



ST. BERNADETTE'S

CATHOLIC PRIMARY VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

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OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

Religious Education Policy

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



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Religious Education Policy

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

Approved by: the Local Governing Body, Advent Term 2024.

Next Review: Advent Term 2026.

¹ The 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.

² The Academy Mission Statement is located on page 4 of this policy and on our website.

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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.
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.
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.

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

Our academy motto expresses our firm and enduring commitment to endeavour for excellence.
We believe that every child has been created by God 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

- LOVE** To love God with all our heart, soul, and mind; and to love our neighbour as Jesus loves us.
- 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; considerate and helpful; kind and forgiving.
- PRAYER AND SERVICE** To be friends with Jesus through prayer and devotion, liturgy, and worship of God. To live the Gospel in service of others – our family, academy, parish, the wider community, and in charitable outreach to those less fortunate than ourselves; the poor, the disadvantaged, and the suffering.
- RADIANCE** To enkindle our God-given gifts and talents, so that we may shine like bright stars for all to see.
- JOY** To aspire to be happy, cheerful, and healthy; confident yet humble; compassionate and heroic.
- WONDER** To be inspired by a spirit of enquiry and wonder, taking delight in creativity and discovery.
- EXCELLENCE** To strive for excellence, and have high aspirations to work hard and achieve our very best.

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 Saint 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.'**



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.



Saint Peter is known as the Prince of the Apostles because of the authority bestowed upon him by Jesus. Formerly Simon, his name was changed by Our Lord Jesus Christ to Cephas (Aramaic) or Peter (Greek) which means 'rock' because Peter would be the 'rock' upon which Jesus would build His Church. When Jesus asks the apostles whom they say He is, Simon Peter answers, "Thou art Christ, the Son of the living God." To which Jesus told Peter that he was blessed because it was God the Father Who had revealed this to him.

And I say to thee: That thou art Peter; and upon this rock I will build my church,
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give to thee the keys of the kingdom
of heaven. And whatsoever thou shalt bind upon earth, it shall be bound also in heaven:
and whatsoever thou shalt loose upon earth, it shall be loosed also in heaven.

Words of Our Lord Jesus Christ to Saint Peter in the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 16 verses 18–19

Simon Peter came from Bethsaida in Galilee where he worked as a fisherman with his brother Andrew, and with James and John left their homes and their work as fishermen to follow Jesus and be 'fishers of men'. Peter saw the raising of Jairus' daughter; the Transfiguration on Mount Tabor; and the Agony in the Garden. Before his Passion, Jesus had told Peter that he would deny Him thrice, but once his faith had recovered he would strengthen the faith of his fellow apostles. After His resurrection, Jesus asks Peter thrice of his love for Him, to which Peter says, "Lord, Thou knowest all things, Thou knowest that I love Thee." At Pentecost, strengthened by the power of the Holy Spirit, Peter preached the good news of the risen Lord to the vast multitude and about three thousand souls were baptized into the Christian faith. Later, over many years, Peter worked with great zeal to establish a thriving Church in Rome, where he would give his life for Jesus.

Saint Paul is known as the Apostle of the Gentiles because of the mission given to him by Jesus. Known by the early Christians as Saul of Tarsus, he was a zealous persecutor of those Jews who now believed in Jesus, and was present at the death of Saint Stephen, the first Christian martyr. Whilst on his way to Damascus, he was visited by Jesus: a bright light shone about him and Jesus asked Saul why he was persecuting Him. Now blind, a repentant Saul was taken by his companions to a disciple of the Lord in Damascus where after three days of fasting he was baptized and his sight returned. Thereafter, now known as Paul, he worked with great zeal to make Jesus known and loved, making great journeys by land and sea, writing numerous letters to different Christian communities to explain the faith, the seven sacraments of the Church, and exhorting all to work out their salvation in fear and trembling. Paul suffered greatly through hunger, thirst, and cold; scourging, stoning, imprisonment, and shipwreck. Like Saint Peter, he suffered martyrdom for Jesus in Rome.

1 Catholic Education in the Mission of the Church

To know the place of Catholic education in the Mission of the Roman Catholic Church we must first acknowledge what we understand to be the Mission of the Church. This Mission was given to us by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, in His preaching and teaching, in His counsel and commandments. It is nothing less than to work in His vineyard where *'the harvest is rich but the labourers are few,'* to work for the salvation of souls created in God's image and likeness, redeemed by Jesus through His sacrifice on the Cross, so that by cooperating with God's Sanctifying Grace all may come to know, love, and serve God in this life, and so reach the blissful joy and peace of everlasting life in Heaven with our Holy and Loving God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, together with all His angels and saints.

As a Catholic school where Jesus Christ is at the heart of all that we do, we strive each day to play our small part, *Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam (For the Greater Glory of God)*, as humble partakers in that Great Commission entrusted by Jesus to His apostles just before He ascended to Heaven, and where He now reigns as the King of Glory seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty in loving union with the Holy Spirit, the Lord the giver of life at work in His Church today.

And Jesus coming, spoke to them, saying: All power is given to me in heaven and in earth.
Go therefore, teach ye all nations; baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:
and behold I am with you all days, even to the consummation of the world.

*The Great Commission given by Our Lord to His apostles
recounted in the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, Chapter 28, verses 18–20*

Our Lord Jesus Christ asked His apostles to **teach** all nations, to baptize them, and to **teach** them to observe all the things He had commanded them. In His final address to His Apostles Our Lord twice stresses the need for people to be **taught**: to be **taught** about Him, that in coming to *know Him* we might come to *love Him* as Our Lord and God, the beloved, only-begotten Son of God the Father, sent by Him to redeem the world from its sins so that through Our Lord Jesus the Gates of Heaven would be opened to all who come to believe in Him and, in doing so, love Him and by growing in love of Him seek to serve Him to the glory of God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit. That teaching was to be done first by His apostles, the first priests and bishops of His Church, and then by those who came after them down through the ages. The family home, led by father and mother, would become the place in which the Christian faith was first taught and learned by young children, but here and now as teachers within a place of Catholic education the fact that Jesus commissioned His apostles to **teach** all nations about Him and about God's Love for the world, this must surely resonate with each one of us and with all who work in Catholic education.

The Catholic Church in all its members forms the Mystical Body of Christ. With God at its heart, Christian civilization developed through its priests and religious and their missionary zeal to teach the faith to all nations; through its lay faithful living the Catholic faith through generations of families; in its building of hospitals and places of refuge; in its building of schools, colleges and universities; all seeking to honour and love God and neighbour by working for the salvation of souls. The Church fulfils its Mission, guided by the Holy Spirit and enkindled with the Fire Of His Love, through the preaching of the Gospel; through the teaching of God's commandments, and the beliefs and traditions of His Church; through the administering of the seven sacraments instituted by Jesus to heal, nourish, and renew His people; through the caring for the poor, sick and needy; and not least in the education of children and young people in the rich Truth, Goodness, and Beauty of the Catholic Faith.

In their document '*Christ at the Centre*', the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales explain in words which echo those of the Great Commission given by Jesus to His Apostles, that the primary reason the Catholic Church provides schools is to '*assist in its mission of making Christ known to all people*':

Jesus Christ is "the Way, the Truth, and the Life". Those who profess this faith believe that in Christ the truth about Almighty God and the truth about the human person is revealed. The unfolding of this truth constitutes the Church's teaching. The acceptance of this truth brings true freedom and the fullness of life. Proclaiming this truth, this Gospel (Good News), by making Christ known to all peoples, constitutes the mission of the Church.

'Christ at the Centre' published by the Catholic Truth Society

Other reasons given why the Church provides schools are assisting parents as the primary educators of children in the education and religious formation of their children; to serve the local Church in the diocese, parish, and Christian home; and to be a service to society. But the primary reason given for the Church's provision of schools is **to make Christ known**. The psalm says that as a deer yearns for water so our souls yearn for God, so it is by coming to know Jesus, and taking the time to get to know Him more closely as Friend and Teacher, as Creator and Redeemer, as Lord and God, that our love for Him grows deeper and we begin to see the awesome love of God the Father for us in Jesus. That is why the imparting of knowledge, and teaching of the faith within Catholic education is so crucial to the evangelization of society and the spread of the Gospel, propagating its Good News by sowing seeds of faith, hope, and charity, even if those seeds are only the size of a mustard seed. In a beautiful prayer by Saint Richard of Chichester, he exhorts us *to know Jesus more clearly, to love Him more dearly and follow Him more nearly*. In getting to know Jesus more clearly our love of Him should blossom and our desire to serve Him as His followers deepen so that we strive to follow His example of humility, meekness, compassion, and love; heeding His commandments to love God and neighbour.

As a Catholic school we are part of the one, holy, Catholic, and apostolic Church that Jesus founded on the rock of Saint Peter, the man chosen by Jesus to lead His Church after He ascended to Heaven. In his first epistle, Saint Peter exhorts us to '*enthroned Christ as Lord in your hearts*' so that you can '*be ready at all times*' to explain to others '*the hope that is in you*', the hope that our faith gives us. In his second epistle, Saint Peter says that in coming to know God more fully, we must '*contribute every effort*' on our part to make the most of the gifts and treasures God has bestowed upon us through our faith in Him, and a life well lived, and so be granted a place in His heavenly Kingdom.

To those who share with us the common privilege of faith, justified as we are by our God and Saviour Jesus Christ; Grace and peace be yours abundantly, as you gain fuller knowledge of God, and of Christ Jesus our Lord. See how all the gifts that make for life and holiness in us belong to His divine power; come to us through fuller knowledge of Him,
Whose own glory and sovereignty have drawn us to Himself!

Through Him God has bestowed on us high and treasured promises; you are to share the divine nature, with the world's corruption, the world's passions, left behind. And you too have to contribute every effort on your own part, crowning your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with continence, and continence with endurance, and endurance with holiness, and holiness with brotherly love, and brotherly love with charity.

Such gifts, when they are yours in full measure, will make you quick and successful pupils, reaching ever closer knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ; Bestir yourselves then, brethren, ever more eagerly, to ratify God's calling and choice of you by a life well lived; if you do this, you will make no false step, and it will be no grudging entrance that is afforded to you into the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

The Second Epistle of Saint Peter, Chapter 1 verses 1-11

Saint Paul, the man chosen by Jesus to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles with great zeal following his conversion on the road to Damascus, speaks of the need to **hear** the message of salvation in Jesus Christ, so that all may believe in Him and call upon His Name and so be saved. His words speak of the apostolic nature of the Church and the importance of this work in the spread the Gospel.

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord, shall be saved. How then shall they call on Him, in whom they have not believed? Or how shall they believe Him, of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear, without a preacher?
And how shall they preach unless they be sent, as it is written: How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, of them that bring glad tidings of good things!

The Epistle of Saint Paul to the Romans, Chapter 10 verses 13–15

As Saint Paul echoes the words of the prophet Isaiah in speaking of the beauty of those who work to preach the Gospel and bring the glad tidings of faith in Jesus Christ to those who have not heard it, these words those should inspire all of us who seek to do this faithfully, and in all humility, in our roles as teachers of Religious Education. The place of Catholic Education in the Mission of the Church is, therefore, pivotal in sowing seeds of knowledge of God in children so that by God's grace these may grow, blossom, and flourish into a fervent faith filled with hope and characterised by noble acts of virtue and goodness, love of God and love of neighbour. We believe that it is through a wholesome Catholic Education that children are formed to be of good and noble character, eager to strive for excellence in all that they do and so shine like bright stars reflecting the Light of Christ to the world, furthering the Mission of the Church by helping children grow to become saints fit for Heaven.

The most recent successors of Saint Peter, in their role as Vicar of Christ here on earth, explain the place of Catholic Education in the Mission of the Church:

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 Saint John Paul II

It is the duty of the Church to proclaim always and everywhere the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
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.

Pope Benedict XVI

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.

Pope Francis

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, to make Jesus known and loved, and so foster as spirit of service to God and neighbour in His Holy Name. The Gospel is Good News, and in its message we rejoice and see it as our Christian duty to share these glad tidings with all who enter our academy and beyond. We strive to do this with courage and boldness, like the first apostles, and 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 school

Jesus Christ is at the heart 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, sent by Him to redeem the world from its sins, so that through Jesus the Gates of Heaven would be opened to all who come to believe in Him and love Him. Hence, here at St. Bernadette's, Religious Education is treated with utmost reverence, and we echo these sentiments of the Bishops of England and Wales:

Religious Education is not one subject among many but the foundation of the entire education process. The beliefs and values it communicates should inspire and unify every aspect of school life.

'Christ at the Centre' published by the Catholic Truth Society

We aim to offer an excellent Religious Education to our children, rich in content and delivered with passion, enthusiasm, and zeal that comes from the conviction of our faith in Jesus Christ; the hope that comes from knowing Him and believing in Him; and a deeply held desire to express the awe and gratitude we have for His love of each one of us; acknowledging with humility and reverence the love that we owe to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Religious Education we offer provides comprehensive catechesis in the Catholic faith, evangelization of the Gospel message, coupled with creative and meaningful opportunities for worship, praise and thanksgiving, adoration and prayer. The experience of Religious Education for children in our school is enhanced in a very special way by the distinctively Catholic ethos which permeates all aspects of life within our school. This includes participation in Holy Mass and worship of the Holy Eucharist – the source and summit of our faith – at school and our parish church; the provision of time for regular Collective Worship; special times set aside for prayer and devotion such as praying the Holy Rosary and meditation on its Mysteries, and also time given within the school for Eucharistic Adoration of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

Our Catholic Religious Education seeks to nurture the growth and development of the whole person – body, mind, heart, and soul. By striving to integrate our pupils' development in a holistic way through the nurturing of their emotional, intellectual, moral, physical, psychological, social, and spiritual growth and development, we help and encourage them to grow towards that fullness of life that comes only from knowing God, the Author of all life, and from an intimate and loving friendship with Jesus Christ that is inspired, guided, and sustained by the power of the Holy Spirit at work within each child and within our whole school community as part of His Holy Church.

We recognise that parents are the first educators of their children, and it is our honour and 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 who enters our school a sure and steady growth in the great virtues of faith, hope, and love. The partnership between families and the school is nurtured through regular dialogue, invitations to school events and liturgical celebrations such as Holy Mass and class assemblies richly woven with the beauty of the faith and a love of God. A sense of community is deepened when the Catholic way of life which is fostered within the school is borne out in Christian love and fellowship within the wider setting of our parish family: by the attendance of staff and families at Sunday Mass; at the celebration of childrens' First Holy Communion; and other parish events – a notable example being the Visitation to our parish church in October 2022 of the holy relics of our beloved patron, Saint Bernadette, where it was so wonderful to see so many children with their parents take the time to go up to church at the end of our school day and spend time there in prayer: a great blessing for our school and parish.

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 begin to understand His deep love of each of them, nurturing within each child the seed of faith, enabling them by God's grace to grow in hope, trust, and love of Jesus, and 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 fulfil, thereby empowering our 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, in their families – the child's first educators in the faith; 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 nurture a loving response to the Holy and Divine Presence of God in the Bible, in the Church, in the stillness of prayer, and in the Sacraments, most especially in the Blessed Sacrament;
- ❖ 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 develop an awareness of the holy angels and their role in our lives today.
- ❖ 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 poor, the less fortunate, the disadvantaged, and the suffering in our own society and 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 Love, 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, traditions, beliefs and teachings of the Catholic Church.

To fulfil our Mission Statement we place Jesus and the teachings of His Church at the very heart of all that we are and 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 Jesus the Blessed Sacrament; and support of the Parish in 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 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 worshiping 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 its tangible reality is to be found 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 Jesus in His Divine Mercy in our hall, and used to illustrate our Cornerstone Values, and used in large circular images of scenes from the Bible displayed throughout the school; in 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 support of the Parish in Sacramental preparation; our 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 loving friendship with Him. In the Come and See Religious Education programme taught in our school under the auspices of the Diocese of Nottingham, children are invited to grow in knowledge of Jesus and His Church, and so enter into a relationship of love and friendship with Him, Who is Lord and God.

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

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 R.E. curriculum which include Sacred liturgies, Collective Worship, academy assemblies, and support of the Parish with Sacramental preparation. The teachers provide adapted 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 Religious Education 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

The 'Come and See' three-year cycle (available on the website of the Diocese of Nottingham) concluded in July 2024. It will continue to be used until September 2026 when it will be replaced with a new syllabus based on the new Religious Education Directory.

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:

Advent

The three Advent Term 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.

Lent

The three Lent Term 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.

Pentecost

The three Pentecost Term 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 translates to 2½ hours per week across all phases of the academy. 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 is led by the parish, a staff member assists with these sessions which take place at St. Bernadette's Parish Centre, outside of the Religious Education timetable, at the end of the school day. This ensures full coverage of all topics taught in Religious Education. Within Religious Education 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 taught in their classes, from Nursery through to Year 6, including some mixed year groups. In Years 1-6, the children are grouped in ways most beneficial to their immediate learning needs and work is adapted 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. Each classroom has:

- ❖ A framed copy of the Mission Statement and Cornerstone Values
- ❖ A Religious Education display board to assist the pupil's progress for every topic taught which pupils are working on.
- ❖ A 'Come and See' Floor Book which provides evidence of creative and inspiring work produced by the pupils.
- ❖ A Prayer area which includes our daily prayers and a spontaneous prayer tree where pupils display their prayer intentions.
- ❖ A focal area which displays the appropriate liturgical cloth, a crucifix, a Bible displaying a relevant piece of Scripture, a candle and other religious artefacts.
- ❖ An interactive Liturgical Calendar wheel.
- ❖ A poster displaying the Bishop's Spiritual Themes: Encounter, Discipleship and Missionary Discipleship.

There are a number of religious themed displays throughout the academy to aid the children's learning – in the front entrance, the main hall, and various corridors.

Planning

- ❖ In Early Years Foundation Stage, the Long-Term Plan for Religious Education follows a one-year cycle.
- ❖ 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 Religious Education Subject Leader to forward on to staff prior to the start of each term. All topic planning, the end-of-year expectations and the termly assessment focus tasks (accessed from the diocesan website) are forwarded to staff. These are sent for the Advent, Lent, and Pentecost Terms. Teachers are provided with a liturgical calendar detailing all acts of Prayer and Liturgy when the school is gathered together in collective worship. A Parents' Letter for Religious Education is uploaded to our academy website, informing them of forthcoming topics, special dates, and Holy Days during the Advent, Lent, and Pentecost Terms. Termly meetings are arranged by the Diocesan Primary Religious Education Adviser for Subject Leaders to attend;
- ❖ Short-Term planning for Religious Education follows the set structure of EXPLORE, REVEAL, and RESPOND. All class teachers plan using an agreed format;
- ❖ Essential elements for all short-term Religious Education planning include: learning objective, activity, adapted learning, and assessment, incorporating the success criteria/learning outcome, and reference to the relevant strand in AT1 and AT2;
- ❖ All staff plan adapted learning activities within their short-term planning, which meet the needs and abilities of all learners.
- ❖ IT and interactive resources are used where they will enhance learning;
- ❖ Cross-curricular links are utilised wherever possible;
- ❖ Regular assessment, individual pupil planning and record keeping are carried out in order to ensure pupil progress. Within their planning, all staff make reference to End of Year Expectations (where appropriate) including use of the driver words;
- ❖ Extra materials from the Diocesan Primary R.E. 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 Teaching Assistants 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 and relevant online resources;
- ❖ 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;
- ❖ Religious Education 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;
- ❖ There are established Religious Education areas in each classroom which are updated to support classroom Religious Education work;
- ❖ Funding is made available if required to support the purchasing of bespoke resources which link to: Academy priorities, Diocesan initiatives, national initiatives and papal pronouncements.

Other Faiths

In the Advent Term and the Pentecost 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.

Assessment

Formal Assessment

Regular topic assessments take place for **Christian Living**, **Sacramental**, and **Church**. In line with the Diocesan guidelines, one piece of work per term is formally assessed. The piece of work is set through the Diocese and is built around one of the learning foci in the 'Come and See' programme.

Assessments are carried out within each child's individual R.E. book and a copy is recorded into their Religious Education Assessment Book which goes with each child as they progress through the school.

Progress for all pupils on Religious Education 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. On completion of a unit of work, summative judgements are made about the work of each pupil in relation to their End of Year Expectations. Assessment establishes what pupils know, understand, and can do. **It does not assess faith or the practice of faith.** The child's attainment is recorded each term using O-Track.

- ❖ Marking in Religious Education is in accordance with the school marking policy;
- ❖ Academy summative assessments in Religious Education include:
 - ❖ Baseline from Early Years;
 - ❖ End of KS1 and end of KS2 results;
 - ❖ Annual form completed and returned to the Trust.
- ❖ All Religious Education 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 from Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi-Academy Trust;
- ❖ The academy takes part in annual health checks from our Diocesan Primary R.E. adviser;
- ❖ Use of Diocesan Assessment Guidance.

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;
- ❖ 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 Religious Education planning and teaching should take adapted learning into account, to ensure appropriate pupil access to learning and to maximise their progress.
- ❖ All Religious Education 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 Religious Education.
- ❖ 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 Religious Education curriculum for all groups.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- ❖ Monitoring and evaluation of R.E. related planning, teaching delivery, and assessment will be undertaken by the Religious Education 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 Religious Education 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 Religious Education 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 Religious Education Subject Leader within the academy Religious Education Catholic Self-Evaluation 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 are invited to class assemblies.
- ❖ Parents' Letters for Religious Education 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 Religious Education is reported on.
- ❖ An annual report on children's progress, including Religious Education, 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 Religious Education policy document reflects the requirements of the Diocese of Nottingham and the Religious Education curriculum and the needs and ethos of our school;
- ❖ To review and update the Religious Education policy document every two years;
- ❖ To provide leadership and guidance in the area of Religious Education, and 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 Religious Education;
- ❖ To monitor and evaluate short-term planning for Religious Education and evaluate this against topic coverage against the learning outcomes and End of Year Expectations for Religious Education;

- ❖ To monitor and evaluate teaching delivery against requirements of lesson observation proforma and expectations from the diocese, following 'Descriptors in Judging the Quality of Teaching';
- ❖ To oversee school assessments in Religious Education 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 Religious Education 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 Religious Education teaching, including strategic budgetary planning and identification of future resource needs;
- ❖ To promote parental and governor interest in Religious Education;
- ❖ To liaise with other local schools and academies within our Trust (Our Lady of Lourdes 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.

6 Collective Worship (see Collective Worship Policy)

The Chaplaincy Team 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 the Lay Chaplain and their class teachers.

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)

Class Assemblies and Celebration of the Word

There is a class rota in place for Collective Worship during the school year. Class assemblies are related to the present Religious Education topic and involve all pupils. Celebrations of the Word are linked to chosen themes including devotions to saints and special feast days – these are led by a small group of children representing their class. Assembly evaluations take place during the Advent, Lent, and Pentecost Term, with notes taken and feedback given to teachers. Pupils are always praised for their efforts and valuable contributions.

7 RSE (see RSE Policy)

The delivery of Relationships and Sex Education takes place during the Pentecost Term from Early Years, KS1 and KS2 using an agreed programme, 'Life to the Full', put into place in the Pentecost Term 2020. This has been agreed by the governors and parents. All staff members can access their year group activities using the online resource containing all the information for the year group that they are teaching. Parents are able to access an outline of the programme and a selection of teaching materials, via an online parental portal.

8 Sacramental Preparation

Our Sacramental Preparation for Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist is led by the parish. From January to July, weekly sessions are held at St. Bernadette's Parish Centre. A member of staff attends these sessions and supports with the preparations.

9 Supporting documents

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

- ❖ Catholic Life and Mission 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.

10 Policy review

The Religious Education Policy should be reviewed and updated every two years.
Next Review: Advent Term 2026.

This policy is monitored by the Religious Education Leader and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole staff and Governors. As a Catholic Voluntary Academy, responsibility for Religious Education rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Headteacher.

11 Words of Saint Peter and Saint Paul from Holy Scripture

Saint Peter and Saint Paul were the great apostles of the early Christian Church. As we consider the importance of Religious Education in the life and mission of the Church today we can meditate on their words to encourage us all in our faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God and Redeemer of the world, so that we may be courageous and faithful followers of Christ, putting on the whole armour of God, ready at all times and in all places to acknowledge the love we have for Him, our Lord and our King.

‘Therefore did I say to you, that no man can come to Me, unless it be given him by My FATHER.’
After this many of His disciples went back; and walked no more with Him.
Then JESUS said to the twelve: ‘Will you also go away?’
And Simon Peter answered Him: ‘LORD, to whom shall we go?
Thou has the words of eternal life. And we have believed and have known,
that Thou art the CHRIST, the SON OF GOD.’

The Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint John, Chapter 6

Then Peter, filled with the HOLY SPIRIT, said to them:
‘If we this day are examined concerning the good deed done to the infirm man,
by what means he has been made whole: Be it known to you all, and to all the people of Israel,
that by the Name of our LORD JESUS CHRIST of Nazareth, Whom you crucified,
Whom GOD has raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole.
This is the stone which was rejected by you the builders, which is become the head of the corner.
Neither is there salvation in any other.
For there is no other name under heaven given to men, whereby we must be saved.’

The Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 4

Finally, brethren, be strengthened in the LORD, and in the might of His power.
Put on *the armour of GOD*, that you may be able to stand against the deceits of the devil.
Stand therefore, having your *loins girt about with truth*, and having on *the breastplate of justice*,
And your feet shod with the preparation of *the gospel of peace*:
In all things taking *the shield of faith*,
wherewith you may be able to extinguish all the fiery darts of the most wicked one.
And take unto you the *helmet of salvation*, and *the sword of the Spirit* which is *the word of GOD*.

The Epistle of Saint Paul to the Ephesians, Chapter 6

Yours is to be the same mind which CHRIST JESUS showed. His nature is, from the first, divine,
and yet He did not see, in the rank of Godhead, a prize to be coveted;
Taking the form of a servant, He humbled Himself,
becoming obedient unto death, even to the death of the cross.
For which cause GOD also has exalted Him, and has given Him a Name which is above all names:
That in the Name of JESUS every knee should bow,
of those that are in heaven, on earth, and under the earth:
And that every tongue must confess JESUS CHRIST as LORD, dwelling in the glory of GOD THE FATHER.
Wherefore, my dearly beloved, with fear and trembling work out your salvation.

The Epistle of Saint Paul to the Philippians, Chapter 2



In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through Him,
and without Him was not anything made that was made.
In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
He was in the world, and the world was made through Him,
yet the world knew Him not.
He came unto His own, and His own received Him not.
But as many as received Him, He gave them power to be made
children of God, to them that believe in His Name.

The Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint John, Chapter 1

For God so loved the world, that he gave His only begotten Son;
that whosoever believes in Him, may not perish, but have life everlasting.
For God sent His Son into the world, not to condemn the world,
but that the world may be saved by Him.
He who believes in Him is not condemned; he who does not believe
is condemned already, because he has not believed
in the Name of the only Son of God.

The Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint John, Chapter 3

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

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OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST
Diocese of Nottingham