



**St Bonaventure's Catholic Primary School
Egerton Road,
Bishopston
Bristol, BS7 8HP**

Religious Education (RE) Policy

Governing Body Committee	Standards
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This policy is available at
<http://www.st-bonaventures.bristol.sch.uk/>



Vision

At St Bonaventure's we strive to be the best we can, guided by the light of Christ.

Rationale

We aim to work closely with the home and parish to create an atmosphere where through teaching and example, our children will be helped to enter into a loving relationship with God our Father, Jesus and with each other as members of God's family and so continue to lay foundations of the Catholic faith.

At St Bonaventure's School we deliver a broad balanced education to enable our children grow to their full potential and pay regard to the formation of the whole person. We believe how a child develops spiritually, morally and socially is every bit as important as academic progress. This means in religious education we are not just teaching a curriculum subject but also a living faith, which we are supporting our children to share in.

Aims and purpose

The aims and purposes of religious education at St Bonaventure's is to support our children to:

1. develop knowledge and understanding of Catholic belief and the relationship between their faith and their lives;
2. develop an understanding of what it means to be committed to a religious tradition;
3. be able to reflect on their own experiences and to develop a personal response to the wonder and mystery of their faith;
4. develop investigative, reflective and research skills and to enable them to make reasoned judgements about religious issues;
5. develop an awareness of spiritual and moral responsibility;
6. develop knowledge and understanding of major world religions;
7. develop an understanding of religious traditions and to appreciate cultural differences, and,
8. have respect for other peoples' views and to celebrate the diversity in society.

Guidelines

We endeavour to achieve the above through:

- The study of scripture at a suitable level.
- Class and school assemblies for reflection, communal prayer, and celebration
- The provision of opportunities for personal prayer.
- Full participation in school, class and parish masses and liturgies.
- The use of the arts to promote religious awareness and insight.
- The use of the arts as a means of reinforcing and deepening the child's knowledge and understanding of their faith.
- Support for the parish in the preparation of the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.
- Use of the parish clergy where appropriate to assist in the teaching of the children.

RE Curriculum

At St Bonaventure's we fulfil the required 10% curriculum time allocated to the teaching of religious education. We use the God Matters strategy across the school to support the teaching of religious education. This provides



us with a curriculum that is based on theology and is progressive from Reception to Year 6. The approach we have adopted is structured in a way that allows for deep learning and engagement with scripture.

We use the God Matters unit planner as our whole school scheme of work, see appendix 1. Year group teachers then use the God Matters unit plans as a basis and adapt and annotate these to meet the needs of the learners in their classes. The teaching of 'other faiths' is included within each unit.

In addition we teach Sex Relationship Education using 'A Journey in Love' recommended by, and in line with, Clifton Diocese guidelines. **This developmental programme is based on the belief that we are all made in the image and likeness of God. An aspect of the mystery of love is studied in each year group from Reception to Year 6.** (See SRE policy for further details)

Assessment

At St Bonaventure's the role of assessment in RE is not to assess an individual child's personal faith or spirituality, but to feed back into planning to ensure teaching builds on children's knowledge and understanding, and children are encouraged in the development of their faith.

We assess children's work in religious education by making informal judgements as we observe them during lessons. We mark written work once it has been completed and we provide written comments focused on the learning objective. **Three times a year, class teachers** make a summary judgement about the work of each pupil in relation to the expectations of **each unit taught**. Class teachers record this judgement in their RE assessment files, which is used by the class teacher for identifying next steps and by the RE leader for assessing the progress of individuals, classes and cohorts.

The RE subject leader keeps samples of children's work in a portfolio. This demonstrates what the expected level of achievement is in RE in each year of the school.

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to take part in religious education lessons. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

Monitoring

The RE subject leader is responsible for monitoring the standards of children's work across the school and for the quality of the teaching in religious education. She is also responsible for supporting colleagues in the teaching of religious education, for being informed about current developments in the subject, and for providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in the school. The R.E. subject leader presents the headteacher with an annual action plan that evaluates the strengths and weaknesses of the subject and identifies actions to secure improvement.

This policy will be review annually.

RE leader: Mrs Sarah Ballantine



RECEPTION									
Introduces God as creator of all and our response to the world He created. Explores ways of talking to God through prayer. Explains and introduces the Sign of the Cross.	Explores how the family help us get to know God through prayer. Explores the role of Mary in the life of Jesus. Introduces the Muslim faith and the importance of prayer in Islam.	Introduces Advent as a special time when we get ready for the birth of Jesus.	Explores the story of the first Christmas.	Looks at how God is shown in our lives and through the work of others, including the priest. Introduces the Sikh religion.	Introduces the idea of God's presence at all times in our lives. Uses language of sacraments.	Introduces Lent as a time when we get ready for Easter and introduces, through the example and teaching of Jesus, different ways of getting ready. Looks at how Jesus followed the Jewish faith and explores how Jewish people attend a synagogue to pray.	Explores the events which led up to Easter.	Looks at the joy of the Easter season by reflecting on the emotions of those discovering the empty tomb. Introduces the Hindu religion.	Looks at events of the upper room and explores what a friend of Jesus does.



YEAR 1									
<p>Introduces the account of creation in the Bible.</p> <p>We learn how to praise God for His many gifts and that psalms are prayers of praise.</p> <p>The Jewish religion is introduced and that Jews give thanks and praise to God.</p>	<p>Explores the purpose of prayer.</p> <p>Introduces the liturgical calendar.</p> <p>Examines how saints help us to get to know God.</p> <p>Explores the faith of Islam and how Muslims pray five times a day.</p>	<p>Looks at getting ready for the birth of Jesus through the eyes of Mary and Joseph and helps to identify their response to God.</p>	<p>Looks at how the birth of Jesus changed others.</p> <p>Shares the story of the Wise Men and the reasons they brought gifts.</p>	<p>Reveals how God shows himself to us in Jesus.</p> <p>Looks at the signs Jesus gave us to show that God's kingdom was in him.</p> <p>Looks at Jesus as a teacher and a healer.</p> <p>Looks at the Sikh religion and introduces Guru Nanak.</p>	<p>Starts to focus on forgiveness and healing.</p> <p>Establishes the relationship of the actions of healing and forgiveness with Jesus.</p>	<p>Explores the basic meaning of Lent and links it to the life and teachings of Jesus.</p> <p>Looks at how we can get ready for Easter by changing.</p> <p>The Sabbath day is explored in the multi-faith element.</p>	<p>Highlights the importance of the Last Supper and introduces the Stations of the Cross as a prayer.</p>	<p>Will look at the impact that the Resurrection had on the lives of the ordinary people who witnessed it.</p> <p>Explores stories of Hinduism.</p>	<p>Looks at the events of Pentecost, its meaning and how it changed the lives of the followers.</p>



YEAR 2									
<p>Looks at God as creator and how He works through His people to protect His creation.</p> <p>Explores why the Old Testament is proclaimed as the Word of God.</p> <p>Looks at the Jewish festival of the harvest (Sukkot).</p>	<p>Extends the knowledge of the life of Mary and Jesus through prayer (the Rosary) and Scripture.</p> <p>Explores the lives of some saints who responded to the call of Jesus.</p> <p>Looks at Islam and the feast of Ramadan.</p>	<p>Looks at the symbolism to help us get ready to meet Jesus.</p>	<p>Shows how we can get to know Jesus through the journeys of others.</p> <p>Looks at the journey of the Magi in detail and introduces the Flight to Egypt.</p>	<p>Explores stories from Scripture, which show how special Jesus is. It looks in particular at the miracle stories.</p> <p>Looks at the three duties of a Sikh.</p>	<p>Looks at what a sacrament is. This is done through exploration of what happens during the Sacraments of Baptism, Matrimony and the Eucharist.</p>	<p>Looks at Lent as being preparation for Easter, commencing with Ash Wednesday and being a time of seeking forgiveness and doing penance.</p> <p>Looks at the Our Father.</p> <p>Looks at the Torah and the Jewish faith.</p>	<p>Looks at the arrest and crucifixion of Jesus and considers Holy Week events through the eyes of Mary.</p>	<p>Looks in further detail at the account of the empty tomb.</p> <p>Thomas is introduced, to show that people responded in different ways to the Resurrection of Jesus.</p> <p>The Hindu feast of Holi is studied.</p>	<p>Examines the nature of the promise made by Jesus to send his Spirit.</p> <p>Identifies Pentecost as the birthday of the Church.</p> <p>Examines the link between Pentecost and Confirmation.</p>



YEAR 3									
Examines how we are called to be part of God's creation through baptism. Explores how Jesus calls us and called his disciples. <i>Looks at initiation rites of the Hindu and other religions.</i>	Peace and forgiveness, expressed both by Jesus and in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, are explored. Examines the life of St Francis of Assisi and his prayer for peace. <i>Islamic belief of Muhammed as the Last Prophet.</i>	Explores Advent as a time when we prepare for Christmas and recognise Jesus in the world. It looks at the story of the Annunciation.	Through the shepherds, we reflect on the nature of Jesus' Birth.	Introduces work on the Presentation and Baptism of Jesus as signs of God's revelation. Explores the Liturgy of the Word as revealing God. Looks at what Sikhs do at the Gurdwara (Sikh temple) and the holy days and festivals for the Sikh religion.	Looks at the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Looks at what happens during Mass and the meaning behind what happens.	Looks at how Jesus changed the people he met and deepened his relationship with the Father through prayer. <i>Explores how Jewish people pray.</i>	Places the Last Supper in with events of Holy Week. There is a particular focus on the Last Supper because of its connection with the Mass.	Provides a focus on the appearance of Jesus to his disciples. Symbolism of the Easter season, including the liturgical colour, is explored. <i>Explores Hindu worship.</i>	Explores the effect of the Spirit and the role of the Holy Spirit in the Eucharistic Prayer.



YEAR 4									
<p>Explores being made in the image and likeness of God, as seen through the story of Genesis and how we are called to respect all similarities and differences.</p> <p>Looks at how we are called to eradicate injustice, e.g. through the work of CAFOD.</p> <p>Examines issues of reverence and respect in the Jewish faith and the Torah.</p>	<p>Explores the prayer life of Jesus as he grew up in the Jewish faith and how he taught his followers to pray.</p> <p>Reflects on the importance of prayers to Mary in the life of the Church and researches the history of the Rosary.</p> <p>Looks at the importance of prayer in Islam.</p>	<p>The First Coming of Jesus is placed in historical context through the lives of his ancestors (House of David).</p> <p>Explores the nature of the Messiah.</p>	<p>The role of angels in the story of Christmas as messengers of the Good News of Jesus' birth is examined.</p> <p>The feasts associated with Christmas, such as the Annunciation and the birth of John the Baptist, are also explored.</p>	<p>Looks at how the apostles and Anna and Simeon saw the glory of Jesus as the only Son of the Father.</p> <p>The revelation of Jesus as Light of the World.</p> <p>Looks at the celebrations of light over darkness in the Sikh religion.</p>	<p>Explores the nature of vocation and its symbolism in preparation for work on the Sacraments of Vocation in year 5. This is done through Old Testament stories, which show how God calls people in faith and the symbolism of anointing.</p>	<p>Examines Jesus' time in the wilderness.</p> <p>It also explores how prayer, fasting, almsgiving and living out the Beatitudes help us prepare for Easter.</p> <p>Examines the importance of Yom Kippur in the Jewish religion.</p>	<p>The reasons for the death of Jesus are explored through his Passion and death.</p>	<p>Looks at the risen Jesus, shown through the Ascension and other stories.</p> <p>Explores the Hindu festival of Diwali.</p>	<p>Explores the events of Pentecost in detail and looks at how the gift of languages is expressed.</p> <p>Examines the qualities of a follower of Jesus as expressed in Colossians.</p>



YEAR 5									
<p>Explores how we become creators, which involves the two creation stories in Genesis.</p> <p>What it means to be the People of God, as expressed by St Paul and as expressed in the Beatitudes.</p> <p>Looks at importance of peace through the five pillars of Islam.</p>	<p>The work of Jesus is continued through us as illustrated in the prayer of St Teresa of Avila.</p> <p>Examines the concept of pilgrimage as a journey of prayer.</p> <p>Looks at the importance of the pilgrimage to Mecca for Muslims.</p>	<p>Connects the coming of Jesus with the promise revealed in the Old Testament and looks at the titles that were given to the expected Messiah in the Old Testament.</p>	<p>Explores the difficulties faced by Mary and Joseph as revealed in Mathew's Gospel, including the role of King Herod.</p> <p>The implications of the Christmas story for us today are also looked at.</p>	<p>Study of certain parables looks at our understanding of the Kingdom of God and explores how divine revelation is communicated, particularly in baptism.</p> <p>Explores stories told by Guru Nanak and other gurus.</p>	<p>Looks at the commitment expressed in the Sacraments of Holy Orders and Matrimony.</p>	<p>Looks at the concept of temptation.</p> <p>Looks at how preparation for Easter involves becoming more like Jesus through St Paul's teaching.</p> <p>Explores Jewish understanding of repentance.</p>	<p>Provides a focus on Jesus driving the traders from the temple.</p>	<p>Examines the Church's belief in eternal life, as shown in the Easter story.</p> <p>Explores the story of Lazarus.</p> <p>Looks at symbolism in Hinduism.</p>	<p>Examines the words of Peter after Pentecost.</p> <p>Explores the Church's belief in the Holy Spirit within the Trinity.</p> <p>Looks At the role of the apostles proclaiming the Good News (Confirmation).</p>



YEAR 6									
<p>Explores the call to be the ‘People of God’ and the need to be part of God’s creation by overcoming disharmony, by upholding God’s law.</p> <p>Explores the ten commandments.</p> <p>Explores the importance of ‘shalom’ and the Sabbath in the Jewish faith.</p>	<p>Explores the concept of heaven and the Church’s belief in Mary and the feasts celebrated in her honour.</p> <p>Looks at what heaven is like.</p> <p>Looks at lives of the saints and the practice of praying for the dead.</p> <p>Looks at prophets in the Islamic religion.</p>	<p>Examines the two parts of the season of Advent through parables, prayers and hymns of the Church.</p>	<p>Looks in detail at the Birth of Jesus, expressed as ‘The Word’ in St John’s Gospel.</p> <p>Explores the meaning of ‘Incarnation’.</p>	<p>Looks at the personal relationship St Paul enjoyed with God.</p> <p>Looks at Matthew 28, to consider what is meant by ‘Apostolic Tradition’.</p> <p>Considers the work of the ten Gurus in the Sikh religion and what their key teachings are.</p>	<p>Looks at the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, as revelation of the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>Looks at our role in the Church.</p>	<p>The means by which we prepare for Easter are explored in depth, through the teachings of Jesus in the parable of the rich man and Lazarus and the account of the Samaritan woman at the well.</p> <p>Explores the history of the Jewish faith.</p>	<p>Considers what happened in the Garden of Gethsemane and the denial of Peter.</p>	<p>Examines the Easter story through the eyes of Thomas and the sources of doubt.</p> <p>Examines the belief in eternal life through the life of the Church today (funerals).</p> <p>Explores the Hindu belief in reincarnation.</p>	<p>Considers the importance of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, as expressed through Confirmation and their effect on the life of the Church.</p> <p>Explores the account of the coming of the Holy Spirit in John’s Gospel.</p>

NB. Multi-faith references are shown in green.