



‘Caring, learning, and achieving together as part of God’s family’

## **Religious Education Policy (RE) 2024**

“Education is integral to the mission of the Church to proclaim the Good News. First and foremost, every Catholic education institution is a place to encounter the living God who in Jesus Christ reveals his transforming love and truth.” (*Christ at the Centre*, 2012)

### **RE Policy**

At Margaret Roper Catholic Primary School, Jesus Christ is central to every aspect of school life. We aim to be a living, loving, and sacramental community which is inspired by the life of Christ and the teachings of the Church, rooted in Gospel values. We believe that Jesus reveals to us who God is and what his plan for us is. We aim to live out our school mission statement: ‘Caring, learning, and achieving together as part of God’s family’.

We believe that God has a special plan for every single one of us, whoever we are. Our part in this plan isn’t just limited to things ‘spiritual’, or times when we do “religious things.” It involves every aspect of our lives, from the things we pray about, to how we live as responsible global citizens. We are called to work together towards the common good, and to treat everyone as our brothers and sisters. This is something we all share.

The Catholic Church has principles of social teaching that we share with our children through all that we do. At Margaret Roper, Catholic Social Teaching is incorporated into our curriculum and everything we do including Collective Worship. Children are asked to put their faith into action and reflect on how their worship and learning enables them to do so.

Catholic Social Teaching underpins the essence of our daily school life. As members of the Catholic Church, we are all called upon to uphold the dignity of all human beings, to care for creation, and to reach out to our sisters and brothers in need. Catholic tradition – including the teaching of successive popes - emphasises that it is our duty to work together to bring about a more just and peaceful world: to put love into action. It is vital that our children can articulate the connection between Jesus’ teaching, the life of prayer, and doing good deeds. We use resources such as CAFOD’s to help us explain Catholic Social teaching to our children.

RE in our schools is not solely taught as a curriculum area but as a way of life, promoting Gospel values, giving praise and reverence to God. It is an opportunity for everyone to develop their own

personal faith through word, deed, and entering into an ever-deeper communion with God, made possible through the divine work of Jesus his Son and the witness of the Holy Spirit. This is achieved through liturgy, collective worship, assemblies, lessons (including curriculum content), and roles and responsibilities throughout the school which deepen our Catholic life and highlight our belief that Christ is at the centre of all that we do.

## **Our Mission**

Our mission through Religious Education is to give everyone the opportunity to experience the Gospel values through celebration, prayer, personal reflection, and sharing faith experiences with others. This includes the deepening of knowledge and understanding of key theological ideas and their application to life. We strive to develop opportunities where each child's own inner spiritual self is respected and to enhance reverence, wonder and awe in God's presence and self-exploration. Religious Education is a way of life and part of this journey in faith is taken as members of our school communities. We work closely together with home and our Parish Priest, Father Francis, and Parish communities, so that we can present the Christian event, message, and response to mission. Through our school mission and our children's experience of belonging to a caring community, we offer our children a strong sense of self-worth and an awareness of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life: respect for God; respect for other people; respect for other people's property; respect for ourselves.

The outcome for Religious Education 'is religiously literate and engaged young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills-appropriate to their age and capacity – to reflect spiritually, and think ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life' (*Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools 2012*).

## **Aims**

- To nurture our children and staff in the Catholic Faith
- To develop the children's knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Faith and, where appropriate, other religious traditions, by following the Gospel values and providing opportunities for prayer, worship, and spiritual growth
- To provide a living example of Gospel values in our relationships with one another
- To ensure children feel cared for and care for each other
- To show an understanding of Catholic Social Teaching
- To provide a high-quality education where each child develops to their full potential and acquires the knowledge, skills, and personal qualities to become responsible, respectful, and faith-filled members of society

## **Religious Education (RE) Programme**

At school we follow the *Come and See* scheme of work for RE, which fulfils the requirements of the Bishop's Conference and the Curriculum Directory for Religious Education, which sets forth the expectations for what should be covered by Religious Education teaching in Catholic Schools in England and Wales. RE is taught for 2 and a half hours per week which is 10% of curriculum time; this is separate from times of prayer and collective worship, such as assemblies, liturgies, and class prayer which happen in addition to the taught curriculum.

Children are assessed in RE through our use of the Diocesan assessment materials. Children are assessed using the terms: *working towards*, *expected*, or *greater depth*. Children's attainment is recorded on class tracker sheets. RE subject leads meet with class teachers on a half-termly basis to discuss children's attainment and progress, as well as next steps. Teachers bring children's books to these meetings to moderate with the subject leaders. All staff are given continuing professional development (CPD) in order to help them assess confidently.

As well as covering the delivery of Catholic Education, *Come and See* also contains the resources and units required for us to regularly teach children about other world religions, one a term, in order that they develop an appreciation for belief in a wider sense and are appreciative and respectful of the religious beliefs, practices, and observances of others. The aim is to enable them to be responsible and constructive members of the multicultural, multifaith society in which they live.

### **Involvement of Parents/Carers**

Our school recognises parents as the first educators of their children and sees the involvement of the school as being an ongoing partnership with parents. Parents have access to the RE policy, which is on our school website. We believe that they have an important part to play in teaching their children about the beliefs and traditions of the Catholic faith, as well as helping their children to develop a personal faith.

### **Inclusion**

All children have equal access to the RE curriculum, regardless of religion, gender, culture, or special educational needs. Full participation in all aspects of RE is expected. As a Catholic school, Jesus Christ remains central to every aspect of school life. All pupils are educated in the beliefs and devotional practices of the Catholic Church. Parents and carers are advised at our open morning and welcome meetings that, in desiring a Catholic education for their child, it is expected that all pupils will participate in RE lessons. Parents and carers have the right to withdraw their children, although this is strongly discouraged and we would welcome the opportunity for them to discuss this with The Headship Team.

### **Staff CPD**

At least one Inset Day per academic year is dedicated to RE, as is one staff meeting per month. RE leads support with planning, assessment and teaching of RE.

### **Linked policies**

Collective worship  
PSHE  
SRE

Policy Date: September 2024  
Review Date: September 2025