



Holy Cross Catholic Voluntary Academy

*We live, grow, learn and pray together in faith, showing
God's love in all we do and say.*



Part of the St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Academy Trust

RE Policy

Policy Revised:	June 2023
Next Review:	June 2025
Headteacher:	Karen McVea
Chair of Governors:	Hilari Chetwood

Rationale

In the life of the Catholic School, Religious Education plays a vital and central part. At the heart of Catholic education lays the Christian vision of the human person. This vision is expressed and explored in Religious Education. Therefore, Religious Education is never simply one subject among many, but the foundation of the entire education process. The beliefs and values studied in Catholic Religious Education inspire and draw together every aspect of the life of a Catholic school.

All pupils, therefore, have the right to access Religious Education which will enable them, in the light of the faith of the Church, to engage with the deepest questions of life and find reasons for the hope, which is within them (1 Peter 3:15). Religious Education is therefore the core subject in a Catholic school.

It is recognised that children come from a range of backgrounds and abilities, and the teaching of Religious Education will reflect this.

Aims

Curriculum religious education in Catholic schools aims to provide:

- Knowledge and understanding of Catholic faith and life;
- Knowledge and understanding of the response of faith to the ultimate questions about human life, its origin and purpose;
- The skills required to engage in examination of and reflection upon religious belief and practice.

(Curriculum Directory;1996)

What is Religious Education?¹

- Religious Education is about engaging with the deepest questions of life and finding reasons for the hope which is within them
- It is about the Christian vision of the human person
- It is the core subject which is central to the life of the Catholic school
- Religious Education is the systematic study:
 - Of the mystery of God, as discovered through the Bible and particularly through the life and teachings of the Church;
 - The lives of the saints;
 - The relationship between faith and life.

Expectations of Classroom Religious Education

- Excellence in Religious Education is achieved by:
 - Clarity of succinct religious learning objectives
 - Key content
 - By appropriate methodologies
 - Rigour
 - Richness of resources
 - Achievement of identified outcomes
 - High expectations
 - Accurate methods of assessment.

¹ "Expectations of Religious Education in Catholic Schools" - Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, (January 2000)

Outstanding Religious Education requires:

- Analysis and reflection and critical appreciation of sources
- Marked progression through the different stages of education
- The unequivocal support of the Leadership of the Catholic school
- 10% of the timetable of the taught week for every Key Stage of education
- The encouragement of investigation, questioning and reflection
- Development of appropriate skills and attitudes which allows for a free, informed response to God's call in everyday life
- The use of skills in other areas of the curriculum
- To be embedded in the life of the school
- To be valued by all members of the community as a core subject

Teaching and Learning

The following aims and strategies underpin the effective delivery of Religious Education in the Catholic school, and therefore, at Holy Cross:

- Religious Education will be taught discretely and developmentally it will include the deepening of knowledge, and understanding of key theological ideas and their application to life.
- Ample opportunities will be offered for children to apply and use their knowledge and skills in cross curricular studies to deepen their understanding of religious truths and think creatively
- Engagement with their own and others' beliefs and values will help to develop good attitudes and dispositions so that children are instilled with a love of learning and a desire to go on learning
- Engagement with difficult questions of meaning and purpose which everyone has to face will enable them to think critically about their own questions of meaning and purpose.
- Offer the children a sense of worth through their experience of belonging to a caring community and an awareness of the demands of religious commitment to everyday life

The *Come and See* Curriculum

- At Holy Cross School, children are taught using the ***Come and See*** programme, recommended and required by the Nottingham Roman Catholic Education Service (NRCDES), under the direction of the Bishop of Nottingham. It is based on the theological foundations of the Second Vatican Council, the Catholic Catechism and the revised RE Curriculum Directory and includes the Catholic attainment levels.
- The Catechism of the Catholic Church addresses the search for meaning in life². Children are enabled to explore fundamental religious questions through the ***Come and See*** programme. Their search is guided through its structure, opened up in each topic through the *Explore, Reveal and Respond* sections.

The themes

Come and See is developed through three themes based on the documents of the Second Vatican Council which are gradually explored each time at greater depths. They are:

- Church
- Sacrament
- Christian living

² Faith is man's response to God, who reveals himself and gives himself to man, at the same time bringing man a superabundant light as he searches for the ultimate meaning of his life. (cf. CCC26).

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

- Community of faith - Church
- Celebration in ritual - Sacraments
- Way of life - Christian Living

Come and See includes objectives and learning intentions which take into account the religious and educational needs of all children

- Those from supportive Catholic homes
- Those for whom the school may be their first and perhaps only experience of the Church
- Those from other Christian traditions
- Those from other faiths
- Those of no faith experience.

Other faiths are taught, in line with the thinking of the Church, with respect and in recognition of their holiness and strength, in a spirit of friendship. Teaching formally about other faiths occurs in each year group every year, beginning in year one.

At Holy Cross, children will, over time, develop their knowledge and understanding of Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism and Islam. As well as being supported through the **Come and See** scheme, learning is enhanced through the rich resource that is the community of the City of Leicester itself.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

The school follows guidance and advice from the NRCDES on all matters relating to assessment, recording and reporting. Pupil progress is judged through observation, discussion and recorded work. Children are encouraged to self and peer evaluate their work and to respond to the teachers marking in order to help them to make progress. Assessment is ongoing with one formal assessment per term in accordance with diocesan advice.

Assessment data is gathered for every pupil once a term by the Religious Education Subject Leader, Mrs Alicia Irons.

Resources

A range of suitable resources are kept up to date and are stored in designated storage cupboards, classrooms and in the Chapel. Bibles, God's Story and Church's Story books are treated with respect at all times and to be maintained in good condition.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is to be monitored by the Religious Education Subject Leader and is evaluated and reviewed by the Governors and whole staff every two years