



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ST. JOHN VIANNEY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

November 2022

"I have carved you in the palms of my hands."

Isaiah 49:15

### INTENT

At St John Vianney, we are committed to the Catholic Faith, recognising and valuing every individual as special and unique in the image and likeness of God. Religious Education in our school is central to the educative mission of the Church and intrinsically linked with our school Mission Statement and permeates everything that we teach.

#### ***St John Vianney Mission Statement:***

*Through following Jesus,  
we aim to be a caring, happy school,  
where everyone is valued and appreciated  
and can reach  
their true potential.  
We hope to: act justly,  
love tenderly and walk humbly  
with our God.*

Our Mission Statement sits alongside the Gospel values of: courage, creativity, thankfulness, responsibility, compassion, peace, service, justice, trust, hope, love, forgiveness, friendship, humility, generosity and reverence and respect.

Religious Education, although part of the Curriculum, is far more than a subject to us at St. John Vianney School. It influences all aspects of school life and relationships. We hope that by developing this Catholic emphasis, we are building a caring attitude in school which will be evident in all our relationships between staff and children.

Example, instruction and practice within the context of family, school and parish create an all-pervading atmosphere of Catholic attitudes, values and ethos.

As a Catholic school, we feel that the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils is a major strength of our school. It underpins the education of our pupils and establishes a caring, orderly and self-disciplined learning community. We seek to encourage the children to work together and to willingly take on responsibility. They learn to share and value the achievement of others. The moral development of our children flows from a firm spiritual base.

We are nurturing the spiritual essence of every child through an engaging curriculum centred on gospel values. Each learner is immersed in authentic teaching to support and inform their moral compass and to equip a generation of emotionally literate, scripturally mindful and universally loving members of the Catholic family. Our aim is that, in RE lessons, everyone feels respected for their beliefs and expressions of faith and where, ultimately, all children achieve.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

At St John Vianney, we believe that Religious Education is the core of the core curriculum. Religious Education is the systematic study of the teaching of the Church and the mystery of Christ and is a rigorous academic subject in its own right. As such, it is to be taught, developed and resourced with the same commitment as any other subject.

Religious Education - Curriculum Time Allocation:

10% of curriculum time is allocated to Religious Education. This does not include Collective Worship.

## **PROGRAMME OF STUDY**

To fulfil the above aims and to address the four areas of study outlined in the Religious Education Curriculum Directory, 2012 – Revelation, Church, Celebration and Life in Christ - the 'Come and See' programme is used as recommended by the Diocese. *Come and See* is an invitation to exploration and promise of life for everyone. It aims to raise questions and provide materials for children to reflect on their own experience. For all children, the programme will raise questions of meaning and purpose and enable children to think critically, providing materials for reflecting on their own experience.

Teachers plan creative, engaging and focussed lessons which offer challenge to all pupils from *Come and See*. RE is assessed from the Age-Related Standards. In

each unit, children will experience a wealth of varied activities and experiences including visits, art work, music, varied stories, symbols and rituals, people and objects.

### PROCESS

Religious Education is taught through the process of Explore, Reveal, Respond. This follows the pattern of: the human search for meaning, God's initiative in revelation and the response in faith. This pattern is outlined both in the Catechism of the Catholic Church and in the Curriculum Directory.

### METHODOLOGY

A variety of teaching and learning strategies will be used from across the curriculum adapted appropriately to the needs and learning styles of pupils.

### INCLUSION

All pupils in our school, irrespective of ability, faith and background, will have appropriate differentiated access to the Religious Education programme.

### OTHER RELIGIONS

Two other religions are taught from EYFS to Year 6 following the programme of study in *Come and See*. These are Judaism, which is usually taught in the Autumn, and Islam, which is taught either in the Spring or Summer. At least one week of teaching and learning time per year is given to each.

### CATHOLIC LIFE

Opportunities for celebration, prayer and reflection in implicit and explicit ways are planned throughout the year. For example, Masses, Liturgies, Collective Worship, Prayer Spaces (Rosary club), prayer journaling, creative prayer.

### RELATIONSHIP AND SEX EDUCATION

Relationships and Sex Education is taught through a whole school policy which has been adopted from the Diocese and scheme of work 'Journey in Love', and, where possible, is integrated into other areas of the curriculum such as religious education, science and PSHE. It is always taught within the context of the church's teaching on sexual relationships. Parents are given the opportunity to discuss what their child will be learning so that they can support their child's work at home. Any questions that children ask are answered sensitively and in a caring manner. Lessons and resources are always chosen to suit to the age of the children. A Parent Guide can be found on the school's website.

## IMPACT

Evidence of impact in RE is measured through 'Age Related Standards' and monitored internally through our in-school monitoring programme and through the rigorous diocesan moderation process. Progress and impact are measured through moderation of planning, lessons and books. Cluster meetings with other RE coordinators ensures progress and good practice takes place across school.

Impact is not just collated through books or attainment but through the vibrant Catholic Life of our school; all of our pupils contribute to collective worship, liturgies and catholic life. Impact is also measured through pupil voice, staff and parent questionnaires.

### Past Data using Annual Diocesan Data Return (ADDR)

2019 Diocesan data not published due to pilot schools using 'Age Related Standards'. As of September 2019, all schools in the Diocese must use the 'Age Related Standards' to assess progress in RE.

	2019		2018		2017	
Average Attainment	Diocesan	School	Diocesan	School	Diocesan	School
Year 2 2C and above	n/a	81%	68.7%	81.7%	68.1%	86.4%
Year 4 2A and above	n/a	90%	72%	76.7%	69.8%	83.3%
Year 6 3A and above	n/a	73%	65.7%	80.6%	65.4%	80%

Data over time has been broadly in line with other core subjects and above diocesan data. Boy and girl attainment was broadly similar, a higher number of girls are working at a higher standard in 2019. This was the same for PP and non-PP pupils though a higher number of non PP pupils are working at a higher standard. SEND children are working at a lower standard when using 'Levels of Attainment' however there is now clearer guidance on assessing children with SEND in RE using 'Age Related Standards'.

## CULTURAL CAPITAL

At St. John Vianney school, we approach cultural capital through RE. We promote a varied curriculum that taps into many of the social, moral, spiritual and cultural elements that help a child be prepared for the next step in their lives. This is achieved in a multitude of ways including providing plenty of opportunities to build experiences and knowledge by immersing children in the world around them. These include: exploring new activities through lunchtime and after-school clubs, thinking about people around the world, celebrating different cultures, traditions and faiths, organising and running charity events, embracing and supporting our local environment, prioritising school trips (to venues including The Jewish Synagogue) and regular visits to St. John Vianney church, welcoming Father Martin and Deacon Neil into school to talk to children and providing many opportunities for questioning, curiosity and creativity through the RE curriculum delivered.