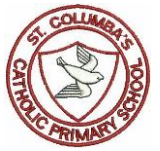
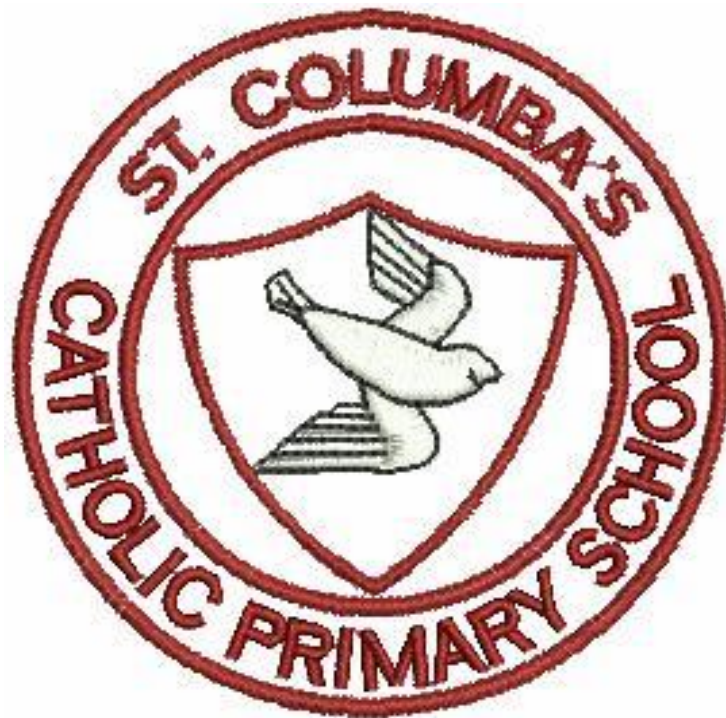


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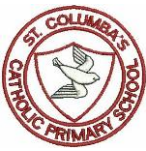
St Columba's Catholic Primary School



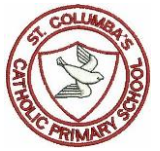
Religious Education Policy

Reviewed by Miss L Potter (R.E Co-ordinator) and Mrs M Boardman (Chair of Governors) (January 2023)

Next review date: January 2025



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St. Columba's Catholic Primary School

Religious Education Policy

Introduction

At St Columba's Catholic Primary School, Religious Education plays a central and vital part in all we do. It underpins our ethos and is never seen as a separate subject. The teaching of Religious Education underpins the Gospel values and teachings of the Catholic Church, the beliefs and values studied by our pupils, inspire, motivate and tie together every aspect of the catholic life at St Columba.

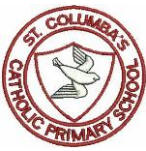
We promote religious education for all our pupils by taking into account their needs, background and well-being. These include:

- Those from other faith backgrounds
- Those from catholic homes
- Those who have other Christian traditions
- Those for whom it will be their first experience of religious education and church teachings and traditions.

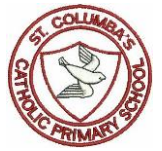
Members of staff and governors believe religious education to be a collaborative activity that respects and promotes wonder, awe, reverence and imagination spiritually, socially and morally.

Mission Statement

Here at St Columba, we provide an environment of love and learning, where we are all unique and equal in God's eyes. It is our mission to inspire, motivate and help all individuals achieve while valuing them for who they are. We believe everyone has their own talents and strengths which we unite, nurture and strive to help them shine vibrantly. Our school is blossoming well with an excellent reputation with parents, the parish and the wider community.



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Our mission statement underpins all we do:

'Holding Hands with Jesus as we love, learn and grow together'.

The aims of our mission statement are:

Inspire, Motivate and Achieve

We have high expectations and aspirations for our pupils. We believe all pupils should enjoy coming to school, have a welcoming and exciting environment where the curriculum is interesting and stimulating so that every child will be motivated to achieve their full potential while growing in Jesus' footsteps.

Unite, Nurture and Thrive

We deploy a nurturing ethos where we give exceptional care, guidance and support to our pupils and families to unite and thrive as one community sharing our talents to enrich our own lives and the lives of others.

Believe, Pray and Live

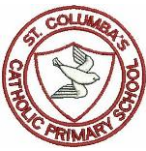
We strive, at all times, to reflect the love and kindness of Jesus by providing pupils with the best education possible in a calm, safe and caring environment. Therefore, enabling us to love, learn and grow as a Christian family following the example of Jesus, our friend.

Aims of Religious Education

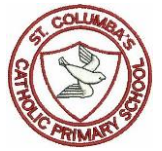
The aim of religious education at St Columba is to lead the children in knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith and to support them in living it in their daily lives.

This includes:

- Enabling pupils to recognise and appreciate the religious and spiritual dimension of life appropriate to their age and ability.
- To lead children into a deeper understanding of the Catholic tradition, and where appropriate, other religious traditions.



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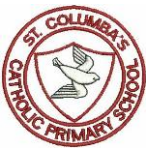
- Enable pupils to acquire a set of moral values and the confidence to make and hold moral judgements, thus enabling them to develop a sense of awareness of oneself and sensitivity towards others.
- To develop, in each child, the necessary skills required to engage in examination of, and reflection upon their own life stance, to deepen their personal faith commitment and to respect that of others.

Objectives

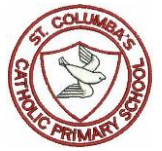
- To provide opportunities for pupils to question and reflect upon their own and others' life experiences, sharing their thoughts and feelings with others with mutual respect.
- To enable pupils' exploration of beliefs and values of the Catholic tradition, thus deepening and enriching the faith of those from Catholic homes.
- To provide opportunities where pupils can make an active response in life and worship through activities that empower them and allow them to express their feelings freely.
- To enable children to respect and recognise the diversity of human life and beliefs of other faith traditions.
- Ensure 10% of curriculum time is used to teach religious education.
- Provide opportunities for prayer, reflection and celebration in a variety of ways.
- To develop an awareness and appreciation of Catholic belief, understanding its impact on personal and social behaviour and of the vital relationship between faith and life and life and faith.
- Provide opportunities for the children to experience beliefs and practices of other faiths and to respect the multi-faith society we live in.

Relationship of Religious Education to the Whole Curriculum

While making links to other aspects of the curriculum, it is important that teachers remain focused on the learning outcomes of the religious education topic. For example,



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delivering Scripture and using skills developed in Literacy to explore the passage to enhance, deepen and extend children's awareness of the message.

English

In religious education, the written work produced reflects a wide range of writing styles and genres recommended in the National Curriculum Programme of study. Work however, is not assessed based upon the same standards as English.

PSHE

Here at St Columba, we have adapted the PSHE scheme 'Jigsaw' and incorporated aspects of the 'No Outsiders' programme. We are supported through the Catholic ethos of the school and in the Come and See programme.

Science

Several topics throughout the school encourage respect for God's creation.

Supporting those with Additional Educational Needs

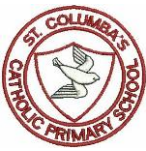
We support all those children with additional or special educational needs. All class teachers differentiate their teaching so that all children can achieve their potential in religious education. Teachers make full use of the SEND support provided on the Come and See website. We strive to ensure all children have access to learning in religious education curriculum.

Relationships, Sex and Health Education

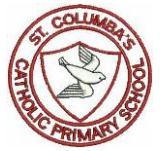
See our separate policy- RSHE.

The overview of Religious Education

In order to fulfil the aims and objectives for religious education at St Columba, we follow the 'Come and See' programme of Religious Education recommended by the Archdiocese of Liverpool.



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Overview of content, including themes and topics covered

Central to the programme are three basic human questions and the three Christian beliefs that are in the Church's response to faith.

Where do I come from?	Life- Creation
Who am I?	Dignity- Incarnation
Why am I here?	Purpose- Redemption

Come and See is developed through three themes based on documents from the Second Vatican Council. They are Church, Sacrament and Christian living.

The basic question/ belief for each season time is explored through three kinds of themes.

The Community of Faith \longleftrightarrow Church

The **Church** themes occur in each season time and each theme gradually builds on the understanding of the previous theme.

The Celebration of Ritual \longleftrightarrow Sacramental

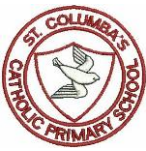
The **Sacramental** themes occur once in every season time and each theme gradually builds on the understanding of the previous theme.

The Way of Life \longleftrightarrow Christian Living

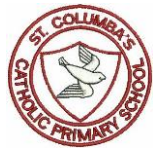
The **Christian living** themes occur in each season time and each theme gradually builds on the understanding of the previous theme.

Delivering the programme

Each year group has its own set of topics within the programme. The process of each topic is opened up through **Explore, Reveal and Respond**.



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Explore helps children to begin to look at and focus on the experience within their own lives concerning themselves, their relationships and their world.

Explore will take one week of Religious Education time to complete.

Reveal is the heart of the process. The children discover the Christian understanding of the mystery of the Trinity; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They explore the mystery of human life as revealed in the person, life and Gospel of Jesus Christ Christians. It will involve learning about Scripture, the teaching of the Church, prayers, rites, psalms, hymns and other expressions of Christian faith and the lives of outstanding Christians.

Reveal will take two weeks of Religious Education time to complete.

Respond has three parts; **Remember**, **Rejoice** and **Renew**. There is no new learning during this week. This week consolidates what the children have been taught. Children are also given the chance to plan a Prayer and liturgy to celebrate their learning during this week.

Respond will take one week of Religious Education time to complete.

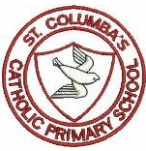
Planning

Long Term planning

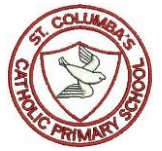
The themes and topics framework sets out the programme for the year. The topics are set out on a year- long plan to ensure all will be taught and learning intentions can be met.

Medium Term Planning

Medium term planning is the responsibility of the R.E. coordinator who will:



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-Use the overview to note the basic question of Christian doctrine for the term. This can also be found on the Come and See website so teachers may adapt it to the needs of their class.

Short Term Planning

Short term planning is the responsibility of the class teacher. Each class teacher will complete planning on an individual basis for their class. They will use the most up to date Come and See booklet and annotate where appropriate highlighting a range of teaching styles, grouping, and clear differentiation.

Planning will be monitored on a regular basis by the R.E. Co-ordinator.

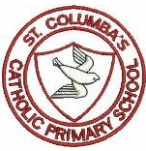
Quality of work and marking

Using the school's marking policy, the marking of pupils' work will always be approached positively to affirm success and encouragement of further learning. Marking incorporates the skills words through the use of stamps and pupils are encouraged to make 'next steps' based on the language of the standard indicators. The marking policy also enables any barriers/ misconceptions to be addressed along with assessment boxes at the bottom to indicate the progress of pupils at the end of each topic.

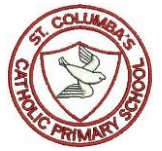
Pupil Feedback

Feedback to pupils about their progress in Religious Education is vital and achieved by:

- Effective marking
- Verbal feedback- praise
- Discussions
- Celebration of work
- Examining work together



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- Pupil interviews/ pupil voice
- Monitoring of books

Assessment

In Come and See, assessment is related to the concepts, skills and attitudes to be developed through the exploration of the themes and the learning outcomes for each topic. Assessment establishes what pupils know, understand and can do. It does not assess spirituality or faith practice.

Formal Assessment

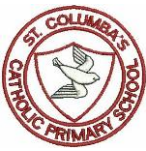
Formal assessments take place once a term. The school follows the assessment process recommended by the Archdiocesan team. This work is moderated with other staff members.

Using 'Insight', an electronic data system, staff will grade the children against the new religious education standards, this will be completed termly.

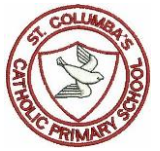
Informal Assessment

Assessment takes place on an informal basis continually as this ensures that planning and teaching is reflective, thus allowing children to achieve their full potential. This may take place through displays, discussions, marking and observations.

Religious Education assessment for Foundation stage takes place within the Learning areas of Communication, Language and Literacy, Personal, Social and Emotional Development and Creative Development using the Foundation Stage profile. Evidence of this is kept in the children's learning journey, book and floor books. Staff will then use insight in the summer term to formally assess their pupils against the appropriate standards ready for their transition into Year 1.



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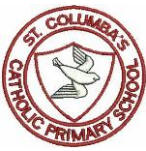
Expectations

- There are three attainment targets for religious education. The levels shown equate to the same levels used by the other national curriculum subjects (working towards, working at and working above the standard).
- The standards framework focuses on key Religious Education skills.
- Pupils meeting the different standards within the framework will have a broader range of knowledge and skills than those being assessed in the framework.
- Continuous contact with parents regarding knowledge and skills developed within the Come and See programme.
- Assessment of individual pieces of work in line with the Archdiocesan and school's assessment policy.
- At the end of the year, teachers should make judgements against the standards based on their own assessment of pupils' work.
- Teachers need to base their judgement on a broad range of evidence, which will come from day-to-day work in the classroom. This could include Religious Education work evidenced in other areas of the curriculum.
- Teachers may also consider a single example of a pupil's work to provide evidence for multiple statements.
- Teachers should be confident that pupils have met the standards preceding the one at which they judge them to be working. However, they are not required to have specific evidence for that judgement. Pupil's work which demonstrates that they are consistently meeting a standard, shows that they are working above preceding standards.

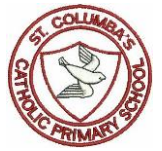
Recording

Informal

Recording provides evidence of achievement. It involves pupils in self-assessment progress in dialogue with their teacher. It takes many forms:



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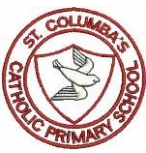
- Notes from observations
- Written comments on children's work
- Visual evidence (photographs, displays, etc)
- Dance, drama and celebrations
- Class/school portfolios
- Pupils' self-assessment

Formal

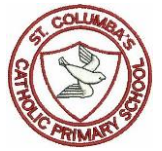
The Archdiocese of Liverpool has introduced three formal assessments which take place once a term. These are formally recorded on pro-formas provided by the Archdiocesan education team. After each formal assessment there is a staff meeting for moderation purposes. Each year group provides six samples of high, middle and low pieces of work with a completed context sheet attached. These are then discussed and when agreed, they are countersigned. These are kept in assessment files in each class and are available to the RE coordinator and members of staff as and when needed.

Each class teacher records each individual child's attainment in religious education using 'insight'. These are based on the attainment targets and are completed at end of each topic/unit to track the continual progression of an individual child. These individual records are accessible to class teachers, R.E coordinator and SLT as and when needed.

These records can then be monitored and achievement analysed to establish that pupils are progressing and reaching the standard in religious education that they are reaching in other core and foundation subjects.



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Evaluation of learning

In our school, children evaluate their own learning through the 'Rejoice, Remember and Renew' section of the programme. Children will celebrate their learning of each topic. This is evidenced in floor books as well as work and scripture looked at during the topic. Termly monitoring of religious education takes place by the RE co-ordinator which is fed back to teachers and forms the basis of development of the subject.

Staff Development

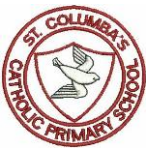
All relevant courses are advertised and made available to staff members. R.E. co-ordinator attends all subject leader meetings and courses. Teaching staff attend other relevant courses provided by the Archdiocese and disseminate information accordingly, for example, CCRS.

Staff Induction

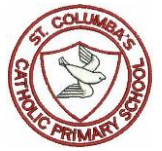
- New members of staff are offered support by the R.E. Leader in planning, teaching, assessing and evaluating.
- They will be sent on the courses available for new teachers in Catholic Schools. 'New to Come and See' and 'New to prayer and liturgy.'
- The whole-staff is involved in up-holding the Catholic Ethos of the school.
- The R.E. policy is shared with all members of staff and reviewed every two years by the RE Lead, Senior Management and Governors.

Staff Communication

- Information from R.E. coordinators' meetings is disseminated at regular staff meetings and through emails.
- Planning and assessment pro-formas are distributed before each topic.
- The R.E. Leader is always available for advice and discussion.
- Termly newsletters are created to communicate with parents the curriculum content for the coming term.



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Resources

Each class have their own resources for a prayer focus and a display wall. These are updated to reflect the church calendar. Other resources can be found in the RE cupboards in the staff room. Staff have their own password for the Come and See website. Also, staff have copies of the relevant God's Story and Church's Story books.

Equal Opportunities and Inclusion

At St Columba's Catholic Primary School, we plan to provide for all pupils regardless of gender, ethnicity, socio-economic status, cultural background, academic ability, Special Educational Need/Disability or vulnerability to achieve their full potential.