

# **St Bernard's RC Primary & Nursery School A Voluntary Academy**

## **RE Policy**



**Approved by Governors: Summer 2023  
Review date: Autumn 2024**

## **Religious Education Policy**

### **Our Mission**

**'To grow, love and learn following Jesus'**

The aim of Religious Education in St. Bernard's is to develop the religious, moral and spiritual potential of all children, teachers and other involved adults, by helping them to reflect upon themselves as whole people experiencing life throughout the body, mind and spirit with Jesus as our guide.

We aim to meet the needs, both religious and educational, of all children including those for whom the school may be their first and perhaps only experience of church, those from other Christian traditions and those from other faith backgrounds.

This is a collaborative activity between home, school, parish and community.

### Teaching and Learning

As religious educators, we aim to create an atmosphere of trust so that children can experience security and ask their questions and seek answers from us and from their own community. Children should feel free to express their views and discuss their thoughts knowing their opinions are valued and will be treated with respect. The school's Teaching and Learning Policy has been developed with the religious education of pupils and the Catholic ethos of the school at the forefront.

Children record their work in a RE book. They are aware that these books are 'special' and they are encouraged to show real pride in their work. Time is allocated to Religious Education at the recommended 10% of teaching time. RE and Collective Worship time is highlighted on timetables for each individual class.

As in all curriculum areas at St Bernard's, Religious Education takes into account the abilities of all children. Wherever necessary and appropriate, the work provided to children will be adapted and supported by the teacher and other adults to ensure children are appropriately challenged.

### Assessment and Reporting

Levels of attainment are judged on a range of completed work rather than on one single assessment task. Attainment is tracked following each topic and examples of work moderated for accuracy.

Pupils complete check-in questions at the start and end of a topic.

Parents are made aware of their child's progress in RE during parent's evenings and also in final written reports at the end of the year.

We use the Balance assessment tool to assess and track children's achievement in Religious Education. EYFS use Tapestry to record learning.

### Home, School and Parish

The establishment and development of links between home, school and parish are essential if the children in our care are really to benefit and 'grow' as members of the community. It is imperative that our children experience their membership of the home, school and parish, all as part of their own faith journeys and recognise for themselves the links between them. For this to be a positive experience, the links between these need to be nurtured. At St Bernard's we believe that these links can be strengthened, particularly in the areas of First Sacraments and community liturgies. Another link is made by our Mini Vinnie group - children who volunteer their time, raise funds and lead events.

### Curriculum

Just as our faith is central to life itself, religious education at St Bernard's underpins the whole school curriculum. Our children are taught Gospel Values and these should be evident through all subject areas. Our children are taught to use and extend the talents and skills given to them, enhancing self-awareness. Where their work explores the world around them, they are taken to that experience with a sense of awe at the nature of God's creation. This approach aims to nurture a deep respect for themselves and the world in which they live. Our RE curriculum follows 'The Way, the Truth and The Life' programme as adopted by Shrewsbury Diocese.

### Leadership and Management of Religious Education

It is the responsibility of the Executive Headteacher, Head of School and RE Coordinator to ensure that St Bernard's is striving to be a community where Gospel Values are lived each and every day. Teaching of religious education is monitored each year, where staff

are provided with ways forward to improve practice. Our use of peer observation enables staff to constructively review their own performance and gain ways of improving future teaching. This type of observation also includes our RE Governor. Regular INSET provision is arranged to address and support the needs of each member of staff. Funding will be made available as necessary to maintain the quality and standards in RE.

The RE Coordinator and Head of School will support all staff members where necessary throughout each academic year and share practice where appropriate.

### Sacramental Programme

The Sacramental Programme is a major link between the home, school and parish. Children in Year 3 celebrate the Sacraments of First Forgiveness and Holy Communion. However, Sacramental education begins as children enter the school through 'The Way, The Truth and The Life' programme.

Children are prepared through regular meetings in school with the RE Coordinator and Year 3 teacher. Each child has a book to complete at home and in school, as part of their preparation of their First Forgiveness and First Holy Communion.

This policy/document was reviewed by:-

Signed Julie Le Feuvre

Date: Summer 2023

Position Head Teacher

Signed. B. Letissier

Date: Summer 2023

Position Chair of Governors

The next revision date is: Autumn 2024