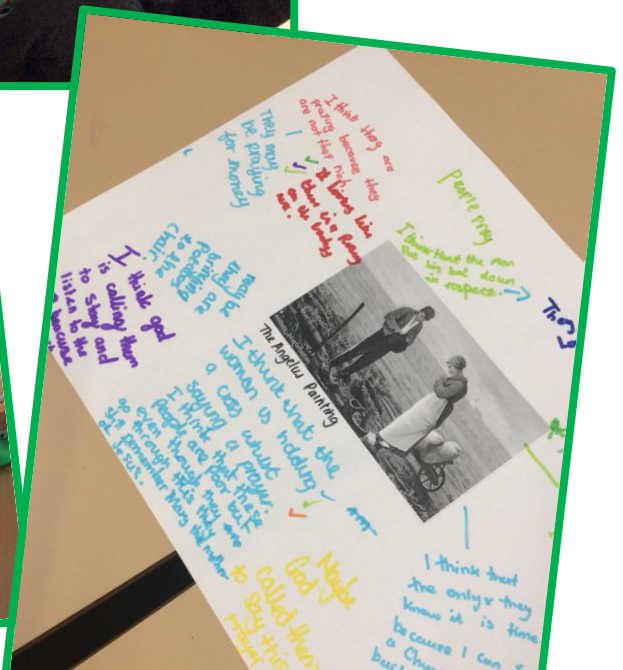
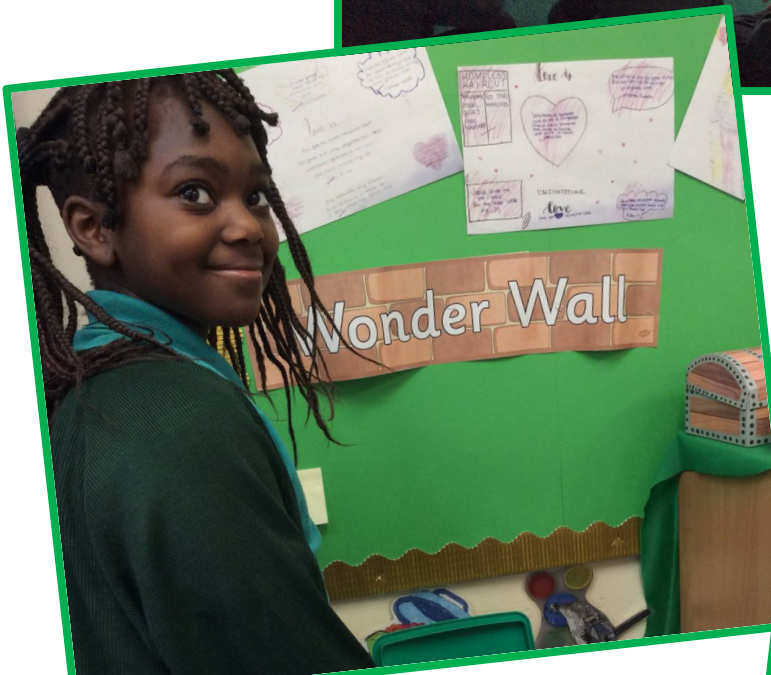




St Patrick's
Catholic Voluntary Academy

Learning & Teaching in RE at St Patrick's Academy



Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:17

OUR INTENT

The Catholic ethos is at the heart of all we do, underpinning every aspect of school life. Through the RE curriculum we develop the pupil's knowledge and understanding of the bible, Catholic faith, other world faiths and their spiritual life, encouraging the pupil's innate capacity for wonder, awe, reverence. We intend the pupils to discover a sense of their own dignity and value - to celebrate each other's uniqueness whilst knowing that everyone is created in the image of God. We provide opportunities for pupils to participate in Catholic Rites, Rituals and Prayer. We intend to develop the pupils' life-long relationship with God through developing their knowledge and understanding of scripture and the role of God in our lives. In all of this we intend to develop pupils' moral and spiritual understanding in a safe and nurturing environment where mistakes are acknowledged and reconciliation and forgiveness are key. We intend the pupils to love themselves and show God's love for others especially those in need by living out the Gospels.



RE Curriculum

Through the teaching of RE across school we aim to:

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

Skills to enable them to examine, question and reflect upon religious beliefs and practice.

Ability to relate knowledge gained through Religious Education to their understanding of other areas of the curriculum

Spirituality and personal relationship with God through a rich experience of liturgy

Awareness of other cultures and beliefs, in order to respect and understand them

Develop positive attitudes: eg, respect for truth, respect for the views of others; awareness of the spiritual, of moral responsibility, of the demands of a religious commitment in everyday life and especially the challenge of living in a multicultural, multi-faith society.

THE FOUNDATIONS OF OUR CURRICULUM

The Foundations of our RE teaching is in:

Revelation - Finding meaning in life

Church - Community of Faith

Sacraments - Celebration in symbol and ritual

Christian Living - Way of life

These areas are developed in the following ways:

- Through use of the "Come and See" RE Scheme
- Through links with the Parish
- Through links with the Home

Come and See

The basic question (belief) for each term is explored through three themes:- Domestic Church, Local Church and Universal Church. These are divided as follows for each year group across the 3 terms:

Domestic church family, Baptism/confirmation belonging, Advent/Christmas loving;

Local church community, Eucharist relating, Lent/Easter giving;

Pentecost serving, Reconciliation Inter-relating, Universal Church world

TEACHING AND LEARNING

The Curriculum Directory for Catholic schools is used to guide and inform the teaching of Religious Education. It guides the structure of the Come and See programme, used for planning and informs the process of each topic. For all children from EYFS to year 6, RE is taught through the process of Explore, Reveal, Respond. This follows the pattern of: the human search for meaning (explore), God's initiative in Revelation (reveal) and the response in faith (respond). The Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools is used to guide and inform teaching of Religious education.

Religious Education has a time allocation of 10% teaching time.

Teaching & Learning Strategies

A thematic, knowledge, skills and experience-based approach to learning enables children to make connections and link ideas and areas of learning.

Expectations are extremely high. Children are encouraged to develop as resilient, reflective, resourceful learners who have strong, positive relationships with others.

The curriculum provision ensures access and opportunity for all children. Where necessary the curriculum is adapted to meet the needs of individual children. A variety of teaching and learning methods are employed to meet the needs of all pupils ensuring challenge for all in an inclusive learning environment

Driver words, shared by the diocese, are used to steer daily learning. This enables next step and appropriately pitched ownership of learning, as well as a clear understanding of targets.

Lesson Structure

RE lessons are set aside from all others. Each lesson begins with an opportunity for prayer, reflection and/or wonder. Quiet music may be played to create an atmosphere of peace and a candle is lit to signify the presence of the Lord. Lessons will be focused primarily on aspects of AT1, however throughout lessons children will be given an opportunity to relate to personal experience (AT2) and wonder (AT3)

A range of activities to support learners to engage in knowledge acquisition and skill development in RE include: researching, collating and classifying • working with problems and grappling with puzzling experiences • exploring experiences through story, music, drama, dance, and art (at least one art lesson is taught in each topic)

Across the course of each topic, staff must ensure children have the opportunity to explore scripture through scripture detectives work, providing opportunity to look in depth at scripture helping pupils encounter the Lord.

EXPLORE

Initially the children are taught to explore the topic whether this be, themselves, their relationships or the wider world; helping them to begin to look at and focus on the experience within their own lives. In this way the children are led to a deeper understanding, of significant events and experiences in their everyday life.

REVEAL

Reveal offers the teacher and pupils the opportunity to discover together the Christian understanding of the mystery of the Trinity; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They explore the mystery of human life as revealed in the person, life and gospel of Jesus Christ Christians. It will involve learning about Scripture, the teaching of the Church, prayers, rites, psalms, hymns and other expressions of Christian faith and the lives of outstanding Christians. The process of delivery will involve:

RESPOND

The children are taught to respond by **remembering** and celebrating all that they have learnt. This new knowledge will enable them to make a personal response in their daily lives. Through a quiet, prayerful atmosphere for reflection; looking at and thinking about completed work and drawing attention to different aspects of this work, the children are then given an opportunity to **rejoice** in all they have achieved.

Throughout the course of an RE topic, children have the opportunity to develop their understanding across AT1, AT2 and AT3.

AT1 - Learning about religion/knowledge (Head) - Children will develop their knowledge of beliefs, teachings and sources; celebration and ritual; social and moral practices and way of life.

AT2 - Learning from religion/scripture and living out faith (Heart) - Children will engage in their own and others' beliefs and values, as well as engaging with questions of meaning and purpose. AT2 involves the reflection on their own experiences in the light of learning about religion.

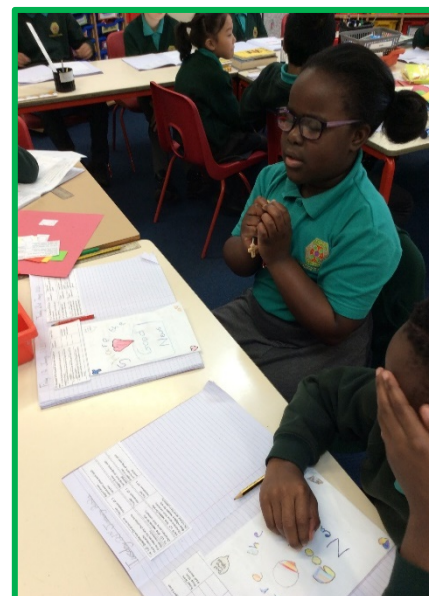
AT3 - Wonder and reflection moments (Cloud) - Children will be encouraged to wonder and reflect upon what they've learnt/studied in RE.

TEACHING OF OTHER FAITHS

We recognise that we live in a multi-cultural, multi-faith society. Children are introduced to the background and beliefs of people of other faiths so that prejudice and misunderstandings can be overcome and children learn to appreciate that many people hold religious convictions and beliefs that are different to their own.

Using 'Come and See' links are made with the experience of other faiths. In the Autumn Term one week is given to the exploration of Judaism and in the Summer Term a study of another faiths, either Hinduism; Sikhism; or Islam is undertaken.

Children are taught that other people pray, fast, celebrate, worship and go on Pilgrimage, through inviting people of other faiths to visit the school and share their experiences, visiting local places of worship for other faiths and having a wide range of multi-faith resources available for classes to use.



Monitoring

- Planning- checking for coverage of knowledge, plans for skill development and progression.
- Sampling work in books and giving feedback to colleagues by subject lead, SLT and Governors.
- Lesson visits inform the subject lead and SLT about the quality of learning experiences provided for pupils.
- Pupil voice.
- Half termly curriculum reviews provide staff voice.
- Learning walks evidence the presentation of learning
- Monitoring of learning environments (including Prayer Focuses) in classes and corridors to reflect learning
- The subject leader is given non-contact half time termly to support them in carrying out their responsibilities.
- Formal Assessment undertaken half termly in line with Diocesan expectations

Assessment and Reporting to Parents

Assessment is carried out in line with the Nottingham Dioceses guidance on End of Year Expectations, and related to the concepts, skills and attitudes to be developed through the exploration of themes and the learning outcomes for each topic.

Assessment establishes what pupils know, understand and can do. It does not assess faith or the practice of.

Teacher Assessment - Assessment takes place both informally (general observations of children's classroom activities, contributions made by children in discussions or to joint work, answers to oral questions) and formally (marking of work, end of topic review and regular planned assessment focuses.) Each topic has two formal opportunities for pupils to respond to teacher assessment of work through -feedback strips (see feedback policy)

Assessment for Learning is incorporated into planning and evidence collated, is made with reference to the expectations of what children know, understand and are able to do which is listed for each topic in the "Come and See" scheme.

Termly assessments - are undertaken in accordance with the diocese assessment calendar. Examples of work are moderated by schools within the CMAT. Moderation of levels allocated to children's learning takes place within the family of schools as well as across diocesan schools at RE coordinator training events.

Self & Peer Assessment - is used at the end of topics involving pupils critiquing their own and the work of their peers in a positive and constructive manner.

Reporting to Parents- Assessment data is recorded on the CMATs tracking system. This data is then used to support teachers in planning future lessons/ discussions at parent/teacher conversations and the annual report to parents.

Links with our Parish

The Parish is a vital support in our teaching of Religious Education. We develop this area through:-

- Making children aware that they are part of the Parish Community.
- Parish Ambassadors to share with parish details of upcoming school events and vice versa
- Involvement in charitable activities to support our parish and community
- Supporting the parish sacramental programmes.
- Staff support with Children's liturgy in the Parish
- Attending weekly Parish Mass on a Wednesday
- Sharing Resources between the Parish and school.
- Information shared through the weekly school newsletter about Parish events and vice versa
- School noticeboard in the Church entrance/ Parish noticeboard in school hall.
- Members of the Parish supporting with reading in school, developing parish/school links
- Subject lead attends Parish AGM to share news and updates from School community



Sacramental Preparation

This takes place in the parish, and children in Year 3 and above from school and parish are invited to join the preparation. It begins in December each year and follows through to May

The children and families prepare as a group supported by Parish Catechists and some teachers from school who are part of the Parish. Catechists share their faith with the groups and children and families follow some activities at home.

School supports and encourages children and families in their preparation and some staff attend masses prepared by the catechist groups. School encourages participation in the preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion. Dates are put in the newsletter and reminders are sent through school.

Following First Holy Communion, pupils in school who have received the sacrament lead our school/ parish Mass for the Feast of St Peter and St Paul in June.



Home School Links

School encourages parents to play an active part in their child's spiritual development by:-

- Supporting their child in their faith.
- Receiving half-termly topic webs that include the Come and See programme - Website.
- Information shared through the termly school newsletter about Parish events.
- Parish information board displayed in the school hall for visitors.
- Helping pupils to learn both traditional and school specific prayers.
- Taking their child to church
- Attending Parents Evenings and workshops.
- Encouraging participation in the parish preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion. Dates are put in the newsletter and reminders are sent through school.
- Attending Masses and other liturgical celebrations in school.