

**St Leo's and Southmead Catholic
Nursery and Primary School**



Nurture, Inspire, Succeed

**Religious Education Policy
2023-2024**

As part of the St Leo's and Southmead family; our children are happy, resilient and successful. Our school community is enriched by positive role models who nurture and support; delivering a curriculum which embraces memorable opportunities and lifelong skills.

Our Promise

Nurture



We will provide a safe, warm and welcoming environment where everybody is valued

We will develop the whole child through our pastoral approach where inclusive attitudes are modelled every day

Inspire



We will celebrate the skills, talents and natural abilities of everybody in our school community

We will deliver exciting and memorable learning opportunities through our creative curriculum in order to provoke thoughts, dreams and life-long goals

Succeed



We will guide our children so that they are eager to exceed their full potential in all that they do

We will encourage confidence and risk taking through quality first teaching, effective feedback and challenge

Our Values

*Everybody is valued
We are all role models
Talents are celebrated
We never give up*

INTRODUCTION

The following policy has been formed by the parents, Staff, Governors and Parish of St. Leo's and Southmead Catholic Primary School Serving the Community, over a period of time, via discussions, meetings and seeking opinions. Our School Community has transformed itself in recent years to a Catholic School that Serves the Community. Our R.E. Policy truly reflects this major change.

PRINCIPLES

The following are the principles we want to underlay all Religious Education in our school.

1. To develop a respect and understanding of fellow human beings.
2. To realise that everyone is as important as themselves.
3. To develop a positive attitude towards others.
4. To acknowledge each other's talents and gifts.
5. To respect freedom and peace.
6. To respect home/life experiences.
7. To respect other faiths.
8. To help each child form a deeper understanding of the Catholic faith.
9. To acknowledge our children's level of understanding and maturity.
10. To be fully Inclusive of children, families, staff who are not Catholic.

St Leo's and Southmead Catholic Primary School Serving the Community will work with:

Pupils and parents
The Parish and its parishioners
The local Community and the
Wider Community
Local Education
The Archdiocese of Liverpool.

LEARNING INTENTIONS

The Learning Intentions of Curriculum Religious Education in St Leo's and Southmead Catholic Primary School Serving the Community:

- i) To understand the search of meaning.
- ii) To promote knowledge and understanding of the beliefs, values and way of life of the Catholic tradition of Christianity.
- iii) To deepen attitudes of awe, wonder, reverence, respect and compassion.
- iv) To ensure experience of prayer, celebration, reflection, empathy, discernment and evaluation.
- v) To familiarise the children with the technical terms of religious belief, practices, activities, stories, symbols and rituals.
- vi) To support all staff in their own journey of faith and in the delivery of Religious Education.

The fundamental skills, knowledge and concepts of Religious Education are set out in 'Come and See', a Religious Education Programme for Primary Schools. It follows a process:

- Explore
- Reveal
- Respond

This process helps the teachers to help the children by:

- 1) Looking at and focusing on a life experience.
- 2) Exploring this aspect of life experience.
- 3) Leading children to deeper understanding of life experiences
- 4) The presentation of the Christian understanding of this process.
- 5) Celebration in worship.
- 6) To hold on to what they have understood.
- 7) To go back and look again at life experience.

TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGIES

- Religious Education is organised on a subject basis outside the main topic framework of the curriculum. We follow a Whole School Approach to Religious Education as outlined in 'Come and See'. Each year concentrating only on the area of focus identified. At times the school topic and R.E. topics form natural links, and we make sure we take advantage of these, to use opportunities for 'Excellence and Enjoyment'.
- An allocation of 2 ½ hours per week is given to the teaching of Religious Education. This is achieved in various ways depending upon the age of the children.
- The predominant mode of working in Religious Education is in group work, although individual work is used when appropriate. Class work is in the main used to introduce and conclude a topic. The lessons enable the children and teachers to explore in detail their appropriate area of focus, via discussions, practical activities, use of resources and questioning in various forms. The children all have books in which they put some of their Religious Education work.
- All teachers teach Religious Education in the school.
- Parental involvement is encouraged throughout the school, throughout the Curriculum. Parents will assist in helping the children with Religious Education in the classroom and with various outside visits.
- The 'Come and See' scheme provides the framework, which is supported by a variety of activities in school.
- Achievement and individual development are celebrated via:
 - Displays
 - Acknowledgement
 - End of topic Celebrations
 - Assemblies
 - Collective Worship

STRATEGIES FOR ENSURING PROGRESS AND CONTINUITY

Planning Religious Education is a process in which all teachers are involved.

- 1) The foundation for the planning is the Whole School, exploring each religious theme.

- 2) Every four weeks the R.E. Subject Manager introduces the new topic, outlines areas of focus, provides content ideas, resources and information.
- 3) Work plans are drawn up by individual teachers, including aims, content, resources etc... These are monitored by the Head Teacher and R.E. Subject Manager.

FEEDBACK TO PUPILS

Feedback to pupils about their own progress in Religious Education is achieved through:

- Effective marking
- Verbal acknowledgement – praise
- Discussion – individual
- Pupils own recognition shared with teacher
- Celebration
- Scrutinising work together
- Pupil interviews and pupil voice
- Monitoring workbooks and displays

ASSESSMENT

Assessment is used to guide the progress of individual pupils in Religious Education. It involves identifying what the child has learnt and the next stage to follow. Assessment is mostly carried out by teachers in the course of their teaching. Via:

- Group discussions
- Individual discussions
- Specific Assessment tasks
- Formal Assessment guidance from the Archdiocese
- Target Tracker

PARENTAL/CARERS AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- 1) The school website has information about R.E. topics.
- 2) Parents work alongside their children in the classroom.
- 3) Parents are very active within the school
- 4) Parents are invited to end of topic celebrations.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP – see separate policy

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined for the purpose of this guidance as:-

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development.
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

PROMOTING BRITISH VALUES

At St Leo's and Southmead Primary School we aim to help, guide and prepare our children as future citizens and capture what British Values are about:-

- Democracy
- The Rule of Law
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual Respect
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.

We grasp every opportunity throughout the school day to teach, model and show by examples all of the above. We have provided further information on our school website. We are proud of our school and are proud of the British Values that we live and learn about.

To be reviewed September 2024