



*Holy Trinity Catholic
Primary School*

*Religious Education
Handbook*

Updated December 2017
R. Berndt – RE Co-ordinator

Our Mission Statement (revised July 2015)

**‘Walking in the footsteps of Jesus:
we care, we share, we love, we learn.’**

As a Catholic School, Holy Trinity aims to complement the Catholic home by cultivating the social, moral, intellectual, spiritual, cultural, aesthetic and physical development of our children.

We aim to foster the Christian virtues and to nurture the Catholic Faith. As a Christian community we will promote the development of partnership between parents, the parish and school.

Our relationship between parents, children and staff will reflect Christ’s teachings.

At Holy Trinity

Each child will be treated as, and come to know him/herself as a special individual, who is loved by God.

Each child will be treated with respect and encouraged to respect others.

Each child will meet with fairness and justice and will be encouraged to develop self-discipline.

Each child will be educated in a school in which Christian values are evident in what we do and how we act.

Each child will work in an environment which will promote and celebrate personal achievement in all aspects of school life.

Each child will have opportunities to celebrate God’s love in acts of prayer and worship both in school and in the parish.

The Aims of Religious Education

The study of Religious Education is never simply one subject among many, but is the foundation of the entire educational process. The beliefs and values studied in Catholic Religious Education inspire and draw together every aspect of the life of a Catholic School. Religious Education is, therefore **the** core subject in a Catholic School.

We are committed to classroom RE because all pupils have the right to receive an overall religious education, which will enable them to engage with the deepest questions of life to find reasons for the hope that is within them.

At Holy Trinity, we aim to help pupils become religiously literate with knowledge understanding and skills appropriate to their age and capacity.

We aim:-

- to respect and promote the child's innate capacity for wonder, awe, reverence and imagination.
- to enable our children to take the initial steps on their faith journey
- to increase the children's knowledge and love of God.
- to teach the Catholic faith and develop commitment to that faith.
- to encourage a loving and caring attitude towards family, friends, peers, teachers and all with whom they come into contact.
- to celebrate through worship and liturgy in a way appropriate to their age.
- to foster a respect for other religious and faith communities.

To achieve our aims we have an RE programme, which takes into account the religious and educational needs of all the children in our school.

The objective of Religious Education is to include analysis and reflection, critical appreciation of sources and examples, and a real sense of progression through the different stages of education.

Objectives

The objectives of Religious Education in Holy Trinity are to:-

- present a systematic presentation of the Christian event, message and way of life, in a variety of ways appropriate to the age and stage of development of the child.
- provide opportunities for celebration, prayer and reflection in implicit and explicit ways.
- provide children with the language of religious experience – a literacy in religious activities, places, stories, symbols and rituals, people and objects.
- provide children with the opportunities to listen, think critically, or acquire knowledge and make informed judgements.
- develop respect for the views of others by introducing children to the background and beliefs of people of other faiths.
- meet the requirements of the National Curriculum in RE in Foundation Stage and Key Stages I and II.

To fulfil our aims and objectives we use the recommended, 'Come and See' Catholic Primary Religious Education Programme which integrates the *Catechism of the Catholic Church, the Catholic Levels of Attainment and the new Religious Education Curriculum Directory*. It is the programme prescribed by the Archdiocese of Liverpool and the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.

Overview of the Content

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

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

These are developed through three themes based on documents of the Second Vatican Council. They are **Church, Sacrament and Christian Living**. The theme occurs once in each session time (Autumn, Spring and Summer) and are gradually explored each time at greater depths and build on the understanding of the previous theme.

See Appendix 2 for each year groups' themes and topics during the year.

- Each topic will take 4 weeks to cover.

The Process

The catechism of the Catholic Church addresses the human **search** for meaning, God's initiative in **Revelation** who comes to meet us and our **response** of faith. This pattern guides the structure of the programme and informs the process of each topic, opened up through; **EXPLORE, REVEAL and RESPOND**.

EXPLORE

The teacher helps the children to begin to look at and focus on the experience within their own lives – concerning themselves, their relationships and their world. In this way the children are led to a deeper understanding, clearer vision and the discovery of significance and value of the experiential events of everyday life. **EXPLORE** will take **one week** of Religious Education time to complete.

REVEAL

Reveal is the heart of the process. The teacher and the children together 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. 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

The first part is **Remember** where children will respond by remembering and celebrating all that they have learnt. This new understanding will enable them to make a personal response in their daily lives. There are opportunities for reflection.

The second part is **Rejoice** where there will be the opportunity to plan and take part in a celebration. It is essential the children are involved in the choice of material to be used.

Finally in **Renew** the teacher helps each child to make an individual response to hold on to and make their own, what they have understood of the topic. In this part the children will think about how they can apply their learning to their lives. RESPOND will take **one week** of Religious Education time to complete.

The Bishops' requirement of 10% of curriculum teaching time is indicated on class timetables. This time does not include time for collective worship, hymn practice, assemblies etc.

Planning

Long term planning the themes and topics framework sets out the programme for the year and its implementation is the responsibility of the School Leadership Team.

The overall responsibilities for medium term planning lies with the Religious Education Co-ordinator (currently Mr R Berndt).

It includes ensuring that teachers are delivering the correct topic, start and finish dates, guidance with resources and ideally leading a reflection for 'Come and See for Yourself' at the start of each topic. An **overview** which is the medium term plan is to be found in the resource handbook which is now only available on the 'Come and See' website (www.comeandseere.co.uk). Teachers are all provided with their own log-in which gives them full access to all plans, activities and resources on the site.

Delivery of each topic requires approximately 10 hours. Two quarters of the time go to the first and last stages of the process (**Explore** and **Respond**) respectively. Half of the time is allocated to the **Reveal** Stage.

Short term Planning is the responsibility of the Class Teacher. In Holy Trinity teachers use photocopies of the teaching notes and annotate and highlight chosen activities, resources and other relevant information. It is envisaged that during the academic year planning will be electronic using the 'Come and See' website. They also indicate details of organisation, ie whole class, group or individual activities.

Differentiation

As with all other areas of the curriculum, the purpose of differentiation is to enable children to succeed in the set task, to challenge children's knowledge, understanding and skills and ensure that activities are fully inclusive. We aim to enable children to recognise their achievements and to celebrate these.

- In 'Come and See' differentiation is provided through a variety of activities in **Explore** and **Reveal**, which meet the differing needs and abilities of the children.
- Also increasing sensitivity is paid to children of other faiths and activities may be differentiated accordingly if necessary.

Assessment

Assessment is focused by the overall aim and objectives of religious Education. In 'Come and See' it is related to the concepts, skills and attitudes to be developed through the exploration of themes and the learning outcomes for each topic. Assessment establishes what children know, understand, can do and how to get there. It does not assess spirituality or the practice of the Faith.

Formal Assessment

One topic per term is now formally assessed as directed by the Christian Education Department. Our School has embraced the recent initiatives to formalise each pupil's record of attainment which will follow them throughout their school lives. Each cohort has a file containing children's individual record and assessment documentation.

Informal Assessment

This process continues through observation, class feedback, marking of children's work and specific questioning.

- Notes from observations written on the planning sheets.
- Visual evidence – e.g. photographs of displays and activities (mainly Foundation Stage).
- Pupils record of attainment.

REPORTING

Knowledge of attainment is shared in a class setting, with other class groups and through whole school recognition, (merit or Key Stage Assemblies). Parents are advised by letter of topics to be covered each term. They are also involved through discussion and observation of their children's work in the termly reporting to Parents Evenings. A written account of pupil's progress is recorded on the first page of the Annual School Report in July. This position recognises the status of RE as a core subject in our Catholic School.

Evaluation of Teaching

Criteria and procedures for reviewing and evaluating the teaching of 'Come and See' follow the guidelines of the programme. Teachers comment on the planning sheets throughout and at the end of each topic. Monitoring of teaching is by teacher observation and review of children's work. This is undertaken by the Headteacher and RE Co-ordinator. It is not the norm that RE is a 'PPA subject' however under the circumstances that the Deputy Headteacher, who is the RE coordinator, does cover some PPA, he will deliver some RE lessons.

Evaluation of Learning

Children discuss their work and that of others during each stage of the process. They are encouraged to reflect on aspects of the topic and to participate in the assembly of class displays.

During the **Respond** stage of the process the children are given time to review the topic, recalling what was valued, summarising and reinforcing learning that has taken place. In Key Stage II, the children often record their learning with mind maps or the 'What I know now' box in their RE books. In Key Stage I, learning is often recorded through drawings, short writing and sharing new knowledge with the teacher. The focus on their learning is very much on taking their new knowledge into their lives.

Staff Development

The RE Co-ordinator attends all termly RE training sessions, and reports back to staff during the weekly staff meetings as matters arise. Ours is a small School and much valuable discussion, advice and sharing takes place throughout the working term, on an individual or group basis. Teaching staff are encouraged to attend topic days organised by the Christian Education Department.

Staff Induction

All new staff, including supply teachers, are given help and support in the planning and delivery of the curriculum, including the RE Syllabus. The RE Co-ordinator offers help and guidance in planning RE topics and providing resources etc.

We work alongside Hope University staff in training students and the RE Co-ordinator supports class teachers in enabling students to plan, deliver and assess the RE Programme.

The ethos of the school is made known to Teaching Assistants and other ancillary staff. Where possible, all non-teaching staff are included in services, Liturgies and celebrations in school.

Staff Communication

This is achieved through:-

- Staff meetings, with agenda items regarding feedback from Co-ordinator training.
- Written communications to staff in regard of matters arising, on an informal basis.
- A weekly diary is produced and circulated which includes any specific RE events.
- Notices in the Staff Room. To consolidate missives through either of the above.
- Informal meetings as matters arise eg. over resources, for advice etc.
- Communications regarding whole school or Key Stage services.

Resources - Staff Members

Mrs H Raley-Williams	Headteacher	CCRS*
Mr R Berndt	Deputy Headteacher/Y1teacher	CCRS/RE Co-ord.*
Mrs M O'Neill	Assistant Head + Y3 teacher	CCRS*
Mr M Hughes	Year 6 Class Teacher	(on CCRS course)
Mrs K Quinton	Reception Class Teacher	CCRS*
Miss L Browett	Year 5 Class Teacher	
Miss M Marsden	Year 5 Class Teacher	(on CCRS course)
Mrs L Callaway	Year 2 Class Teacher	CCRS
Mrs R Gibson	Year 2 maternity cover teacher	
Mrs G Cummings	Year 4 Class Teacher	(on CCRS course)
Mrs A Coakley	Nursery Class Teacher	CCRS
Mrs D Riley	SEND Coordinator/Y1 teacher	CCRS
Miss L Widdowson	Learning Mentor	

* Have also completed the Catholic Leadership Programme

Resources - Teaching

The RE Co-ordinator is responsible for the storage and maintenance of the RE equipment and resources. These are readily available from a designated area in the 'assembly' cupboard adjacent to the main school hall. Each class has at least one copy of God's Story, Church's Story and a Bible as well as resources for focus tables. Further resources may be purchased on request.

Relationship of RE to the Whole Curriculum

The School Mission Statement is at the heart of and informs all school policies, including PSHE, RSE, Equal Opportunities, SEN and ICT. RE is not a PPA subject. Whilst it occupies its statutory 10% of teaching time RE permeates the curriculum.

Collective Worship Statement

As a Catholic School we acknowledge God's presence and relevance in all that we think, do and say.

Our main aims are:

- To introduce our children to the language of worship through song and prayer.
- To support our children in responding appropriately to liturgical events.
- To enable our children to experience sacramental worship.
- To support our children in considering their responsibility for their own moral and spiritual development.
- As Christians, to respond to the physical, moral and spiritual needs of others.

Collective worship takes place:-

In all classes daily, (though not necessarily at the same time each day), during Key Stage and whole school celebration assemblies each week.

Guidelines for Collective Worship

Collective Worship is a time for quiet reflection, praise or celebration. To create the right atmosphere it is suggested that teachers use candles, music, artefacts, ICT opportunities and any other relevant materials. Following our most recent Section 48 inspection (Jan. 2013) children are to be increasingly encouraged to be part of the planning process and be provided with further opportunities to respond with prayers of their own. We aim to create opportunities for thought and prayer, for stillness and silence. It is a time for fostering an atmosphere in which we hope to evoke responses from the children in many areas, which might include joy or sorrow, thanks and praise.

Assemblies

At Holy Trinity, we value the bringing together of the whole school or significant groups, as a way of developing group or school identity.

Assembly is an international learning experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

As well as including an Act of Collective Worship we believe assembly can offer these educational benefits:

- The opportunity to celebrate achievements, extra-curricular success etc.
- An opportunity to share and experience differences.
- Fostering a sense of group identity
- A time to reflect on common values
- An opportunity for learning how to behave in a large social gathering
- An opportunity for learning how to perform in front of an audience
- Visible evidence of the school's patterns of leadership and responsibility
- An opportunity to see their place in the larger scheme of things

Liturgy and Celebration (not an exhaustive list for each term)

Autumn Term

Class Assemblies
Welcome Mass
CAFOD Family Fast Day and Assembly
All Saints Day – Mass
Advent Assemblies
Advent class masses in St Francis Church
Carol/Nativity Service
Whole School Christmas performances

Spring Term

Class Assemblies
Ash Wednesday – Mass/Service
Lent class masses in St Francis Church
Sacramental prep. – Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation
Holy Week Assemblies/Way of the Cross
Good Shepherd Activities/Fundraising
CAFOD Family Fast Day

Summer Term

Class Assemblies
SS Peter and Paul - Mass
Leavers' Mass
End of Year Assembly

* Also assembly presentations by Chaplain Andrew Colmer from the Academy of St. Nicholas (formerly ESLA) each term.

Relationship & Sex Education

In line with the recommendations by the Archdiocese of Liverpool Christian Education Department, the school will be following the resource 'A Journey in Love' which is a Developmental programme for children in the primary years. It is intended that it will support teachers and parents in Catholic schools to enable the holistic growth of the child. There will be opportunities for the resource to be shared with parents. It is envisaged that the programme will be introduced at Year 3 level in January 2018 and rolled out to the rest of KS2 during the rest of the academic year.

Spiritual & Moral Education

All staff appreciate that the spiritual, moral, intellectual and physical welfare of each child is their primary concern. The love of Christ is apparent in the school community through mutual respect and support. All members of staff enable pupils to develop a compassionate, supportive and respectful attitude to each other.

Each class has their own SMSC (Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural) book which is located outside the classroom for all to share. All members of the class are invited to contribute to it as well as recording whole class/school events/activities.

Links with Parents and Parish

'Any worthwhile programme for Religious Education must aim at bringing together, home, parish and school, into a partnership of mutual understanding and co-operation'. The school's contribution to religious education of the children must not be seen in isolation. Throughout the year, opportunities are taken to support the religious education of the children by close co-operation with the parents and with our changing parish.

All staff are committed to fostering this partnership by:-

- Making parents welcome
- Being able to talk to parents about their children
- Providing opportunities for parents to share in a wide variety of school activities
- Inviting parents to attend class assemblies
- Supporting parents in Sacramental preparation
- Preparing liturgy for special feasts
- Supporting Archdiocesan and other charities.

Preparation for the Sacraments

‘With You Always’

Traditional Sacramental preparation has changed and we now follow the Archdiocese prescribed ‘With You Always’ programme. It is managed and delivered by the parish priest (Father Joe Kendall), catechists and parents. We seek to fully support and facilitate the programme in any way including hosting meetings. We are fortunate that a member of our school staff is a parish catechist as well as two of our governors, therefore providing an excellent link in the home/school/parish partnership. Fr. Joe is a regular visitor to the school and wholeheartedly supports school/parish links. The With You Always Programme is currently under review and subject to further change.

Equal Opportunities

At Holy Trinity, we aim to provide a breadth of education encompassing the National Primary Curriculum in such a manner as to meet the needs of each individual.

We ensure that the curriculum and school organisation express equal respect for gender, background, ethnicity and faith, offering them equal access to the full range of learning opportunities. We aim to equip our children with the knowledge, skills and values necessary for participation in our modern day society and be ready for transition at every stage of their school life.

We believe the whole essence of RE is to liberate the individual and to allow them to achieve their potential as one of God’s children and indeed be - ‘God’s Work of Art’ (Ephesians 2:10).

Special Educational Needs

Every individual child is treated with the utmost dignity and respect.

We allow for the children being at different levels and encourage them to grow as individuals at their own rate and relative to their own ability. Subsequently we ensure that the curriculum is inclusive to all. The school’s SENCo ensures that all needs are appropriately catered for throughout the school.

Display

Each classroom has a focus table/area which reflects each new topic and may also contain articles pertinent/sentimental to the cohort.

All classrooms have a display board(s) which reflect(s) topics throughout the year.

The ‘other faiths’ resources are displayed in a central location which includes artefacts for children to see and often handle, and teachers to use during the teaching of the topic. In the Foyer/Reception area there is usually a welcoming theme/display often religious but it may also be topical i.e. Lent/Christmas/Olympics/Chinese New Year/Seasons etc. Each class produces a display for the main hall, highlighting their class assembly topic.

Cross Curricular Links

'Come and See' has a thematic approach, which enables inter-relation with all subject areas. The introduction of the SEAL programme, Circle time, RSE and 'No Outsiders in our School' further supports the underlying principles of the Christian ethos and message of the gospels.

Cross Phase Links

Cross Phase Links are strong and transition smooth. Class teachers in Holy Trinity work extremely closely together and through informal and formal conversations and efficient transfer of information, know the children well

The children progress to many different secondary schools and relevant contact is made, principally under the direction of the Learning Mentor, to ensure a smooth transition.

The transition from Key Stage I to Key Stage II is a natural progression for the children within our school. Transition sessions are held in July when children will meet and spend time with their new teacher for September.

The invitation to **Come and See** is for all and is there even if the question has not been spoken.

*'Whoever loves me will obey my teaching.
My Father will love him,
and my Father will **come** to him and live with him.'*
(John 14:23)