Our Lady and St John's Catholic Primary School
Boston Park Road, Brentford, Middlesex, TW8 9JF
www.ourladyandstjohns.org.uk

Religious Education Policy

Policy Start Date	Policy Review Date	Frequency
Summer 2022	**Summer 2025**	**Three Years**

School Mission Statement

Our lady & St John's:

- Prides itself on teaching and delivering a curriculum through the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ.
- Provides a safe, friendly and nurturing learning environment.
- A school where every individual is welcomed and respected.
- Encourages, celebrates and values individual talents and abilities.
- Is proud of its sensitive and active partnership between school, home and Parish, and the wider community.

We have a child-friendly mission statement, put together by the pupils: '***To Live, Learn and Love with Jesus'.***

We recognise the dignity of every human person because s/he is a child of God, while fostering awareness of the worlds' poor. Equality of opportunity for every person is therefore paramount and precludes all forms of discrimination on grounds of colour, gender, race, social class or ability.

The school aims to nurture the spiritual, intellectual and physical growth of each pupil through a holistic approach, which takes due note of the needs of every child while, at the same time, striving for excellence in all aspects of education in a secure environment.

Principles of Religious Education

Religious education is synonymous with our Mission Statement – it should inform and permeate all aspects of school life. Our Lady & St. John's Catholic Primary School, in partnership with the Parish and Parents, will provide quality Catholic Education. Through the love of God, we will foster individual pupils, spiritually, socially, culturally and academically, by encouraging each child to strive for personal achievement and an awareness that their contribution is necessary for the good of the community.

Aims of Religious Education

Religious Education plays a central and vital part in the life of faith of a Catholic school.
Religious Education is the foundation of the entire educational process. Its primary purpose is the step-by-step study of the mystery of Christ, the teaching of the Church and its application in daily life. The aims of Religious Education are:

● to promote knowledge and understanding of Catholic faith and life through the teaching of the life of Christ, the teachings of the Church and the central beliefs that Catholics hold, in a manner that encourages investigation and reflection by pupils.

● to promote an atmosphere where the Gospel values of loving service are made explicit and are enlightened by the faith of the school community and by the faith of the teachers.

● to foster appropriate attitudes – respect for truth and the views of others, awareness of the spiritual and moral responsibility, of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life and the challenge of living in a multi-cultural and multi-faith society.
● to affirm each person in their sense of belonging to the whole body of Christ.

The aims are achieved by means that are both explicit and implicit. Often it is the 'messages' given in more informal ways that are more powerful and lasting and which convey each individuals worth and unique value.

Curriculum Time Allocation
Religious education is taught for 10% of the whole curriculum, excluding assembly.
Some form of Collective worship takes place daily, outside of RE lesson time.

Inclusion
Knowledge and understanding in RE needs to address the differing abilities of pupils as in any other subject; this is evident in planning. Pupils who have learning difficulties in many formal areas of the curriculum are often able to contribute on an equal basis in learning the principles of faith. Through differentiation, opportunities are provided for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child.

The Content of the Religious Education Curriculum
The content of the RE curriculum at Our Lady & St John's draws, primarily, on Margaret Carswell's programme of study, the Composite Model. This is supplemented with other materials where appropriate. In the framework, the curriculum for the teaching of religion at Our Lady & St John's School is based on the requirements of the Curriculum Directory for Religious Education. Through our teaching the children should be taught;

- Knowledge – Traditional prayers and Mass responses
  Main liturgical feasts and seasons
  Basic knowledge of sacraments
- Understanding - Able to translate theory into practice eg. Forgiveness, respect for others
- Worship and Prayer – have experience in taking part in Eucharistic liturgies, reflective prayer, scriptural prayer, forms of spontaneous prayer
- Skills – Able to relate in a group, to work silently.
  Able to listen and give considered response.
  Able to make independent decisions
- Attitudes – positive attitudes towards anyone who differs, towards authority and treatment of property, towards school and towards our world.

Assessment & Evaluation
Evaluation is carried out to improve the teaching and learning of RE within Our Lady & St John's. Teaching staff, appraise the curriculum provision made for RE within the school, in order that pupils make the greatest possible progress. The assessment of RE is tracked electronically (termly).

Evaluation includes a regular review of the content of the RE curriculum to ensure that the curriculum directory requirements are being fulfilled. Pupils' progress and performance is judged in line with the RE levels of attainment, taking account of factors that might influence this, such as teaching methods and resources. The organisation of the RE curriculum and teaching styles are

evaluated regularly. The effectiveness of any INSET for RE, provided internally or by an external agency is assessed.

Evaluation can be by a number of methods, including; classroom observation; the assessment of pupils' work and achievements; the analysis of teachers' planning; discussion amongst groups of staff or all staff; and external inspection and advice from the Diocese of Westminster.

The Wider Community
At Our lady & St. John's, we recognise the need to enable children to work beyond the school into the wider community. We aim to:
● develop a sense of personal responsibility for others.
● identify means by which the children can become further involved with the:
➢ Local Community
➢ Diocese/Parish
➢ National/Global Organisations

Other Faiths
Children not of the Catholic faith are encouraged at all times to be part of the school community by taking part in all liturgical celebrations and assemblies. The parents of those children are also invited to come to meetings and celebrations at school and at the parish Church. We have a clear programme to teach other faiths across the year – Judaism, Islam, Hinduism and Sikhism.

Resources
● the religious education curriculum directory for Catholic schools as a planning tool for teachers.
● a crucifix in every classroom.
● a prayer table with relevant resources, including a Bible
● a Bible for each child in Y2 to Y6

Religious Education Leader
In conjunction with the Head Teacher, the Religious Education Leader has the responsibility for ensuring:
● support is given to all staff members; ensuring teaching and learning are maintained to a high standard.
● that the Catholic life of the school is sustained and constantly developing.
● that the overall Christian aims of the school / Gospel Values are supported in the faith journey of each child.
The Religious Education Leader should:
● be a practising Roman Catholic- committed to Catholic Education
● have the leadership skills necessary to work with and support their colleagues

Headteacher:		**Date:**	
Chair of Governors		**Date:**	