



# Much Woolton Catholic Primary School

*'With Jesus we Love, Learn and Grow'*

## School Policy for Religious Education

Approved by the Governing body in October 2023

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Chair of Governors

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Head teacher

To be reviewed and revised in October 2025

# MISSION STATEMENT

## With Jesus we Love, Learn and Grow

### To do this we will:

- Be a Christian community that follows Jesus in living out Gospel values; 'With Jesus' (Christ centred)
- Be a beacon of light that shines out to others, sharing faith, hope and love; 'Love' (Community)
- Provide opportunities for all to grow and achieve by igniting a desire for life long learning; 'Learn and grow' (Education)

### Objectives: Christ Centred

- Provide quality collective worship and enriching liturgical celebrations
- Enable our children to acquire an excellent religious education and develop their relationship with God
- Encourage a sense of justice, peace and stewardship of our global community

### Objectives: Education

- Provide a stimulating curriculum that develops a passion for learning, curiosity about our world and enables children to be agents for change
- Value our pupils and staff, appreciating their uniqueness and individual talents, enabling them to be the best they can be
- Have high expectations of ourselves and others in all that we do
- Strive for all to reach their full potential by building resilience and having high aspirations

### Objectives: Community

- Create a safe, happy environment where all feel valued and welcomed
- Develop positive links between the school and parish
- Recognise that each person is an extraordinary work of art
- Take an active role in the stewardship of our local and global community that enriches the lives of others

## **Our Mission Statement**

**“With Jesus we love, learn and grow”**

Much Woolton’s Mission Statement is at the heart of the school’s organization and is therefore:

- Central to the life of the school fulfilling its purpose as a Catholic institution
- An expression of belief that is based on Gospel values and the teaching of the church
- Holistic and encompasses all the aspects of school life

The foundation of our Religious Education Policy is based on our mission statement. We aim to foster, develop and sustain faith, hope and a love of God through a broad curriculum based on the gospel. We recognise that the curriculum, in its content and delivery, reflects the fact that Jesus Christ is the foundation of the whole educational enterprise.

As a Catholic school, Much Woolton aims to complement the Catholic home by cultivating the moral, intellectual, aesthetic and physical development of our children. We aim to foster a collaborative and co-operative environment which makes every member of our school feel welcome, valued and respected, regardless of race, creed, gender or disability.

Our teaching is not only evident in Religious lessons and in prayer and liturgy, but it underpins all we teach, across the curriculum. It is evident every day in the classroom, in the attitudes and skills we attempt to foster in our children. It permeates all areas of the curriculum. We aim to develop, in a Catholic atmosphere, qualities of mind, body and spirit in order to prepare our children to face the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

We acknowledge that to create distinctive Catholic School requires the full commitment of all who belong to the school community to trust and respect each other’s’ views and feelings. All are valued and encouraged to make Much Woolton a stimulating, enjoyable and satisfying place in which to work.

### **Aims**

- to respect and promote the child’s innate capacity for wonder, awe and reverence and imagination
- to enable our children to take the initial steps of their faith journey
- to increase the children’s knowledge and love of God
- to teach the Catholic faith and develop commitment towards that faith
- to encourage a loving and caring attitude towards family, friends, peers and teachers and all with whom they come into contact
- to celebrate through worship and liturgy in a way appropriate to their age
- to foster a respect for other religious and faith communities

## Objectives

As a distinctive subject, Religious Education equips the child for life by: -

- enabling children to grow in knowledge, love and openness to the mystery of God
- understand, celebrate and live their faith in ways suited to their age and development
- becoming familiar with the person, life and teachings of Jesus, who as saviour and Lord, reveals the face of God and fullness of being human
- growing in understanding and appreciation of Scripture and its place in Christianity
- growing in experience, knowledge and understanding of the Church, her life and teachings, her significance in the world today and her concern for peace and justice
- helping children to prepare for, participate in and appreciate liturgical prayer and worship
- develop a moral awareness as they reflect upon the human condition, and their own and other peoples' lives in the light of the Christian message
- experience Christian Faith through relationships evident throughout the school, the local and wider community
- understand, appreciate and develop positive attitudes towards people of other faiths, traditions and cultures.

Religious Education is, to a large degree, the prime mover in the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils. In this respect our Religious Education enables our children to

- develop a sense of awe and wonder towards Gods creation
- develop a moral awareness as they reflect on the human condition and their own and others' lives in the light of the Christian message, and
- appreciate the dignity of human existence within the immediate school, parish and local community and in the wider world.

## Scheme of work

To fulfill our aims and objectives we use the 'Come and See' Catholic Primary Religious Education Programme which integrates the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, the *Catholic Levels of Attainment and the new Religious Education Curriculum Directory*. It is the programme prescribed by the Archdiocese of Liverpool and the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. We endeavour to be creative and use cooperative learning techniques to promote children's progress.

In addition, 'Come and See' allows us to promote key principles of Catholic Social Teaching and introduce a global aspect to our RE curriculum through the inclusion of CAFOD's Universal Church topics. Teaching of other faiths is built into the programme, so our pupils have the opportunity to learn about other faith communities and their beliefs and practices.

Each class will study Islam and Judaism for one week during the year.

Throughout the year provision is also made for pupils to attend and take part in masses at Church and make contributions to whole school masses. Class led assemblies also take place at the end of each topic. The prayer life of the school is integrated into the Religious Education curriculum e.g. through class based collective worship opportunities. 'Reflect' time is part of the 'Come and See' programme and allows pupils to plan their own collective worship sessions and reflect on their learning from the previous weeks.

## **Planning and assessment**

As Religious Education is considered to be the core of the Core Curriculum, it is allocated a total teaching time of 10% of available curriculum time for each year group.

The syllabus sets out 9 units of study for all year groups from Foundation Stage to Year 6. Each class in the school will study the same theme at the same time, with the topic changing for each year group. Short term planning is based on the Standard Indicators relevant to each year group.

Formative assessment is ongoing and summative assessment takes place at the end of each unit (approximately every four weeks). Summative assessment tasks can be based on activities from the topics or designed by class teachers to fit their needs.

There are 3 assessments periods that take place throughout the year. At periodic moderation meetings analysis of work and level judgements are discussed. These form part of a review and inform the overall planning provision for Religious Education. Each child will have a record of attainment which will follow them throughout their school lives. Monitoring assessment across the school and tracking progress is the responsibility of the RE lead. 'What we know now' assessment will be completed at the end of each topic.

## **Long Term Planning**

The themes and topics framework sets out the programme for the year and its implementation is the responsibility of the School Leadership Team.

## **Medium Term Planning**

The overall responsibility for medium term planning lies with the Religious Education lead (Mrs P Regan).

It is also the lead's responsibility to ensure that teachers are delivering the correct topic, appoint start and finish dates, give guidance with resources and lead the reflection for 'Come and See for Yourself', at the start of each topic. An overview, which is the medium term plan is to be found on the 'Come and See' website. It is good practice for year group teachers to discuss these before each topic.

## **Short Term Planning**

Short term planning is the responsibility of the class teacher. Planning is to be done on the planning formats provided by the Archdiocese and driver words are to be used to differentiate activities. Planning sheets should also include details of organisation eg whole class, group or individual activities.

## **Reporting**

Parents are advised by letter of the topics to be covered each term. This information is put on the school website. Parents are also involved through discussions and observations of their children's work in termly parent's evenings. There is a written account of pupil's progress on their annual school report. This recognises the status of RE as a core subject in our school.

## **Evaluation of Teaching**

Criteria and procedures for reviewing and evaluating the teaching of 'Come and See' follow the guidelines of the programme. Teachers' are expected to comment throughout and at the end of each topic. Monitoring of teaching is by classroom observations and review of children's work. This is undertaken by the SMT and RE lead.

## **Staff Development**

The RE lead will attend all termly RE lead briefings and report back to staff. Staff are encouraged to attend CPD days organised by the Christian Education department. Any new staff will attend the 'New to Come and See' training as necessary.

## **Teaching Staff**

Each teacher is responsible for teaching RE in their own class. We currently have 8 teachers that hold the CCRS qualification and 1 who is studying for it.

## **Resources**

The RE lead is responsible for the storage and maintenance of the RE equipment and resources. Each class teacher has access to the 'Come and See' website. A crucifix, the Good News Bible and a copy of the school mission statement should be prominent in class. Each class should have a focus table in their classroom. There is a designated cupboard which stores resources, this includes boxes of resources for other faiths.

## **Displays**

Each class will have their own focus table/area which can be adapted during the year to reflect the Liturgical calendar and collective worship themes. RE themed displays will also be present throughout the school in communal areas such as the hall. Classes should also have their own RE linked displays in classrooms and these are expected to be changes with each topic and used as a working wall, added to each week with the relevant key words and work.

## **Links with Parents and Parish**

We recognise the importance of maintaining good home/school/Parish links. In our Sacramental Programme for Year 4 pupils home, school and Parish work closely together. The 'I Belong' programme is delivered by the parish team. They are strongly supported by the school and have regular contact with the Headteacher and Year 4 teachers.

### **Other opportunities for home/school/Parish links include:**

- Parent invitations to school masses at church and school. Parents are also invited to assemblies on a regular basis. This invitation to school masses and assemblies is also extended to members of the Parish.
- Annual meetings at which parents are given a general summary of work to be covered in all subjects.
- Annual school report.
- Regular visits from the parish priest who wholeheartedly supports school/parish links.

## **Spiritual and Moral Education**

All staff appreciate that the spiritual, moral, intellectual and physical welfare of each child is their primary concern. The love of Christ is apparent in the school community through mutual respect and support.

All staff enable pupils to develop a compassionate, supportive and respectful attitude towards each other.

**Equal Opportunities**

At Much Woolton we aim to provide all pupils with equal access to a broad and balanced curriculum, of which RE is an integral part. In this way all should make the greatest possible progress and reach their full potential. Group work, extension activities and individual support are used to meet the needs of all children ensuring inclusion, and full access to all aspects of the RE curriculum.

**SEND**

Every individual child is treated with the utmost dignity and respect. We allow for children being at different levels and encourage them to grow as individuals at their own rate and relative to their own ability.