St Augustine's Catholic Primary School

Be the Best You Can Be

RE Policy

September 2021- September 2023

St. Augustine’s RE Policy

This Policy should be read in conjunction with the Equal Opportunities Policy and Procedure (2020).

St. Augustine's endeavours to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations for all.

Our Mission Statement Prayer

Lead us Lord,

To Act Justly,

To Love tenderly

And To walk humbly.

Amen.

Policy Aims

This policy is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for teaching RE at St. Augustine’s Catholic Primary.

At St. Augustine’s School we are dedicated to developing the well-being and potential of every person made in the image and likeness of God.

Our Gospel Values are at the centre of everything we do.

Through our Religious Education, we aim:

• To foster a love of God through knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Faith from scripture and doctrine.

• To teach our children about the mystery of God, as discovered through the bible and though the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

• To encourage the development of a personal relationship with God.

• To use Catholic teaching to enable our children to learn about mission and to spread the gospel message by the example of their own lives through an understanding of the relationship between faith and life.

• To help our children grow spiritually.

• To provide opportunities for prayer, reflection and celebration.

• To help our children be aware of and respect other faiths.

• To develop respect for truth and for the views of others.

• To encourage children to listen, explore and reflect.

• To provide opportunities for analysis and critical appreciation of sources.

• To develop thinking skills and to learn the language of religious life and experience.

• To provide a range of skills that can be applied to other areas of the curriculum.

Intent

At St. Augustine's Catholic Primary School, we are passionate about children's learning.

The Cognitive Load research theory and Rosenshine's Principles of Instruction highlights that children learn through remembering and recalling and this theory is embedded this within the knowledge of our RE curriculum. 'Learning is Remembering and Recalling...'

St. Augustine's RE teaching provides inspiring and relevant learning opportunities for our children to develop the knowledge and skills that can be fluently applied in all areas of their lives.

We ensure that our RE teaching is inclusive and that all children's individual needs are met through:

- Clarity of succinct religious learning objectives.
- Key content that is accessible to all.
- Using appropriate methodologies such as Rosenshine's Principles of Instruction.
- Providing rigour in the form of remembering and recall opportunities.
- Providing a richness of resources.
- Accurate methods of assessment that allow for teachers to plan next steps appropriately.

Implementation

At St. Augustine's School we incorporate our Gospel Values into every aspect of our work with the children.

- We do this through:

Humility	Showing a willingness to look after ourselves, others and the environment, following the teachings of Laudato Si.' SEEING OUR LIVES AS A GIFT	We strive to respect the feelings, wishes and rights of others. 'Blessed are the poor in Spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven'- Matthew 5: 3
Kindness	Aiming to be kind to everyone through our thoughts, words and actions. ACTING WITH GENTLENESS	We try to achieve this through including everyone as friends. 'Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the world.'-Matthew 5:5
Forgiveness	Our willingness to put our lives in the hands of God. RECONCILIATION	We request help by expressing thanks to God. 'Blessed are the merciful, for they shall be shown mercy.' Matthew 5:7
Peace	Striving to be clam in all situations. BEING COMMITTED TO PEACEMAKING AND NON VIOLENCE	We try our hardest to achieve our best and take pride in everything we do. 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.' Matthew 5:9
Compassion	Trying hard to support others in any way that we can. SHOWING EMPATHY	We strive to create a community that is understanding, united and equal. 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.' Matthew 5:4
Integrity	Our willingness to be honest in what we say and what we do. DOING WHAT WE SAY.	We try to be truthful, trustworthy and responsible. 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.' Matthew 5:8
Courage	A willingness to strive in order to achieve. STANDING UP FOR THE TRUTH.	We aim to persevere and make brave choices even when it's not easy. 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.' Matthew 5:10

Justice	A willingness to do what you think is right. WORKING FOR A FAIRER WORLD.	We aim to use every moment to develop our sense of fairness on a local, national and global level. 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.' Matthew 5:6

From September 2021, in line with other CAST schools, we will be incorporating the Catholic Virtues into our work with the children.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines the human virtues as firm attitudes, stable dispositions and habitual perfections of intellect and will that govern our actions, order our passions and guide our conduct according to reason and faith.
The Catholic Virtues are:
Cardinal Virtues - Prudence, Justice, Fortitude and Temperance.
Theological Virtues - Faith, Hope and Charity.

In teaching Religious Education, we use the **Come and See RE** scheme which has been adopted by all our Plymouth CAST Schools.
The structure of the scheme allows for its implementation to be effective. It ensures that teachers can provide **Quality First Teaching.**

- RE is taught discretely and developmentally.
- The scheme deepens key theological ideas and their application to life.
- In line with the Rosenshine's Principles of Instruction, ample opportunities are offered for children to apply and use their knowledge and skills in cross curricular studies to deepen their understanding of religious truths and think creatively.
- Engagement with their own and others' beliefs and values allow the children to develop good dispositions and attitudes.
- Engagement with difficult questions of meaning and purpose help develop the children's critical thinking.
- The Come and See scheme gives the children an awareness of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life and offers them a sense of self-worth through their experience of belonging to a caring community.

Come and See

The Structure of the Scheme

The scheme is developed through three themes which are gradually explored each time in greater depth.

The themes are: Church Sacraments Christian Living

	Church	Sacraments	Christian Living
Autumn term The 3 themes are designed to develop an understanding of Creation	Family Domestic Church	Belonging-born into Christ's Life Baptism/Confirmation	Loving-Celebrating Life Advent/Christmas
Spring term The 3 themes are designed to develop an understanding of Incarnation	Community Local Church	Relating-God's Love in Our Life Eucharist	Giving-The Cost of Life Lent/Easter
Summer term The 3 themes are designed to develop an understanding of	World Universal Church	Inter-Relating-Service in the Community Reconciliation	Serving in Love Pentecost

Redemption and the work of the Holy Spirit			

Within each of these areas, each year group takes a strand that links directly to the themes and builds year on year.

The Process

Each RE topic is 4 weeks long.

In line with The Catechism of the Catholic Church which addresses the human search for meaning, the scheme is based on this search, with each topic guided through 3 sections:

Explore-1 week-The teacher helps the children begin to look at and focus on the experience within their own lives-concerning themselves, their relationships and their world. In this way the children are led to a deeper understanding, clearer vision and the discovery of significance and value of experiential events in everyday life.

Reveal-2 weeks-Reveal is at 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. They explore the mystery of Human life as revealed in the person, life and gospel of Jesus Christ Christians. This section involves learning about Scripture, the teachings of the Church, prayers, rites, psalms, hymns and other expressions of Christian faith and the lives of outstanding Christians.

Respond/Rejoice-1 week-Remember is the first part of this section. The children respond by remembering and celebrating all that they have learnt. The new understanding then enables them to make a personal response in their daily lives. Rejoice is the second part of this section. The children plan and take part in a liturgical celebration. The children are actively involved in decisions relating to this worship opportunity.

The children consider how they will begin the celebration-Gather

The children will listen to some scripture either read or re-enacted-Word-Listen

The children will then consider how to respond to what they have heard-Response

The children will then consider how they will take something away from the message they've heard-Going Forth.

Classes also learn about events within our Liturgical Year, relevant Saints and times of particular focus.

Each class also studies other World Faiths in order to develop our knowledge and to help promote tolerance and understanding of our friends and neighbours' beliefs and practice.

Every year, children spend two separate weeks learning about these other World Faiths.

Impact

The impact of Religious Education teaching is measured by the formative and summative assessments of the children's learning. These assessments are then used to inform future planning. This triangulates evidence, which enables teachers to track children's progress, to ensure that every child achieves their full potential.

In line with CAST schools, we assess against the children's attainment in RE using the Age Related Standards in Religious Education (3-19)- as set by The Catholic Education Service, approved for use in Catholic Schools by The Department of Catholic Education and Formation of The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.

Teachers use formative and summative assessment techniques to assess the children's understanding in the following areas:

Knowledge and Understanding: Learning about RE

Engagement and Response: Learning from RE

Analysis and Evaluation: Based on RE Understanding from Age 7 upwards.

The skills that teachers assess are:

Recognise	Retell	Describe	Make links/connections	Understand	Explain
Construct arguments	Make reasoned judgements	Recognise Diversity	Analyse	Interpret	Evaluate

The scheme provides clear guidance of the Areas of Learning, Vocabulary, Key Skills and Attainment levels which are covered. Teachers assess against these and from their assessment information, plan next steps in the children's learning to support cohesion of the RE curriculum.

The impact of successful RE teaching shows that:

- Children demonstrate the ability to recall and remember leading to deep learning.
- Children show confidence in believing that they will achieve.
- Each child achieves objectives (expected standard) for year group.
- The flexibility and fluidity to move between different learning situations and to apply knowledge and skills in new learning contexts.
- The chance to develop the ability to recognise relationships and make connections.
- Children show a high level of pride in the presentation and understanding of the work

The RE lead rigorously monitors the Quality First Teaching delivered, use of Rosenshine's Principles of Instruction and the use of effective assessment and feedback used throughout lessons. They ensure that the principles are an ongoing part of teaching and learning at St. Augustine's to ensure that the teaching is guided by the children and meets their individual needs.

Through our school Mission Statement," *Lead us Lord, to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly*", and our school motto, "*Be the best you can be*" our children develop their talents and skills to become confident life-long learners and good citizens.