



**ST BERNARD'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL**

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
POLICY**

**ADVENT 2018**

# St. Bernard's Preparatory School

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

### Mission Statement

**With God as our shelter and Christ as our guide, the mission of St Bernard's Preparatory School is to educate towards love and service to God, each other and the wider community. Through our broad balanced curriculum we will develop an understanding of each faith and the values we share. We will treat each person with respect, knowing we are special and unique.**

**St Bernard's is part of the St Benedict's family of schools. All schools in the group share a similar Catholic and Benedictine/Bernardine ethos.**

### Children's Mission Statement

**We follow God's footsteps through our love, work and our prayer.**

### **PHILOSOPHY OF THE POLICY**

In the light of our school mission statement, RE is taught here at St. Bernard's Preparatory School because we aim to establish an awareness of the Christian faith through Catholic worship, celebration and prayer within the curriculum as a natural part of school life. Together with parents and parishes we work in partnership towards educating our pupils within a Catholic context, communicating the message of Jesus Christ, whilst drawing connection between differing faiths as part of valuing and respecting the religious and cultural diversity of our school family.

We wish our school to be a community of Faith in which each member participates, fully aware that all our work and aspirations derive from God.

We believe that the ethos of our school is of prime importance as children are sensitive to and learn from the atmosphere, ethos and attitudes within the school. Our aim is to permeate all facets of education in our school with Gospel Values, creating a Catholic Christian community, where all educational goals are rooted in Christ and his Gospel and we are reflecting God's purpose in our undertakings. We are supported in this by being part of the extended Bernardine Community

### **AIMS**

We aim to ensure that:

- (i) We will help pupils to know, love and worship God, as Father, Son and Holy Spirit and to know and love Jesus Christ and his Gospel.
- (ii) The children develop their faith in the light of Scripture, tradition and the teaching of the Church.
- (iii) There is an appreciation of other World Faiths through an appropriate knowledge of their principal beliefs, spiritual values and traditions.
- (iv) We will take seriously issues as justice, peace, racism and disadvantage in the multi-cultural society we live in, in the light of the Gospel Values. We will guide our children's concerns from self-interest to those that involve the problems of society as a whole.

*St. Bernard's Preparatory School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. It is our aim that all pupils fulfil their potential.*

- (v) Religious Education addresses all pupils in our school. We aim to take into account the religious and educational needs of our children from supportive Catholic homes, those for whom school is their first experience of Church, those from other Christian traditions and those from other faith backgrounds.
- (vi) As a school we will proclaim and celebrate the Religious Education of our pupils by providing shared opportunities for celebration, prayer and reflection in implicit and explicit ways.
- (vii) A spiritual dimension is given to the lives of the children and that the liturgical year is reflected in the life and activities of the school.
- (viii) Positive attitudes towards people of other faiths and other religious traditions in relation to God are respected and valued.
- (viii) Pupils are actively involved within their own learning

## **OBJECTIVES OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

- to develop a knowledge and understanding of the mystery of God, of Jesus Christ and the Church and of the central beliefs which are held by Catholics.
- to develop an awareness and appreciation of the Catholic faith and of how it affects personal and social behaviour.
- to foster appropriate attitudes.
- to educate the whole person and to find a balance between knowledge of doctrine, response to worship and personal and social development.
- to follow the Come and See programme

## **CURRICULUM PLANNING**

The curriculum is both WHOLE and HOLY. This makes a Roman Catholic School distinctive. Everything ultimately comes from God. All subjects are effective by the belief in God and to look at all policies in relation to Religious Education. The truth of each curriculum area is respected. The growth and development of each pupil is respected as seen through continuity and progression, assessment, recording, reporting and evaluating. The use of religious questioning enables More Able and Talented children to deepen and challenge their thinking and supports SEND pupils to embed new learning. The use of 'Next steps' or 'Even better if' enables all pupils to make progress and move forward on their learning journey.

## **PROGRAMMES OF STUDY**

Through the programmes of study pupils, in addition to the factual knowledge, will also be developing the necessary concepts, skills and attitudes relevant to this subject; as well as fostering attitudes grouped under these headings: wisdom, understanding, knowledge, right judgement, courage reverence, awe and wonder.

- We aim to use a variety of educational methods in the teaching of our Faith as with any other area of the curriculum.
- We will centre our teaching and learning on the 'Come and See' resource and on following the liturgical year. We will also use the additional resources: 'God's Story' and 'Church Story'.

We also focus on Other World Faiths:

- At KS1, all major world faiths as and when appropriate through the theme of 'Celebrations and Festivals'.
- At KS2 each year base has a particular focus on other world faiths.
  - Year 6 Judaism
  - Year 5 Hinduism
  - Year 4 Islam
  - Year 3 Sikhism
- Our medium term planning reflects termly objectives for other world faiths.
- In addition to this there are school, class and buddy Assemblies, Masses and Liturgies, as well as hymn practices and support to parishes in Sacramental preparations, particularly those of our Year 3 children for the First Holy Communion and Sacrament of Reconciliation.

### Time Allocation

10% of curriculum time is devoted to Religious Education exclusive of worship. Please refer to the co-ordinator for timings.

### Schemes of Work

Fixed topics - a whole school approach through the Diocesan approved 'Come and See'. The whole school explores

each religious theme through the same topics following a yearly cycle. These are gradually explored each time at greater depths. They are the Church, Sacrament and Christian Living.

Our Bernardine history and way of life is celebrated annually at the first Mass of the academic Year for the feast of St Bernard, (August 20<sup>th</sup>) and at the final Mass of the Year for the feast of St. Benedict (11th July). We have designated sisters who are prayer partners with a specific class.

#### Foundation and Focus

Each term a basic human question - belief about the mystery of life is explored within the Catholic Faith Tradition.

<b>Christmas</b>	<b>Lent</b>	<b>Pentecost</b>
Where did I come from?	Who am I?	Why am I here?
Life - Creation	Dignity – Incarnation	Purpose - Redemption

#### Themes

The basic question - belief is explored through three themes.

##### **1. Community of Faith - Church Themes**

<b>Advent</b>	Family	Domestic Church
<b>Lent</b>	Community	Local Church
<b>Pentecost</b>	World	Universal Church

##### **2. Celebration in Ritual - Sacraments**

<b>Advent</b>	Belonging	Baptism/Confirmation
<b>Lent</b>	Relating	Eucharist
<b>Pentecost</b>	Inter-relating	Reconciliation

##### **3. Way of Life - Christian Living Themes**

<b>Autumn</b>	Loving	Advent/Christmas
<b>Spring</b>	Giving	Lent/Easter
<b>Summer</b>	Serving	Pentecost

## **ASSESSMENT, RECORDING AND REPORTING**

In Religious Education we are assessing pupil's knowledge, understanding and appreciation of Catholic belief and practice appropriate to their age and development.

We aim to observe and assess knowledge, concepts, skills and attitudes taught and learnt in Religious Education lessons and within context of our school life. This will include assessing their knowledge of scripture, understanding of God's message, their moral development and attitudes.

Recording of children's work takes many forms, written, pictorial, wall displays, assemblies, etc. Each classroom has a Religious Education area as a focus for prayer.

Once a term, children will complete a formal assessment (three yearly cycle) in order to cover all three attainment strands (AT1(i) AT1 (ii) AT1 (iii)). A record of each pupil's progress is recorded and tracked from EYFS to Year 6.

Assessments are moderated termly across the schools in the Slough Deanery.

At the end of each RE topic every child completes a self-evaluation/reflection as part of the RESPOND process of the programme.

Parents receive a written report on their child's effort and attainment within Religious Education twice a year.

Book monitoring by the whole staff occurs at least twice a year to ensure progression, continuity and moderation of standards.

Monitoring of religious displays and prayer tables is completed through completing self-evaluation grids provided by NORES, and from learning walks by the Religious Education subject leader.

'Pupil Voice' and Parent questionnaires are given bi-annually. The information is then used to assess what is working well and which areas need targeting for future development.

Parents receive a letter reflecting the Come and See themes to be studied, each term.

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN THE WIDER CONTEXT**

We invite all members of our school community to participate in the faith development of our children and the forming of their moral values. We seek to support the task of parents who are the first teachers of their children. We will liaise with other schools in the Slough Deanery and take advantage of the support offered by the Diocesan Religious Education service.

## **STAFFING AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

*St. Bernard's Preparatory School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. It is our aim that all pupils fulfil their potential.*

We aim to demonstrate our own faith and commitment as a staff in partnership with our Bernardine sisters, our parish priest and our parents.

The Religious Education subject leader will be available to colleagues to offer advice and support if requested and attend courses which will provide up-to-date information.

The Religious Education and Music subject leaders have the particular responsibility in overseeing the preparation of Liturgies and school Masses. The Religious Education subject leader is responsible for the co-ordination of Religious Education throughout the School. Meetings involving Religious Education take place with the staff and the subject leader will participate in an induction day for staff new to school. New members of staff also participate in a training day at NORES. All staff are provided with an RE handbook in which all relevant information is held. Twilight training sessions are attended each year by all teaching staff and the RE subject leader attends subject meetings each term at NORES. Training opportunities are also provided for Chaplaincy leaders and LSA's.

## **RESOURCES**

Through religious imagery, artefacts and appropriate display we aim to foster worship and spirituality. Religious Education books and resources are stored in the library and in individual classrooms, and are available for the staff to borrow.

## **BUDGET**

In each financial year there is a budget negotiated to enable the delivery of the action plan and the purchasing of resources relevant to the 'Come and See' programme, plus other religious equipment.

## **FUTURE DEVELOPMENT**

In a Catholic School, Religious Education is a core subject of the curriculum. All future development in light of our Mission Statement will be aimed at continuing to create an environment where the Gospel values of prayer, truth, holiness, justice, love and forgiveness are seen to be at work.

## **Applies to:**

Whole School including Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

**Related Policies:**

Chaplaincy, Community Cohesion, Home School Parish Liaison, Liturgy and Prayer, Moral Social Cultural Development, Spiritual Development.

**Availability**

This policy is made available to parents on our website [www.stbernardsprep.org](http://www.stbernardsprep.org) or a copy may be obtained from the school office on request.

**Monitoring and Review**

This policy will be subject to continuous monitoring, refinement and audit by the Headmaster. The Trustees will undertake a formal review of this policy for the purpose of monitoring and of the efficiency with which the related duties have been discharged, by no later than two years from the date shown below, or earlier if significant changes to the systems and arrangements take place, or if legislation, regulatory requirements or best practice guidelines so require.

Signed by \_\_\_\_\_

Headmaster \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Appendix 1: Marking Guidelines for R.E.**

1. Religious questioning to encourage and challenge deeper religious thinking.
2. Positive response to the children’s work.

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3. Remarks should be developmental and sensitive.
4. Establishing accuracy, but remaining sensitive and positive (e.g. scripture references, Biblical names, sacramental terminology etc).
5. Maintaining a high standard of presentation reflecting pride in their work.
6. Paying particular attention to the spelling of key religious vocabulary.
6. Mark in the colour applicable to the school (green).
7. Continuity with the school marking policy.