

ST AGNES

Catholic Primary School

With Jesus beside us, we do our best



RE Policy 2024

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Our Vision and Values

At St. Agnes we believe that although we are all very different we have a way of living, behaving and doing things that allow us to serve as a witness to the Catholic Faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our school motto is: **With Jesus Beside Us We Do Our Best to:**



Believe

We are all valued in God's family and the school family. We **believe** in ourselves and in our abilities.

Persevere

When things get difficult, we will **persevere** so that we will grow stronger, realising we can turn to each other and God.

Contribute

We will **contribute** to the life of the school, the parish, the local community and the wider world to which we all belong.

By doing these we will:

Achieve

By being the best we can be, we will **achieve** in making a difference to others and living as God would want us to.

***With Jesus beside us we do our best to
Believe, persevere and contribute so we can
achieve***

St. Agnes School RE Policy

**With Jesus beside us we do our best to
*Believe, Persevere and Contribute so we can Achieve***

At St. Agnes School we believe we should provide opportunities for all who are involved in the life of the school to come to know Christ through knowledge of the Gospels and the traditions and practices of the Catholic Church. We follow in the way of Christ and through this will learn how to care, love and respect all members of his family and to grow in knowledge, love and understanding of God and the world around us. We support the parents in their role as the main example of Christian living and educators of their children so that with Christ as the centre of their lives they will look to find their place in the world.

Aims and Objectives

- To give children the opportunity to enrich and develop their understanding of their faith and the love of God
- To provide opportunities for children to live their faith through prayer.
- To help our children be aware of and respect other faiths.
- To develop a respect for truth and for the views of others
- To provide a conducive and stimulating environment.

Home/ School / Parish Partnership

Religious Education begins at home at Baptism; the parents are the child's first teachers and support the child in his/ her first religious experiences. The school works in partnership with the parents to enrich the lives of our children. Parents are welcomed and encouraged to be involved in all aspects of school life. We publish an RE newsletter each term to inform parents about the forthcoming RE topics and notify parents of Masses, assemblies and liturgies in the school and parish.

We subscribe to 'The Wednesday Word' –a children's newsletter related to the Sunday Gospel.

We have a good relationship with the parish and local community, our parish priest is a regular visitor to the school and meets parents and staff. He celebrates Mass in school and holds class Masses for years 3-6 and services for EYFS and KS1. He also delivers assemblies and talks linked to the liturgical season or topic being studied. The school joins the parish community of Our Lady and St Catherine of Siena Church on Holy Days, special feast days and the children assist at Mass. The school regularly supports parish events e.g. Christmas Bazaar, Summer Fair and also supports the children in their preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Communion.

The school prepares and performs a carol service in the church at Christmas to thank the parish for their support throughout the year.

Programme of Study

The model curriculum has six components that will be known as branches which might, in practice, map helpfully onto the six half-terms of the school year. Each one has a core theme and invites pupils to learn about an aspect of Revelation, Scripture, life in Christ, and life in the Church, and to discern what their learning means academically and experientially enabling them to see, judge, and act through a deeper knowledge of the Christian faith.

1. Autumn 1-**Creation and covenant**: 'The heavens are telling the glory of God' (Ps 19:1). In this branch, pupils will encounter the God who creates and calls a people. They will explore revelation of the Christian belief that all that is comes from God, the Creation accounts in Genesis, and scientific explanations of the process of Creation. They will explore the call of God and his covenantal relationship with his people first through Abraham and Moses, then through the narrative of the Old Testament.
2. Autumn 2-**Prophecy and promise**: 'In many and various ways, God spoke to our ancestors by the prophets' (Heb 1:1). The prophets speak of God reaching to his people, calling them back into a relationship with him. In this branch, pupils will explore the Christian understanding of the teaching of the prophets as they point to the fulfilment of God's promise in a Messiah, Jesus Christ. They will explore the expectant waiting for the Messiah through the Advent season and how this speaks to Christians today as they wait for Christ. Pupils will encounter the story of the nativity of Jesus and the mystery of the incarnation.
3. Spring 1- **Galilee to Jerusalem**: 'God's only Son, who is at the Father's side, has made him known' (Jn1:18). In this branch, pupils will experience the ministry of Jesus, the Word of God. They will learn about the life of Jesus and his revelation of the Kingdom of God through parables, encounters, miracles, and teachings. They will learn about the call of the disciples and the nature of being a follower of Jesus.
4. Spring 2 - **Desert to garden**: 'Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day' (1 Cor 15:3). In this branch, pupils will study the season of Lent and its culmination in the events of Holy Week. They will learn about the Paschal Triduum at the heart of the Catholic Church's Liturgy and life. The title of this branch points both to the liturgical journey from the desert of Lent to the garden of Resurrection, but also to the Paschal journey from darkness to light, barrenness to fruitfulness, death to life.
5. Summer 1-**To the ends of the Earth**: 'Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit' (Mt 28:19). In this branch, pupils will study the events that flowed from the Resurrection and Ascension in the coming of the Holy Spirit and the work of the apostles and early Church. They will also learn about the

Catholic Church today as the apostolic Church and how its liturgy and structures flow from the early Church.

6. **Dialogue and encounter:** ‘For “In him we live and move and have our being” (Acts 17:28). In this branch, pupils will learn how Christians work together with people of different religious convictions and all people of goodwill towards the common good, respecting the dignity of all humanity. They will also encounter other pathways of belief drawing on the teaching of the Church about intercultural dialogue.

Catholic Social Teaching (CST)

Every half term in St Agnes School we have a CST principle taken from Rooted in Love – a resource from Caritas developed in partnership with the Diocese of Westminster Catholic Education Service. We begin with Scripture so that our pupils gain a deeper understanding to help connect them with our faith. Each class works together to create a project or initiative. The six CST themes we focus on are below.

Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
					
Care for Creation	The Option for the Poor	Solidarity and Peace	The Common Good	Dignity	Dignity of Workers
We believe that the earth is our common home and that we should use its resources wisely. It is our Christian vocation to steward our common home, live sustainably and enhance the wellbeing of our planet.	We believe that all resources on earth should be shared with everyone equally. We show kindness and compassion to others and put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.	God created us as one global family, called to support our brothers and sisters. We are encouraged to ask ‘who is our neighbour?’ and think how we can serve the local, national and global communities of which we are a part.	We speak clearly and show respect and responsibility for our sisters and brothers who are in need. We are called to work for the good of each and all.	We believe that we are beautifully made in the image and likeness of God and that each one of us is unique. We are called to treat every person with love and respect.	We learn about responsibilities and rights and we respect the views of others. We act with courage and determination to empower everyone to have a say.

Planning

Long term planning is taken directly from the aims in the RED (Religious Education Directory).

Teachers plan for each topic on the school template, supported by the RE coordinator, deputy and Head teacher.

Planning is monitored by the RE coordinator.

Teaching and Learning

A range of teaching strategies and learning methodologies will be employed depending on the needs and abilities of the children and the nature of activities being undertaken.

Work will be differentiated in terms of outcome or activity according to the needs and abilities of the children.

Approaches will include whole class teaching, group activities, and individual work. Children will have the opportunity to work individually as well as co-operatively and collaboratively, developing their own knowledge and expertise as well as sharing their experiences with others.

All work will involve thought provoking reflection and discussion, encouraging the children to develop their moral and spiritual consciences.

ICT will be used where appropriate to support and develop their knowledge and understanding.

Assessment

It is impossible to assess the level of a child's personal faith; however we are able to assess a child's knowledge, skills, concepts and attitudes that have been taught in RE.

Informal assessments will be ongoing through discussion, written work and observations.

Marking will be undertaken in accordance with the school policy and all key words for each topic will be corrected.

Ongoing assessment takes place in line with the RED content.

Samples of work are taken and moderated against the Standards at the end of each topic.

Moderation of work takes place within school, the denary and the diocese.

Children will assess their own learning by sharing their understanding of key vocabulary at the beginning of a branch and then again at the end.

Children will complete end of branch assessments which will be used by teachers to establish understanding and gaps in knowledge.

Monitoring

Monitoring of lessons, book looks (with teachers) and learning walks take place throughout the year. Criteria for monitoring and any resulting targets for RE will be shared during a staff meeting.

Individual feedback will be given to and agreed with teachers.

Display and Prayer focus

Each class has a prayer focus area which is liturgically based. This area should stimulate and facilitate reflection and prayer.

Classroom RE displays will relate to the topic being studied and will help to introduce work, stimulate further work, or celebrate work that has been undertaken. Displays will include key words and children's work.

Other displays around the school will be based on the topic or the liturgical calendar and may include some children's work.

Resources

Each class has access to all the relevant documents.

- Each class has a range of appropriate religious books, Bibles and resources for meditation and class worship.
- Main resources are kept in the hall.

Related Policies

Prayer and worship policy

Spiritual and moral policy

Catholic Life and Mission Policy

RHSE Policy

PHSE policy

Behaviour policy

Policy adopted : November 2024

Signed :

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Review Date: November 2025