears first on our reports.

## THE SCHOOL IN THE COMMUNITY

Parents and other visitors are invited to participate in our celebration masses, assemblies and collective worships. The school enjoys a very close relationship with the Parish, taking part in services and celebrations.

As a Catholic school, we aim to develop the children's charity towards others in the community. We involve the children in charity fundraising events throughout the year including Nugent Care and Cafod.

## RESOURCES

Each teacher has access to the *Come and See* website which has all of the electronic resources needed and a John Burland CD relevant to their year group. Other artefacts and resources are stored in the RE cupboard in the Resource Room including photos, religious statues and artefacts and resources linked to other faiths.

## STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The RE Lead will attend Liverpool Archdiocesan Cluster Group meetings as well as South Liverpool cluster meetings and termly co-ordinator briefings. Staff will be informed by the Lead of any courses which would be beneficial to them.

## DISPLAYS

Each class has their own focus table which is adapted throughout the year to reflect the liturgical calendar. RE displays are changed in class to fit in with each topic and driver words appropriate to the year groups are prominently displayed.