

# OUR LADY IMMACULATE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



*"With God all things are possible"*

At Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Primary School, we will inspire our children to achieve personal excellence for themselves and for the glory of God.

## Religious Education Policy

Date	Review Date	Coordinator
Autumn 2023	Autumn 2024	Sophie Gibbs

<b>Headteacher:</b>	Lesley Roche
<b>Chair of Governing Body:</b>	Linda McSweeney

RE Policy

Reference: Status OLI: draft / under consultation / to be ratified / ratified FGB

## **INTRODUCTION**

Our Lady Immaculate is a thriving Catholic learning community with Christ at the centre. We celebrate the uniqueness of every child and aim to educate and prepare our children to be independent, confident and to live life to the full. As a Catholic learning community, everything we do serves the Church's teaching of assisting parents as primary and principal educators to fulfil their role. Every decision is made with the children in mind, serving our Mission and Vision and following our Virtues, British Values and Global Values.

Our Lady Immaculate is an inclusive school which provides a challenging, stimulating, broad and balanced curriculum in a calm learning environment. The school is part of the parish of Our Lady Immaculate Church with whom there are strong links with Fr Martin Hardy as our RE Foundation Governor and Parish Priest. Fr Martin regularly visits the school for masses and other celebrations and the children attend services in the church. At Our Lady Immaculate, the dynamic home, school and parish partnership is valued as the children are encouraged and enabled to become passionate and resilient learners.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

*"With God all things are possible"*

**At Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Primary School, we will inspire our children to achieve personal excellence for themselves and for the glory of God.**

As a Catholic school we highly value the daily opportunities to share and learn prayers. All teaching and learning will be in line with our Mission and Vision (see Appendix A).

## **AIMS**

In Religious Education we present children with knowledge and the information to make informed choices. We believe that in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus we discover the revelation of God's love for us and the true significance of human life. We aim to be a community that will be known as Christian because of our love.

## **OUR PHILOSOPHY AND CORE VALUES**

Because of our faith, we recognise and respect the uniqueness of all individuals and try to enable them to become the people God calls them to be. We wish to foster a distinctive outlook on life that is rooted in the Gospel. Our faith in God and in the dignity of human life inspires and challenges all we do in school; it forms the basis of the structures, relationships, the aims, and objectives we set ourselves and the way we measure our success.

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### **GENERAL AIMS**

Our aims in R.E. are:

- to inspire our children with a sense of the wonder of God and the world He created;
- to develop within our children a trusting, loving and personal relationship with God;
- to enable our children to have a positive attitude towards themselves and in their relationship with others;
- to encourage academic achievement and increased knowledge not as a means to material success and prosperity but as a call to serve and be responsible for others;
- to enrich and inform all areas of learning with the light of the Gospel, to seek the truth which is of God, in the whole of creation, in themselves and in others;
- to develop an informed understanding of Scripture and The Church;
- to develop a knowledge and understanding of Christianity and its impact on our local community, and on our society today;
- to develop a knowledge and understanding of some of the other principal religious traditions represented in Great Britain today;
- to develop a sense of respect for religious traditions, beliefs and practice;
- to grow in their spiritual development.

### **SPECIFIC AIMS**

Our aims in teaching R.E. are to promote:

- knowledge and understanding of Catholic faith and life through the four key dimensions of Revelation, Church/Community, Sacraments/Celebrations and Christian living/Way of life;
- knowledge and understanding of the response of faith to the ultimate questions about human life, its origin and purpose:
  - Life <> Where did I come from?
  - Dignity <> Who am I?
  - Purpose <> Why am I here?
- the skills required to engage in examination of and reflection upon religious belief and practice.

In the preface to the **Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools**. Cardinal Hume says: *"The work of classroom teaching of the Catholic faith has never been more important or demanding. So many influences in our society tend to undermine the*

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*practice of the faith. Teachers of religious education, together with parents, need to lead young people towards an ever-increasing understanding of the faith." 1997*

## **STRATEGIES**

We follow the **Come and See** programme as recommended by Brentwood Diocese. It is based on the theological foundations of the Second Vatican Council, the Catholic Catechism and the revised RE Curriculum Directory and includes the Catholic attainment levels.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church addresses the search for meaning in life. God's initiative in Revelation who comes to meet us and our response of faith. (cf. CCC26) This pattern guides the structure of the programme and informs the process of each topic, opened through:

- Explore
- Reveal
- Respond.

Central to the programme is belief in Jesus Christ, The Word and revelation of God.

In addition, 2 weeks a year are allocated to the teaching of other faiths.

Each class teacher is responsible for the teaching and learning of R.E. through the delivery of the Come and See topics. Classroom teaching of R.E. takes place through a selection of differentiated activities. For example: discussion, role play, presentations, research, story telling, written work and celebrations.

Teaching methods are varied and appropriate to the age and ability of the children, who will work as a class, within groups or individually. The children record their work in a variety of ways.

The topics are designed to address a range of skills and attitudes.

## **CATHOLIC CHARACTER EDUCATION**

Catholic Character Education at Our Lady Immaculate seeks to foster the formation of pupils, staff and all members of the school community, engaging them in a shared vision of life based on our school Gospel Virtues. Catholic Character Education is defined in three key areas of virtue: theological, moral and intellectual, leading to growth in practical wisdom and human flourishing in the pursuit of Christ.

Our programme for Character Education is based on the development of Virtue Literacy through Virtue Knowledge and Understanding and Virtue Reasoning, to promote capacity for critical reflection. An explicit programme of Character Education will be taught as part of RSHE provision, as well as within RE, Collective and Class Worship and reinforced throughout teaching and learning and in all aspects of school life.

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF CHARACTER EDUCATION**

To ensure children and young people are given opportunities to:

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1. Experience a positive and purposeful ethos providing a sense of belonging to their school community.
2. Grow in their knowledge and understanding of the virtues.
3. Practise the virtues to further the call to live life to the full.
4. Appreciate the connection between biblical and practical wisdom and living.
5. Hear the Christian story and encounter it in practice.
6. Understand their uniqueness and dignity as made in the image and likeness of God.
7. Know that our limitations are also opportunities for growth.
8. To notice, to reflect, to pray and to play
9. To exercise the cognitive, affective, and behavioural components of character: know it in your head, feel it in your heart and show it with your hands.

### **SKILLS**

The acquisition of skills is essential as a means to increasing knowledge and understanding.

The development of a skill depends on attitudes of self-respect and respect of others.

We aim to address:

- Investigation skills
- Interpretation skills
- Communication skills
- Critical skills
- Social skills
- Evaluative skills
- Listening skills.

### **ATTITUDES**

It is our intention to help children develop the following attitudes:

- A respect for oneself
- A respect for others
- Tolerance of others
- A sense of personal dignity
- A sense of personal responsibility
- A clear sense of right and wrong
- A sense of self-esteem and self-knowledge
- A correct respect for authority
- An openness to truth
- An awareness of the presence of God in self, others and in the world.
- An awareness of charitable and just responsibilities towards others.

Religious Education is further dealt with through a range of activities and services including collective worship, class and school Masses, exploration of the Rosary, Stations of the Cross, penitential services and other events in keeping with the liturgical calendar. (See Prayer and Worship Policy for further details.)

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## **PLANNING**

Each topic is planned using the **Come and See** year group notes. All planning incorporates the Learning Objectives and Success Criteria.

## **ASSESSMENT AND RECORD KEEPING**

Recording of children's work takes many forms: pictorial, written, wall displays, assemblies, discussions, presentations etc. Each classroom has an R.E. display and a prayer table/focal point. All children keep an R.E book for their work and each new topic. Each child has an "Other Faiths" exercise book which goes up with them through the year groups.

Assessment identifies what children know, understand and can do. In assessing knowledge in R.E. we are testing the children's understanding of facts and their use of skills. More importantly we are assessing the growing understanding of a concept. At the end of each topic, teachers will be responsible for assessing pupils' progress by recording their judgements on a topic assessment grid linked to the key assessment descriptors relating to the Come and See scheme. In line with other core curriculum subjects, the RE Co-ordinator will be responsible for using this data to assess, track and monitor attainment and progress each term.

At the end of the summer term, teachers will be responsible for assessing pupils' overall attainment. To support teachers in making effective and consistent assessment, the performance descriptors 'Working Below', 'Working at Age Related', 'Working Above', will be used to measure overall attainment.

Assessment is NOT - about faith practice  
- about faith development

**Faith is a gift and only God can assess that.**

## **RESOURCES**

Basic resources are held in each classroom: Teachers' Come and See book and on line resources, copies of Listen, Praise, prayer-books and Bibles/Bible stories.

Further resources are held in the R.E. cupboard. These include DVD/liturgy/assembly books, some artefacts and information on saints. Other Faith resources are held in the cupboard in the hall.

Large posters/banners are kept in the main hall.

## **ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

**The Headteacher** has the primary responsibility in promoting the ethos outlined in the Mission Statement and in ensuring that this policy is implemented. The Headteacher 'is the spiritual leader of the school.' (CES). The Mission Statement is central to all decisions made.

**All stakeholders** have, by virtue of agreeing to work in a Catholic school, a responsibility to uphold the Catholic ethos of the school.

**The RE Coordinator** is responsible for the promotion and development of the school's RE programme. He/She assists colleagues in planning effectively to enable each child to achieve to the best of his/her ability. He/she is available to advise,

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support and liaise with colleagues, lead discussion, set an example of good classroom practice and be involved in leading and developing good practice amongst all staff. The subject leader attends meetings with other coordinators at Diocesan and local level, passes on information and helps to monitor planning, teaching and learning through the school's self-review programme.

**Governors** support staff in the implementation of the RE policy. The RE Governor works closely with the RE leader to ensure the highest standards are maintained.

## APPENDIX A



**Our Lady Immaculate**  
Catholic Primary School  
A Multi-Academy

### **Our School Family Vision Statement**

Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Primary School is a community based upon the flourishing of the whole person through the pursuit of 8 Virtues:

**Faith**  
**Hope**  
**Love**  
**Justice**  
**Solidarity**  
**Temperance**  
**Courage**  
Practical Wisdom

The teaching of these Virtues not only enhances the education of the individual and respects their dignity, it promotes the common good, inspiring our school family to excel in all our God given talents, with whom all things are possible.

**With Christ as our Teacher and Mary as our Model, we will inspire each other by:**

- Recognising and celebrating the unique and God given gifts and talents of each member of our school family.
- Listening to and valuing each other's contributions.
- Fostering respect for ourselves, all human-beings, and the world God gave us to live in.
- Celebrating diversity and respecting different beliefs, cultures and ways of life.
- Sharing our gifts and talents with all.

**With Christ as our Teacher and Mary as our Model, we will achieve excellence by:**

- Setting high expectations for our spiritual, moral, intellectual, social, emotional and physical development.
- Providing an inclusive, challenging and meaningful learning experience, where creativity and personality are allowed to blossom and thrive and where independence, motivation and perseverance become life-long skills.

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- Promoting the highest standard of teaching which engages all learners.
- Challenging everyone to become independent learners with enquiring minds and positive attitudes.
- Nurturing a strong learning partnership between home, school, parish and our wider communities.

**With Christ as our Teacher and Mary as our Model, we will all grow in our knowledge and understanding of the Gospel Virtues by:**

- Supporting the faith and spiritual life of each person, according to the teachings of the Catholic Church and the saving light of the Gospel
- Practising the Virtues to further the call to live life to the full.
- Following in the footsteps of Jesus, in all that we think, say and do, so that our lives are a living witness to the Gospel - know this in your head, feel this in your heart and show this with your hands
- Understanding our uniqueness and dignity as children of God, made in his own image and likeness.
- Praying and worshipping together, enriching our relationship with God.
- Ensuring that compassion and forgiveness are strong, and forever present in all that we do.
- Growing in our awareness of God's unchanging love for each of us.