St. Francis Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs C. Peear

ST. FRANCIS MISSION STATEMENT

Jesus said, '"love one another as I have loved you."

Our aim is to make St. Francis School a loving community, respecting every child and every adult, caring for God's world and helping each other to do our best as we grow together in Christ.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share in this commitment

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Document Detail	
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1. Introduction

We begin by echoing those questioning words of invitation, which are the first words of Christ to his disciples in the Gospel of St John: 'What do you seek?' (John 1:38).

We seek to foster in our children a true understanding of the Catholic faith, a reverence for God and a sense of love and respect for one another. Viewed in this context, Religious Education permeates every aspect of school life.

2. Aims of our Moral Education Related to God

Our children learn that:

- Creation is a gift from God.
- Jesus is a model. He is someone who tells us that if we are to find life, we must love God with all our hearts and our neighbour as ourselves (Lk 10: 27-28).
- The Holy Family is sacred.
- St Francis is the patron of our school.
- Our Lady is the mother of Jesus and ourselves.
- The apparitions of Mary fill us with hope.
- Comfort is found in the Holy Spirit.
- The saints are called by God to be holy.
- The mass is a celebration of our faith.
- Knowledge and tolerance of other religions is the key to social harmony.

3. Implementation

At St Francis Catholic Primary School, we are following the Religious Education Directory (RED) and its program *To Know You More Clearly*. It is an innovative and enriching new Religious Education program that seeks to deepen the spiritual journey of pupils by fostering a profound understanding of Catholic teachings and values.

This program goes beyond the traditional curriculum, encouraging children to explore their faith through a lens of curiosity and introspection. Through engaging lessons, thoughtful reflections and interactive activities, To Know You More Clearly creates a dynamic learning environment that encourages pupils to connect with their spirituality on a personal level.

Teachers are encouraged to be as creative as possible in their lesson planning and to employ a range of teaching styles. The RED is scripture based, following the story of Jesus, and it is an invitation to Know Him more clearly. It allows children to get to know Him, to journey with Him through His life, death and resurrection. In addition, teachers include teaching and connections with Prayer and Liturgy and world faiths.

Our school's Mission Statement has been created with these aims in mind:

Jesus said '*Love one another as I have loved you*'
St Francis is a loving community, respecting every child and adult and caring for God's World, as we help each other to do our best and grow together in Christ.

a) Overview of Content

At St Francis Catholic Primary School To Know You More Clearly is taught through six curriculum branches, delivered as two per term:

Autumn Term - Branch 1: Creation and Covenant & Branch 2: Prophecy and Promise

Spring Term - Branch 3: From Galilee to Jerusalem & Branch 4; Desert to Garden

Summer Term – Branch 5: To the ends of the Earth & Branch 6: Dialogue and Encounter

4. Planning

An overview of branches to be covered each term is given on the Curriculum Maps for each year group. This denotes the RED branches to be planned, taught and assessed by the class teacher.

R.E. lessons taught through the curriculum branches take place in the classroom through a selection of differentiated activities including studying scripture, storytelling, role play, artwork, discussion, hot seating and independent research.

5. Assessment

At the end of each branch, children are assessed on what they have learned by the teacher in line with the Expected Outcomes provided in the RED. Teacher assessments are recorded on the end of branch grids which are available on the school server or can be obtained from the R.E. subject leader.

Once completed, end of branch assessments are given to the R.E. subject leader to assist with evidence and monitoring. At the end of each term the teacher makes a 'best fit' assessment of the children using the Age-Related Standards on our online tracking system, Sonar.

Pupils in Years 3-6 are encouraged to reflect on their own learning at the end of each lesson and self-assess using traffic light colours (see Marking and Feedback Policy). This is introduced during the summer term of Year 2.

6. Relationships, Health and Sex Education

Our whole school curriculum is delivered through the 'Ten Ten' Programme. Relationships, Health and Sex Education is incorporated within the R.S.H.E. scheme of work. A copy of the R.S.H.E. policy and programme of study is available on the school's website.

7. Saints

To celebrate the call to holiness of our saints, each class studies a particular saint:

Class	**St Francis**
EYFS	St Francis of Assisi
Year 1	St Christopher
Year 2	St Bernadette of Lourdes
Year 3	St John Bosco
Year 4	St Patrick
Year 5	St John Payne
Year 6	St George

8. Catholic Social Teaching

Catholic social teaching (CST) is rooted in Scripture, formed by the wisdom of Church leaders, and influenced by grassroots movements. It is our moral compass, guiding us on how to live out our faith in the world.

Jesus' instruction to "love your neighbour as yourself" (Mark 12:31) is at the heart of how Catholics believe they should participate in their community and the wider world.

At St Francis Catholic Primary School, we teach our children about the principles of Catholic Social Teaching (CST). Each class has adopted one of the CAFOD Catholic Social Teaching Animals and learn the seven principles throughout their time at primary school:

- Dignity
- Solidarity
- The common good
- The option for the poor
- Peace
- Creation and Environment
- The dignity of work and participation

Children are made aware of their social responsibility to assist those less fortunate than themselves. As part of our development strategies, we involve the children in charity fundraising events throughout the year. This is particularly evident during Harvest, Advent and Lent.

9. School and Community

We celebrate parents as the primary contributors to our children's moral growth. We warmly welcome parents, guardians and other interested visitors to our school Masses, and class assemblies. In addition, a termly newsletter of topics is generated and distributed to parents. This provides an opportunity for further exploration of skills in the home environment.

10. R.E. Ambassadors

Pupils from upper Key Stage Two form the Liturgical Team who support worship and prayerful reflection throughout the school. The pupils meet regularly with the R.E. subject leader to help plan and deliver class, key stage and whole school worship. They take pride in being role models in our faith.

11. R.E. Subject Leader

The R.E. subject leader attends regular meetings organised by BRES and reports back to the rest of the staff. A termly overview is presented to each class teacher to ensure consistency throughout the school.

The R.E. Subject Leader is available to support members of staff not of the Catholic faith. In addition, they arrange for staff inset/retreat days throughout the year.

Masses are planned in conjunction with the schools' Parish Priest who assumes an active role in school life.

12. Resources

A range of material resources, including music and artefacts of the Catholic faith and other religions are used to supplement the syllabus. Each class teacher has a copy of the Religious Education Directory. Resources linked to the RED branches are available for teachers on the shared server. *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* is available for reference.

13. Conclusion

Our Mission Together prayer sums up the holistic dimension of Religious Education within our school:

May all the children
In the world
Share love
Share friendship, and live
In the peace
Of God's love
Now and forever. Amen.