



RE Curriculum intent

Religious Education is the "core of the core curriculum" in a Catholic school (Pope St John Paul II).

Intent – What are we trying to achieve?

As the staff at Good Shepherd Primary Catholic Academy, it is our duty to see our mission and vision embedded across the Religious Education (R.E) curriculum and the whole wider curriculum. We strive to ensure each child develops a deeper understanding of the Catholic faith, promotes respect for religious and moral values and tolerance of other races and religions, while also meeting their own personal potential.

In the life and faith of our Catholic school, R.E plays a vital and central part, it is the foundation of all of our teachings. At the very heart of Catholic education lies the Christian vision of the human person. Therefore, Religious Education is never simply one subject among many, but the foundation of the entire educational process. Although R.E is taught as a core subject, through the 'Come and See' scheme of work set out by the Diocese, our Catholic beliefs and values inspire and unify every aspect of our school life. They are the basis, and an essential influence, on all that the staff and pupils at the Good Shepherd Academy do. R.E is not solely taught as a curriculum area but as a way of life, promoting the Gospel values, giving praise and reverence to God.

It is our intention that pupils at the Good Shepherd Primary Catholic Academy will leave our school with a wide range of happy and rich memories in R.E, formed through interesting and exciting experiences. Driven through an engaging and comprehensive curriculum which is the basis of knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith. We want each child to enjoy their R.E lessons, they should be faith-filled, enjoyable lessons where each child feels they belong to our school community. Within lessons, everyone is respected for their beliefs and expressions of faith, they will be a place where all children achieve. It is an opportunity for everyone to develop their own personal faith, through words and actions, and to enter into a communion with God. This is achieved through liturgy, collective worship, assemblies, lessons and roles and responsibilities throughout the school, which deepen our Catholic life and highlight our belief that Christ is at the centre of all that we do. Through R.E our children will learn about their unique place within their home, our school and their parish community.

Our intentions fall in line with our mission of creating active and creative minds, achieving Personal Potential and to grow strong faith.

Implementation - How do we translate our vision into practice?

At the Good Shepherd Primary Catholic Academy, we ensure that a minimum of 10% of curriculum time is allocated for R.E teaching across all key stages. The curriculum hours in R.E are non-negotiable and will be followed by all staff in the school. Fixed timetables are set at the beginning of the academic year and monitored by the Head Teacher and Senior Leadership Team of the school.

The Subject Leader for R.E will meet the Head Teacher regularly to evaluate provision, in order to ensure that teaching and learning in R.E is outstanding. Where necessary, staff will receive coaching and training in R.E. We are supported by the Diocesan R.E Primary Advisor, David Quinn, and our Director of Performance and Standards, Moira Dales.

The requirements of the R.E curriculum are met through the 'Come and See' scheme, which meets the requirements of the Religious Education Curriculum Directory set out by the Bishop's Conference of England Wales. All requirements in R.E at Good Shepherd Academy are met at a standard that equals or is better than those of English at all key stages.

The Come and See programme is followed throughout school from EYFS to Year 6.

'Come and See' provides:

- Opportunities for celebration, prayer and reflection in implicit and explicit ways.
- Children with the language of religious experience.
- Opportunities to explore and develop religious stories, and events.
- Appropriate materials about other Faiths.

In R.E children explore religious questions about life. Links are made with children's own experiences and universal experience. It raises questions and provides material for reflection. It enables children to explore their beliefs, values and way of life.

Through the high standard and exceptional teaching of R.E, pupils are inspired to become critical thinkers and to reflect deeply upon their own faith journey. They are challenged through the topics taught, to think about how they put the teachings of the church and Jesus into practise in their own daily lives. The children are encouraged to continually think about their own spirituality and teachers plan opportunities for children to explore this through discussion, lesson, prayer and Collective Worship.

Each year group uses the R.E End of Year Expectations to assess the attainment of the children and their progress is tracked on a termly basis. Teachers and pupils use 'I can statements', which reflect the children's learning in each topic. Both the End of Year Expectations and The I Can Statements have a 'Driver Word' focus for each year group. This Driver Word also forms part of the learning objective for each lesson. The children complete an assessed piece of work, which is moderated by staff and at a termly Trust moderation day. This is to ensure judgements are well evidenced and verified. Children are assessed not only on the content of their assessment piece but on their individual, group and oral work through each topic. This enables both class teachers and the subject leader to monitor coverage and identify progress made throughout the pupils' time at school. Termly teacher assessment will assess AT1, AT2/3, the assessed piece and an overall level.

Each topic will begin with a cover sheet and a class discussion. This sheet outlines the 'I Can Statements' for that topic, as well as the 'Big Question' and key vocabulary. Children will be expected to complete a mind map based on what they think the topic is about and what they feel the answer to the 'Big Question' is. This is to assess the children's prior knowledge and at the end of each topic the children will go back and reflect on their learning, adding to the mind map in a different colour. This is used as a monitoring and assessment tool by teachers and a self-assessment tool by pupils.

Where appropriate, the R.E Curriculum will include visitors who are specialists in their area. These visits will include guest speakers from CAFOD, the local foodbank, specialists in other faiths and other Catholic Charities. The use of a high-quality input from experts and appropriate educational visits will complement the delivery of lessons.

Children will participate in Mass, Holy days and feast days, Collective Worship and Class Liturgies which will involve religious actions and worship including the celebration of the sacraments.

Impact – What is the impact of our curriculum on the students?

As a result of these strategies, children at the Good Shepherd Academy:

- Are well prepared for the next stage of their education as confident and enthusiastic learners.
- Produce good quality work which they are proud of.
- Achieve consistently well in all areas of R.E and make good progress.
- Are happy, well rounded individuals who have developed a deep-rooted relationship with God and understanding of their Catholic faith.
- Are ambassadors for Christ who are ready to go out into the world and proclaim the values of the Gospel confidently, with compassion, love and forgiveness in their relationship with others.
- Understand that they are part of the family of God and know how they can play their part in their home, school, parish and wider communities.
- Will grow to know and love God, develop their moral and spiritual nature and deepen their faith.
- Will live their faith in an active and positive way, always aware of the presence and love of Christ guiding them.
- Will develop their relationship with God and become religiously literate.
- Will be able to define, describe and discuss areas of R.E. They will confidently use skills such as retelling, describing, comparing, giving reasons, explaining the meaning of biblical stories and considering the impact of beliefs.
- Will be able to reflect and consider important questions about R.E.

Religiously literate children and young people are able to engage in a fully informed critique of all knowledge, "leading, for example, to an understanding of the relationship between science and religion or history, and between theology, sport and the human body."

(Religious Education Curriculum Directory p4)

The school environment will reflect and celebrate our Catholic faith. Faith will play a central role in the lives of the children and the decisions that they make. Through our everyday religious practice, the church's traditions of prayer and worship will be upheld and fundamental values will be evident in R.E, with the children showing an understanding of how R.E can celebrate difference.