

St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary Voluntary Academy

Religious Education Policy

This policy operates in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church¹ and our Academy Mission Statement².

This policy was updated in the Summer Term 2018.

¹The teachings of the Catholic Church are detailed in the Catechism of the Catholic Church published by the Catholic Truth Society, London, an Official Publisher to The Holy See.

²The Academy Mission Statement is located on page 2 of this policy, and is displayed in our academy, and on our website.

Patron Saints

Saint Peter and Saint Paul

We ask and pray for the guiding and sustaining influence and powerful intercession of these holy saints in the implementation of this policy for our academy.

St. Peter was the chief shepherd and teacher of the early Church, and is known as the Prince of the Apostles.

Peter is the rock on which Jesus founded His Church and He entrusted Peter with the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven.

St. Paul is known as the Apostle to the Gentiles.

He had a life-changing encounter with the Risen Lord which transformed him from a zealous persecutor of the early Christians to a zealous evangelizer for Christ. He travelled by land and sea to many countries, suffered imprisonment, persecution, and shipwreck, in his determination to preach the message of the Gospel to all nations.



ST. BERNADETTE'S

CATHOLIC PRIMARY VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

Mission Statement

Jesus said: "I am the Light of the World."

By the Light of Jesus Christ, God reveals to each of us who He is.
God is Love, and His Love is revealed in Truth, Goodness, and Beauty.

God's Love is revealed in His Creation, in our beautiful world, in His Holy Catholic Church, in our families, in our friends, and in every human person, and we welcome all in the Holy Name of Jesus.

At St. Bernadette's, we believe that every child is a precious gift from God to each of our families, created in His own image and likeness so as to radiate His Love, Truth, Goodness, and Beauty.

We believe that every child has been blessed by God's grace to know Him and love Him, and to know of God's infinitely deep and abiding love for each of His children.

We believe that every child has been created to strive for excellence in all aspects of life, and when united in friendship with Jesus, they are empowered to reflect the Light of Christ to the world.

Jesus said: "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life."

"I have come so that they may have life, and have it to the full."

Jesus is the Way, so let us walk in His footsteps of Love and Friendship, and follow His example of Goodness.

Jesus is the Truth, so let us listen to what He says, believe His teachings, and profess His Gospel.

Jesus is the Life, so let us live by His commandments to love God, and love our neighbour.

When we do these things, Jesus will help us to lead the life He wants us to have, 'and have it to the full'. Just as Jesus said that He is 'the Cornerstone' on which we should build our whole lives, in the same way, our Cornerstone Values, centred on Christ, provide the firm foundation for all that we do in our academy.

Our Cornerstone Values

- 1 **Love** – To love God with all our heart, soul, and mind; and to love our neighbour as Jesus loves us.
- 2 **Virtue and Goodness** – To grow in virtue, becoming more like Jesus in what we think, say, and do. To be well-behaved and well-mannered; courteous and polite; kind and forgiving.
- 3 **Prayer and Service** – To be friends with Jesus through prayer and devotion, liturgy, and worship of God. To live out the Gospel in service of others – family, academy, parish, and the wider community.
- 4 **Radiance** – To enkindle our God-given gifts and talents, so that we may shine like bright stars for all to see.
- 5 **Joy** – To aspire to be happy, cheerful, and healthy; confident yet humble; compassionate and heroic.
- 6 **Wonder** – To be inspired by a spirit of enquiry and wonder, taking delight in creativity and discovery.
- 7 **Excellence** – To strive for excellence, and have high aspirations to work hard and achieve our very best.

Upon entering our academy, children are welcomed into a loving, caring, safe, and nurturing environment, beginning a journey with us through which they will grow and mature, blossom and flourish.

'Striving for excellence in all that we do, reflecting the Light of Christ to the world.'

Our academy motto expresses our commitment to excellence in every aspect of academy life.

We help our families to form their children by providing a well-rounded education, full of challenge and rigour; fun and creativity; excitement and wonder.

We believe that every child is unique and special, created by God for a special reason, with a unique mission – a vocation which God is calling them towards – and we believe that God has blessed each child with the character, gifts, and talents to help them succeed and be happy in their mission.

At St. Bernadette's, it is our honour and our passion to help, support, and encourage each child to fulfil their God-given potential, and ready them to contribute positively to society in service of others.

Walking in footsteps of love with Jesus, following the example of Our Lady of Lourdes and Saint Bernadette, may each child come to know of their special place in God's Heart, and when 'Heart speaks unto heart', may each child have the trust and confidence to pray the words of this prayer by Blessed John Henry Newman:

'God has created me to do Him some definite service.

He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another.

I have my mission.'



1 The place of Catholic Education in the Mission of the Church

Jesus Christ is at the centre of all that we do in St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary Voluntary Academy. We are a Christian community blessed by God's grace to be founded in the faith, hope, and love that comes from knowing Jesus Christ, the beloved only-begotten Son of God the Father, and being part of the Catholic Church that Jesus founded on the rock of St. Peter which, through the power of the Holy Spirit at work within the Church, brings the message of salvation to the whole world.

One of St. Peter's most recent successors, St. Pope John Paul II, said that, "The ultimate goal of all Catholic education is salvation in Jesus Christ. Catholic educators effectively work for the coming of Christ's Kingdom; this work includes transmitting clearly and in full the message of salvation, which elicits the response of faith."

Pope Benedict XVI, writing about the New Evangelization, said, "It is the duty of the Church to proclaim always and everywhere the Gospel of Jesus Christ." Further to this, he said, "Education is integral to the mission of the Church to proclaim the Good News. First and foremost every educational institution is a place to encounter the living God who in Jesus Christ reveals his transforming love and truth."

In their document 'Christ at the Centre', the Catholic Education Service say that the primary reason the Catholic Church provides schools is to 'assist in its mission of making Christ known to all people'.

In his first Apostolic Exhortation, Pope Francis writes that, "The joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept His offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew. I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark on a new chapter of evangelization marked by this joy."

It is with all this borne in mind that we, at St. Bernadette's, seek to play our full and active part in the mission of the Catholic Church to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Gospel is Good News, and in its message we rejoice and we see it as our Christian duty to share the Gospel message with all of those who enter our academy and beyond, and we strive to do so with courage and boldness, like the first apostles, and to do so in a spirit of hope-filled joy and peace that comes from knowing, trusting, and loving Jesus.

2 An Overview of Religious Education in our academy

Hence, at St. Bernadette's, Religious Education is treated with the utmost importance, and we echo the sentiments of this statement by the Bishops of England and Wales: "Religious Education is not one subject amongst many but the foundation of the entire education process. The beliefs and values it communicates should inspire and unify every aspect of school life."

We aim to offer an excellent Religious Education to our children, rich in content and delivered with passion and enthusiasm that comes from the conviction of our faith in Jesus Christ. The Religious Education we offer provides comprehensive catechesis in the Catholic faith coupled with creative and meaningful opportunities for evangelization. The experience of Religious Education for the children in our academy is supplemented in a very special way by the distinctively Catholic ethos which permeates all aspects of life within our academy.

This includes participation in the Holy Eucharist within the academy and at the parish church, the provision of time for regular Collective Worship, special times for prayer and devotion, for example the praying of the Holy Rosary and meditation on its Mysteries, and also Eucharistic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament within the academy.

Catholic Religious Education is about the growth and development of the whole person, aiming to integrate our pupil's intellectual, spiritual, moral, emotional, psychological, social, and physical development, thereby helping and encouraging progress towards that fullness of life that comes from God, the source of all life, and from an intimate friendship with Jesus Christ, which is inspired, guided, and sustained by the power of the Holy Spirit at work within each child and within our whole community.

We recognise that parents are the first educators of their children, and it is our privilege to help them in this task. Working in close partnership with parents and carers to assist them in the education and religious formation of their children, we seek to foster within each child that enters our academy a sure and steady growth in the great virtues of faith, hope, and love. The partnership between families and the academy are nurtured through regular dialogue and communication, invitations to academy events and liturgical celebrations – Holy Mass and assemblies – and the sense of community is enhanced further when the Catholic way of life centred on Christ and imbued with Gospel values which are nurtured within our academy community are borne out in Christian love and fellowship within the setting of our wider parish family, for example in the attendance by staff, and families with their children, at Sunday Mass.

The importance we place in the provision of Religious Education, and its need to be fostered within the loving atmosphere of our distinctive Catholic ethos, is expressed clearly in our Mission Statement to which we are fully and enthusiastically committed. In fulfilling this mission, we enable our children to come to know Jesus and understand His deep love of each of them, nurturing within each child the seed of faith, and thereby enabling them to grow in hope, trust, and love of Jesus, and also love of their neighbour. Each child is encouraged to grow in awareness of their special place in God's Heart, the unique vocation that God is calling them towards, and the special mission that He wishes them to fulfill, thereby empowering the children to reflect the Light of Christ to each other, to their friends and their family, to the parish community, the diocese, and the wider world.

3 Main Educational Aims

- To enable a joyful encounter between each child and Almighty God, ‘for to such belongs the Kingdom of Heaven’.
- To foster a desire within children to grow in knowledge and understanding of the Truth, Goodness, and Beauty of God: in His Creation of the beautiful world in which live, and in all that lives and moves and has its being in Him; to see His presence in the Bible and the life of the Church, most especially in its teachings and its Sacraments; and His loving Presence in the life of each child, thereby opening the way for God’s grace to work within the heart, soul, and mind of each child, so that the seed of faith may begin to grow in the radiant Light of Christ.
- To develop a sense of God’s loving presence in the everyday lives of each child, their families – the child’s first educators in the faith – and in their friends; and that God loves each child very deeply, and will always love them because He is their Father, and they are His children.
- To make children aware of Jesus Christ, in whom God reveals His Love in all its perfection, and through catechesis and evangelization help children to come to know Jesus more clearly, to love Him more dearly, and so follow Him more nearly each and every day, and encouraging them always to seek to imitate Jesus and His way of life in how they think, in what they say, and in how they act, especially how they treat others and show kindness to them.
- To show children that Jesus loves them very deeply, that He dearly wishes to be their closest Friend, and that He is with them always, in times of happiness and sadness, in times of work and play, in times of fun and excitement, and in times of wonder, creativity, and discovery.
- To use the Bible and encourage familiarity with its stories in the history of salvation; to see the journey of God’s people through the Old Testament stories, and the Truth, Goodness, and Beauty of God’s greatest gift, the Incarnation of Jesus Christ, true God and true man, who came to take our sins upon himself so that we might have eternal life with Him, who is meek and humble of heart, and yet reigns in Heaven as King of kings and Lord of lords.
- To see the work of the Holy Spirit at work in the lives of the apostles at the time of Pentecost and thereafter, and to see the work of the Holy Spirit throughout the life of the Church.
- To learn, understand, and celebrate the teachings of the Catholic faith and the importance of the Gospel values which Jesus revealed to us by the way He lived His life.
- To encourage a response to the Holy and Divine Presence of God in the Bible, in the Church, in the stillness of prayer, and in the Sacraments;
- To develop an awareness of the holy angels and their role in our lives today.
- To develop a knowledge of the lives of the saints, seeing within their lives great examples of holiness and what it means to be Christian; and that we can ask the saints to pray for us and those we love; and to foster special devotion to Our Lady and our patron, Saint Bernadette.
- To enable pupils to develop their physical, moral, spiritual and intellectual qualities harmoniously in order that they will become responsible and caring members of society; to be compassionate to the less fortunate and disadvantaged in our own society and in other countries around the world; and encourage them to aspire to great things in service of others.
- To enable children to develop a well-informed conscience allowing them to make sound, moral judgements, understanding right from wrong, in the light of their love of Jesus.
- To challenge children to examine their own lives: to see the beauty of the good things they do, and the ugliness of sinful words and actions that sadden Jesus; and so encourage an attitude of saying sorry for our sins and offering forgiveness to those who have sinned against us, making very real to the children the words of the Our Father, the prayer Jesus taught us, and the great peace and joy that comes from saying sorry and being willing to forgive others.

Our Mission Statement and Catholic ethos

Our Mission Statement, centred on Christ as the Light of the World, undergirds our Catholic ethos which permeates every aspect of life in our academy, and is made manifest in clear and distinctive ways and is open to be experienced by all who enter our academy.

The words “Lumen Christi” are emblazoned on the scroll of our academy badge because it is in the Light of Christ that we strive for excellence in all that we do – it is in the Light of Christ that we seek to live and work, grow and flourish, as a Catholic community. By approaching our commitment to Religious Education, catechesis, and evangelization of the Gospel message in a spirit of joy, our Catholic ethos is nurtured in atmosphere of Christian love and fellowship. It is by the Light of Christ that we seek to make our children aware of the Truth, Goodness, and Beauty of God’s presence in their lives, in their family and friends, in all of Creation and the beautiful world in which we live, and in the Sacraments and teachings of the Catholic Church.

To fulfill our Mission Statement we place Jesus and the teachings of His Church at the heart of all that we do:

- all our educational endeavours – our teaching and learning in all subjects, most especially that of Religious Education, striving to provide catechesis and evangelization by inspiring the growth of faith in a spirit of joy;
- our spiritual development through participation in Holy Mass, regular times of prayer and devotion, worship of God in liturgy, Eucharistic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament; and Sacramental Preparation.
- the formation of children who strive to live by our Cornerstone Values of love, virtue and goodness, prayer and service, radiance, joy, wonder, and excellence – all of which are centred on Jesus Christ, “the Cornerstone” on which we, as ‘living stones’ are to build our whole lives – thereby helping in the formation of children who strive to:
 - love God with all their heart, soul, and mind, and love their neighbour as Jesus does;
 - grow in virtue and goodness following the example of Jesus;
 - be well-behaved and well-mannered, courteous and polite, kind and forgiving;
 - grow in a life of prayer and devotion, which nurtures a living out of the Gospel in service of others;
 - enkindle their God-given gifts and talents;
 - be happy and cheerful and healthy; confident yet humble; compassionate and heroic – for to be a true follower of Jesus is to be heroic, and His presence fills us with the confidence to be His witnesses to those we meet and to do so in kindness, joy and love;
 - be inspired with a spirit of enquiry and a sense of wonder and awe at God’s Creation in all its beauty, taking delight in creativity and discovery;
 - be hard-working and conscientious, striving for excellence and keen to do their very best.
- the fostering of love and fellowship by praying and worshipping together as Christians, and living and working in a truly Catholic way of life;
- and the pastoral care we offer in love, as followers of Jesus Christ, to all in our academy.

Our distinctive Catholic ethos permeates all aspects of life in our academy, and is to be found clearly in: the academy’s physical environment – with the presence of a crucifix in all classrooms and the main hall; sacred art such as the large painting of the Divine Mercy image in the hall; religious statues of the saints, including Our Lady, St. Joseph, St. Bernadette, and St. Thérèse; display boards with religious information and prayers; as well as in our teaching; our prayer life and worship; our Sacramental preparation; the academy prospectus; our admissions policy; our pastoral care; our code of behaviour; and the nurturing of all the relationships within our community founded in the faith, hope, and love that comes from knowing, trusting, and loving Jesus Christ and the Church He founded.

Agreed Syllabus of Provision

“Come and See” were the words spoken by Jesus to the men who would become His first apostles, as they were standing on the banks of the River Jordan with John the Baptist, the man chosen by God to prepare the way for His beloved Son. The invitation to those first apostles is the same one addressed to each of us today. Jesus invites us to friendship with Him.

In the Come and See Religious Education programme taught in our academy, under the auspices of the Diocese of Nottingham, children are invited to grow in knowledge of Jesus and His Church, and to enter into a relationship of love and friendship with Him, who is Lord and God.

The ‘Come And See’ programme is planned carefully by staff to ensure that our pupils have every opportunity to acquire knowledge, understanding, and wisdom of insight into the Catholic faith and its values and beliefs, thereby enabling them to reflect on their experiences and develop in their own spiritual awareness, knowledge and understanding in heart, soul, and mind.

The ‘Come And See’ programme is supported by an academy ethos which immerses children in a life of prayer and devotion, and other elements of the RE curriculum which include Sacred liturgies, Collective Worships, academy assemblies, and Sacramental preparation. The teachers provide differentiated work, according to the age and needs of the children, including those with particular talents or special needs of any kind.

There is 10% of teaching time given to RE and the curriculum is taught in line with the Diocesan guidelines. The distinctively Catholic ethos of our academy is made manifest in the provision of excellent teaching of the Come and See curriculum. Cardinal Hume said of the Catholic school, “Above all, its ethos is synonymous with and inseparable from its curriculum”.

Come and See 3-year Formal Assessment Planner Programme of Study

THEMES & TOPICS	EARLY YEARS 1 & 2	YEAR 1 & FS 1	YEAR 2 & FS 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6
Domestic church family	Myself God knows and loves each one	Families God’s love and care for every family	Beginnings God at every beginning	Homes God’s dream for every family	People The family of God in Scripture	Ourselves Created in the image & likeness of God	Loving God who never stops loving
Baptism/confirmation belonging	Welcome Baptism; a welcome to God’s family	Belonging Baptism an invitation to belong to God’s family	Signs & symbols Signs & symbols in Baptism	Promises Promises made at Baptism	Called Confirmation: a call to witness	Life choices Marriage commitment and service	Vocation & commitment The vocation of priesthood and religious life
Advent/Christmas loving	Birthday Looking forward to Jesus’ birthday	Waiting Advent a time to look forward to Christmas	Preparations Advent; preparing to celebrate Christmas	Visitors Advent: waiting for the coming of Jesus	Gift God’s gift of love & friendship in Jesus	Hope Advent; waiting in joyful hope for Jesus; the promised one	Expectations Jesus born to show God to the world
Local church community	Celebrating People celebrate in Church	Special people People in the parish family	Books The books used in Church	Journeys Christian family’s journey with Jesus	Community Life in the local Christian community: ministries in the parish	Mission Continuing Jesus’ mission in diocese [ecumenism]	Sources The Bible, the special book for the Church
Eucharist relating	Gathering The parish family gathers to celebrate Eucharist	Meals Mass; Jesus’ special meal	Thanksgiving Mass a special time for saying thank you to God for everything, especially Jesus	Listening & sharing Jesus gives himself to us in a special way	Giving & receiving Living in communion	Memorial sacrifice The Eucharist the living memorial of Jesus’ sacrifice	Unity Eucharist enables people to live in communion.
Lent/Easter giving	Growing Looking forward to Easter	Change Lent a time for change	Opportunities Lent; an opportunity to start anew in order to celebrate Jesus’ new life	Giving all Lent a time to remember Jesus’ total giving	Self discipline Celebrating growth to new life	Sacrifice Lent a time of aligning with the sacrifice already made by Jesus	Death & new life Celebrating Jesus’ death & resurrection
Pentecost serving	Good News Passing on the Good news of Jesus	Holidays & holydays Pentecost: feast of the Holy Spirit	Spread the word Pentecost a time to spread the Good News	Energy Gifts of the Holy Spirit	New life To hear & live the Easter message	Transformation Celebration of the Spirit’s transforming power	Witnesses The Holy Spirit enables people to become witnesses
Reconciliation Inter-relating	Friends Friends of Jesus	Being sorry God helps us to choose well Sacrament of Reconciliation	Rules Reasons for rules in the Christian family Sacrament of Reconciliation	Choices The importance of examination of conscience Sacrament of Reconciliation	Building bridges Admitting wrong, being reconciled with God and each other Sacrament of Reconciliation	Freedom & responsibility Commandments enable Christians to be free & responsible	Healing Sacrament of the Sick
Universal Church world	Our world God’s wonderful world	Neighbours Neighbours share God’s world	Treasures God’s treasure; the world	Special places Holy places for Jesus & the Christian	God’s people Different saints show people what God is like	Stewardship The Church is called to the stewardship of Creation	Common good Work of the worldwide Christian family

Come and See

The 'Come and See' programme, in line with Diocesan guidance and The Religious Education Curriculum Directory (2012) enables the provision of Religious Education based upon the four Constitutions of the Second Vatican Council:

- REVELATION – God speaks – finding meaning in life.
- CHURCH – Christ the light of the nations – Community of Faith
- CHRISTIAN LIVING – Joy and hope – Way of Life
- SACRAMENTS – Liturgy: Celebration – Celebration in symbol and ritual

The Themes

'Come and See' is developed through three themes based upon the above documents of the Second Vatican Council, which are gradually explored each time at greater depth. They are Church, Sacrament and Christian Living. The basic question and belief for each season time is explored through three themes:

- Community of Faith – Church
- Celebration of Ritual – Sacraments
- Way of Life – Christian Living

Each of the themes occurs in each season time and each theme gradually builds on the understanding of the previous theme. The themes for each season are as follows:

Autumn

The three autumn themes are developed in the light of an understanding of Creation:

Family – Domestic Church focuses on life as a gift, myself as a unique and loved creation, the creative love and care that can be expressed in family groups.

Belonging – Baptism/Confirmation focuses on the call to belong. Baptism and Confirmation, Sacraments of the gift of God's Life and Friendship.

Loving – Advent/Christmas focuses on the capacity for entering into loving relationships and the perfect gift and revelation of God's Love, Jesus, born to Mary, born as one of us.

Spring

The three spring themes are developed in the light of an understanding of Incarnation:

Community – Local Church focuses on the people of God gathered in Christ, united in the journey of faith, in care for one another, in sharing their story and in celebration.

Relating – Eucharist focuses on the invitation to know Jesus, to live in communion with Him and one another.

Giving – Lent/Easter focuses on Jesus' loving self-giving on the cross, the Father's love that raises him to new life, and the challenge of Christians to follow Jesus' example of self-giving.

Summer

The three summer themes are developed in the light of an understanding of Redemption and the work of the Holy Spirit.

Serving – Pentecost focuses on the ongoing mission of Jesus Christ in the Church through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Inter-Relating – Reconciliation focuses on the love, compassion and forgiveness of God the Father revealed in Jesus and poured out by the Holy Spirit to bring forgiveness and reconciliation in the sacrament of Reconciliation.

World – Universal Church focuses on the same love revealed in the diversity of the world and its people, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit that bear fruit in love, joy, justice and peace for all people.

4 Quality of Teaching and Learning

General Organisation

The teaching of Religious Education is at least 10% of the curriculum timetable following the guidelines from the Bishops of England and Wales. This excludes time given to whole academy Masses, Collective Worship, assemblies, prayer and devotion such as the saying of the Rosary, and Eucharistic Adoration. Sacramental preparation takes place in our academy but outside of the RE timetable, at the end of the day. This ensures full coverage of all topics taught in RE. Within RE lessons our children are taught knowledge, skills, and understanding, with emphasis on driver words for each year group to help in achievement of their Attainment Targets.

The children are generally taught in their classes, and with the mixed year groups in Upper Key Stage 2 the children move to other classes for their RE lessons, so they are all taught the same topic. In these lessons the children are grouped in ways most beneficial to their immediate learning needs and work is differentiated where needed to suit individual needs.

The Class Teacher in Religious Education

The class teacher's role is crucial in the provision of high quality teaching and learning in Religious Education. The academy supports all teachers, so that they:

- Take account of the age, gender, ethnicity and capability of their pupils;
- Show good subject knowledge;
- Are competent in understanding and teaching the seasons and events of the Church's Liturgical Year;
- Plan effective lessons, setting clear objectives which pupils understand;
- Challenge and inspire pupils with enthusiasm and high expectations of their learning;
- Use a variety of methods which enable all pupils to learn effectively;
- Manage pupils well and insist on high standards of behaviour;
- Use time, support staff, other adults and resources, including ICT, effectively;
- Assess pupils' work thoroughly and use assessments to help and encourage pupils to make progress;
- Use homework, when applicable to reinforce and extend what is learned in school;
- Provide lessons which have a focal area prepared by the children, begin with a prayer, (use a candle and/or music if appropriate) to create a sense of God's presence among us.

The pupils in Religious Education

The academy supports pupils, so that they:

- Listen attentively;
- Acquire new knowledge and skills, linked to Attainment Targets;
- Develop ideas;
- Increase their understanding;
- Apply intellectual and creative effort in their work;
- Are productive and work at a good pace;

- Work collaboratively;
- Show interest and enthusiasm and pride in their work;
- Are able to sustain concentration;
- Think and learn for themselves in independent sessions;
- Demonstrate in the plenary and at other times that they understand what they are doing, how well they have done, and how they can improve to achieve their next steps for levels of attainment.

Environment

The learning environment is used to support the pupils within their Religious Education lessons. A Religious Education display board and working wall is evident in each classroom, to assist the pupils' progress for every topic taught which pupils are working on. Evidence of creative and inspiring work in Religious Education is displayed throughout our academy, and this includes a progression wall in the Main Hall dedicated to Religious Education.

Planning

- The Long-Term Plan for Religious Education follows a two-year cycle:
 Cycle A – Key Stage 1 (Year 1 Syllabus); Lower Key Stage 2 (Year 3 Syllabus);
 Upper Key Stage 2 (Year 5 Syllabus);
 Cycle B – Key Stage 1 (Year 2 Syllabus); Lower Key Stage 2 (Year 4 Syllabus);
 Upper Key Stage 2 (Year 6 Syllabus).
- The Medium-Term planning for all staff is the responsibility of the RE Subject Leader to forward on to staff prior to the start of each term. All topic planning, the assessment focus task, Acts of Worship, and 'I can...' statements are forwarded to staff, accessed from the diocesan website. This is sent for all Autumn, Spring, and Summer Terms, including Holy Days and Feast Days. A Parents' Letter for RE is uploaded to our academy website, informing them of forthcoming topics, special dates, and Holy Days during the Autumn, Spring, and Summer Terms. Termly meetings are arranged by the Primary Diocesan RE Adviser for Subject Leaders to attend;
- Short-Term planning for RE follows the set structure of EXPLORE, REVEAL, and RESPOND. All class teachers plan using an agreed format;
- Essential elements for all short-term RE planning include: learning objective, activity, differentiation, and assessment, incorporating the success criteria/learning outcome, and reference to the relevant strand in AT1 and AT2;
- All staff plan differentiated activities within their short-term planning, which meet the needs and abilities of all learners. In each topic there are attainment level indicators, attainment level summaries and symbols showing the possible ability required by the activity;
- IT and interactive resources are used where they will enhance learning;
- Cross-curricular links are utilized wherever possible;
- Regular assessment, individual pupil planning and record keeping are carried out using an Excel template, in order to ensure pupil progress. Within their planning, all staff make reference to Levels (where appropriate) including use of the driver words;
- Extra materials from the Primary Diocesan RE Adviser for each group are used effectively;
- Each term, staff plan activities (in Year Groups) against success criteria, for assessed topics.

Resources

- The academy recognises that the most valuable classroom resource is the class teacher;
- The work of other adults, including TA's who work in a range of support programmes should be carefully planned by the teacher in consultation with those adults;
- Each teacher has a copy of the appropriate 'Come and See' book for their class;
- Each classroom has a set of Bibles for use in class work;
- Each classroom has a beautiful, hardback copy of The Catholic Children's Bible by St Mary's Press, which is fully illustrated and is the first-ever version of the full Bible written specifically for children: this can inspire and empower children to read, understand, and love the Word of God;
- Each classroom has a Collective Worship box full of resources for creating focal displays;
- RE resources for the academy are located in the Main Hall;
- A Religious Education area is available in the library, with a wide selection of books for all staff and pupils;
- There are established RE areas in each classroom which are updated to support classroom RE work;
- Funding is made available if required to support the purchasing of bespoke resources which link to:
 - Academy priorities;
 - Diocesan initiatives – for example, resources purchased to enable the provision of Eucharistic Adoration, as requested by Bishop Patrick;
 - national initiatives – for example, the Adoremus National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress which takes place this year, for which banners, posters, and prayer cards for every child and every family have been purchased;
 - and papal pronouncements – for example The Year of Mercy which was celebrated by the Universal Church just a couple of years ago.

Other Faiths

In the Autumn Term and the Summer Term, one week is given to the exploration of another World Faith. A recommended approach and teaching material for other faiths is provided in 'Come And See'. Support materials are available in academy hall cupboard, for all world faiths covered. Whole academy assemblies are devoted to learning about other world faiths, within our rich and diverse cultural society and special events taking place within different faiths of children in classes. A recommended approach and teaching material for other faiths are provided in the 'Come And See' programme of study throughout the academy. Support materials are available in the hall cupboard for world faiths.

Assessment

Formal Assessment

Regular topic assessments take place for **Christian Living, Sacramental, and Church**. Results are recorded to show an overall level at the end of each term for RE, relating to AfL targets. Work should be annotated and examples throughout the academy are in Class Portfolios of RE topics. Progress on RE is reported to parents at the end of the academic year in a report.

Assessment, Recording, and Reporting

Assessment is focussed by the overall aims and objectives of Religious Education. In 'Come and See' it is related to the Concepts, Skills, Attitudes, and children's knowledge and understanding, which is developed through the exploration of themes and the learning outcomes for each topic to AfL and Attainment Targets.

Each topic is assessed, using the Attainment Targets in RE, as described in 'Levels of Attainment'. Assessment establishes what pupils know, understand, and can do. **It does not assess faith or the practice of faith.** Our Assessment Leader, Mrs. McIlvanney analyses the assessments, along with the APS point scales, linked to sub-level scores and reports back to our Headteacher and the RE Subject Leader.

- The academy has in place an APS, (Average Point Scales) for pupil tracking as part of its assessment procedure;
- Marking in RE is in accordance with the academy marking policy;
- Academy summative assessments in RE include:
 - Baseline from Early Years;
 - End of KS1 and end of KS2 results;
 - Annual ADDR form completed and returned to the diocese.
- All RE assessments are made in accordance with Diocesan guidelines;
- Through INSET class teachers undertake moderation training and carry out moderation in year groups/key stages. The academy has also carried out moderation with other schools (NOLCAT);
- The academy takes part in annual health checks from our Diocesan Primary RE adviser;
- All staff have records of topic assessments in their RE Assessment File;
- Use of Diocesan Assessment Guidance 2012/2013.

Ways Forward in Assessment

Attainment and progress to be reviewed at the end of each term in Pupil Progress Meetings for individual pupils and year groups, as is the case with English and Mathematics.

Informal Assessment

- General observation of children engaged in classroom tasks and activities;
- Class discussions, talking partners, small group discussions in class;
- Observations of contributions to classroom displays;
- Review: end of task, activity, lesson, topic;
- Marking of more formal written work, annotated relating to the level given;
- Keep a note of children who are achieving above or below expectation.

Inclusion

The academy aims to make all pupils feel included. We recognise the entitlement of all pupils to a balanced and broad curriculum.

- All RE planning and teaching should take differentiation into account, to ensure appropriate pupil access to learning and to maximise their progress.
- All RE sessions should take into account the particular requirements for children on the SEND register, as outlined in their IEP's and in accordance with the SEND Policy. A wide variety of strategies are used by teachers in order that each child can participate in Religious Education, to the best of their ability, thereby opening up the opportunity of an encounter with God, and encouraging each child to grow in knowledge and love of Jesus.
- Those entitled to pupil premium are given support and effectively monitored.
- Pupils with EAL are given additional support in all aspects of RE.
- The Gifted and Talented children receive a differentiated task that provides challenge.
- The Equal Opportunities Policy document should be consulted to ensure balanced and fair access to the RE curriculum for all groups.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Monitoring and evaluation of RE related planning, teaching delivery, and assessment will be undertaken by the RE leader and the Senior Leadership Team during termly Appraisal and work scrutinies.
- The Subject Leader evaluates action plans which feed into the Academy Development Plan. Governors are kept updated and informed, with the Governors assigned to monitoring RE kept abreast of developments, progress and changes within the subject.

Homework

Homework is sent home with pupils when appropriate and needed, during coverage of topics.

Training

- All new teaching staff attend the 'Teachers new to Catholic schools' inset, by the Diocese.
- All members of staff are encouraged to take full advantage of RE training opportunities to develop their confidence and update their expertise, through academy and diocesan based INSET.
- A record of training and inset provision is maintained by the RE Subject Leader within the academy RE SEF document.

Parents

We aim to involve parents directly in the life of the academy and thus in the development of children's skills, knowledge and understanding in Religious Education.

- Regular letters are sent to parents informing them of Mass celebrations in our academy and also when the academy is participating in Masses celebrated at our parish church.
- Parents' Letters for RE are loaded on our academy website, informing them of forthcoming topics, special dates, and Holy Days, during each term.
- Parents' evenings are held during the year and children's progress in RE is reported on.
- An Annual RE report on children's progress is sent to parents at the end of each year.
- Parental support in classrooms and/or in resource-making is encouraged, in accordance with academy guidelines.

5 Leadership

The Religious Education Leader's role will include the following responsibilities:

- To ensure that the RE policy document reflects the requirements of the Diocese of Nottingham and the RE curriculum and the needs and ethos of our academy;
- To review and update the RE policy document every two years;
- To provide leadership and guidance in the area of RE, and to support staff as required;
- To be actively involved in whole-academy planning, in cooperation with other Subject Leaders;
- To monitor and update medium-term planning for RE;
- To monitor and evaluate short-term planning for RE and evaluate this against topic coverage against the learning outcomes and levels of attainment for RE;
- To monitor and evaluate teaching delivery against requirements of NRCDES lesson observation proforma and expectations from the diocese, following 'Descriptors in Judging the Quality of Teaching';
- To oversee school assessments in RE in accordance with AfL outcomes and attainment targets, and the Assessment Policy guidelines;
- To monitor pupil's written outcomes from work scrutiny (termly);
- To lead staff meetings and training sessions on issues to the implementation of the RE curriculum and programme of study, 'Come and See', throughout the academy;
- To attend relevant training and Subject Leader meetings to update knowledge, and to disseminate advice and current information in the subject to staff;
- To undertake an audit/evaluation and action plan on an annual basis;
- To maintain, evaluate, and assess, the resource base for RE teaching, including strategic budgetary planning and identification of future resource needs;
- To promote parental and governor interest in RE;
- To liaise with other local schools and academies within our Trust (St. Thérèse of Lisieux Catholic Multi-Academy Trust);
- To liaise with our secondary academy link, to ensure continuity and progression at the point of transition, forwarding end of Key Stage 2 Religious Education results.

Collective Worship – See Collective Worship Policy

Key Stage 2 pupils give ideas for Collective Worship for the following term. These go on a weekly class rota, and have links to 'Come And See' themes, Holy Days, Saints' Days, and celebratory events. Pupils help with ideas and suggestions to plan, organise and deliver Collective Worship on a weekly basis with guidance from their class teachers. We are currently developing the creativity of our Collective Worship and pupil independence throughout KS1 and KS2. This will have a positive impact on how actively involved the children become in all areas of Collective Worship.

Health and Safety in regard to Collective Worship, Class and Whole School Liturgies

As part of Collective Worship, there may be occasions when candles are lit. The responsibility of lighting candles and lighting resources remain with the adult/teacher in charge of Collective Worship on the day it is being delivered, in class or whole academy. All health and safety precautions should be adhered to at all times. (See Collective Worship Policy)

Assemblies

There is a class rota in place for assemblies throughout the academy during the year. The assemblies are related to the ongoing RE topic at the time and depending on the year group, these display variable levels of a theme, involving children at all levels. Assemblies are also devoted to saints and feast days during a particular week, special events taking place throughout the country and the world. Assembly Observations take place during the Autumn, Spring, and Summer Term, with notes taken and feedback given to teachers. Pupils are always praised for their efforts and valuable contributions; records can be found with RE resources in the library.

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) – (See RSE Policy)

The delivery of Relationships and Sex Education takes place during the summer term from Early Years, KS1 and KS2 using an agreed programme, 'Journey in Love', put into place in the Summer Term 2016. This has been agreed by the governors and parents. All staff members can access their year group activities using the book and CD-rom, containing all the information for the year group that they are teaching. Parents are invited to attend meetings regarding the Year 5 and Year 6 programme on a yearly basis to view the programme details.

This programme looks very carefully into relationships between humans and how relationships are built up from the simplest forms of life, such as how the world began, plants, fishes, other forms of life and ourselves. Coverage of RSE within our academy blends in well and where applicable, all areas of study are followed in the new National Curriculum 2014.

Sacramental Preparation

Our Sacramental Preparation for Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist takes place from November to June. The First Holy Communion preparation is delivered by Miss Clarke on a Wednesday evening after the end of the academy day, using the programme 'I Belong'. Our chair of Governors, Mr. Moran, has been a great support over the years in helping the children in these sessions, and continues to do so. There are children who join us within our parish community, who do not attend our academy. There is a copy of the 2017/2018 programme attached below, showing regular parish masses for the First Holy Communion children and their families.

Supporting documents

The following school documents should be consulted to support the Religious Education policy:

Collective Worship Policy
RSE Policy
Assessment, Recording and Reporting Policy
Marking and Feedback Policy
SEND Policy
Equal Opportunities Policy
Safeguarding Policy
Continued Professional Development Policy

Policy Review

The RE Policy should be reviewed and updated every two years.
Date of next review: Summer Term 2020

3 Year Formal Assessment Planner

Year	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Autumn	<p>Christian Living Theme AT1 (iii)</p> <p>Advent/Christmas Loving</p>	<p>Church Theme AT1 (i)</p> <p>Domestic Church</p>	<p>Sacramental Theme AT (ii)</p> <p>Baptism/Confirmation Belonging</p>
Spring	<p>Church Theme AT (i)</p> <p>Local Church Community</p>	<p>Sacramental Theme AT (i)</p> <p>Eucharist Relating</p>	<p>Christian Living Theme AT1 (iii)</p> <p>Lent/Easter Giving</p>
Summer	<p>Sacramental Theme AT (ii)</p> <p>Inter-relating Reconciliation</p>	<p>Christian Living Theme AT1 (iii)</p> <p>Pentecost</p>	<p>Church Theme AT1 (i)</p> <p>Universal Church World</p>

First Holy Communion Programme 2017- 2018

Event	Date and location
Induction meeting with parents.	Wednesday 18 th October, 6.00pm St Bernadette's Academy main hall
Enrolment mass for the children.	Sunday 5 th November, 11.00am St Bernadette's Parish Church
First Holy Communion sessions in school, weekly.	Commence from Wednesday 8th November 3.15pm to 4.30pm. Children to be collected at 4.30pm from the Foundation Unit entrance.
Parish Mass.	Sunday 26 th November, 11.00am St Bernadette's Parish Church
Parish Mass.	Sunday 4 th February, 11.00am St Bernadette's Parish Church (Please bring your child's Baptismal candle.)
Church visit to prepare for First Confession.	Wednesday 7 th March, 3.15pm – 4.30pm St Bernadette's Parish Church (Please collect your child from the church at 4.30pm.)
First Confession (The Sacrament of Reconciliation.)	Saturday 10th March, 10.00am St Bernadette's Parish Church
Meeting with Parents	Wednesday 21 st March, 4.30pm St Bernadette's Academy main hall
Parish Mass.	Sunday 25 th March, 11.00am St Bernadette's Parish Church
Parish Mass.	Sunday 29 th April, 11.00am St Bernadette's Parish Church
First Holy Communion day (The Sacrament of the Eucharist.)	Sunday 3rd June, 11.00am St Bernadette's Parish Church (This will be followed by a small celebration breakfast in the Parish Centre)
School Mass	Friday 15 th June, 10.15am St Bernadette's Academy main hall (this will be prepared and delivered by the First Holy Communion children, please have them bring their outfits from the day of their First Holy Communion.)

**It is essential that you attend Mass every Sunday, not just the weeks listed on this document. This will support your child through this very precious sacrament.
Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch.
Many thanks for your continued support, Miss E. Clark.**