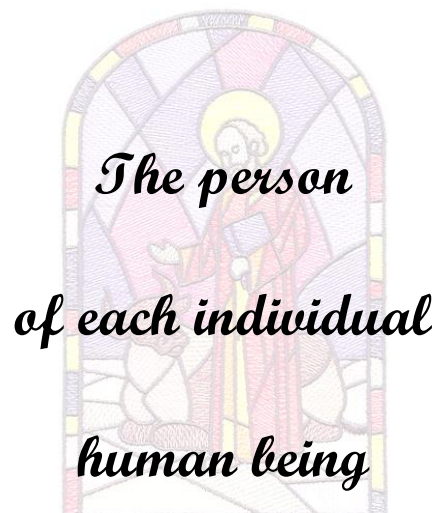


OUR BLESSED SAINTS FEDERATION

Religious Education Policy





*is at the heart
of Christ's teaching:
this is why
the promotion of the
human person
is the goal
of the Catholic school.*

(The Catholic school on the threshold of the third millennium
Pope John Paul)

Mission Statement

Our Mission Statement underpins everything that we attempt to achieve at St Luke's.

The three elements of our Mission Statement are implicitly interwoven in:

- all of our Religious Education
- all other subject areas across the curriculum
- the beliefs and values which are lived out in the daily life of our school

The Mission Statement is supported by our 'Aims and Objectives for Teaching and Learning'.

At the first staff meeting of every school year, the teachers will read through the Mission Statement to refresh their knowledge.

At the beginning of every school year, class teachers will discuss the Mission Statement with their children and produce their interpretation of it for display in class. The interpretation may take the form of a prayer.



St Luke's Catholic Primary School Our Vision

A school where we 'Care, Share and Learn' together

Mission Statement

The school community

- develops and delivers a creative and stimulating curriculum
- ensures each child is given the opportunity to fulfil their potential
- encourages and demonstrates appropriate behaviour and attitudes
- promotes positive Christian values
- develops a deeper understanding of Modern British Values and respect for all
- strengthens the links between parents, our church and the wider community

Aims

- To enhance our supportive moral framework within which every child can develop self confidence
- To encourage all pupils to develop lively, enquiring, imaginative and creative minds and high aspirations for their futures
- To enable pupils to become independent, self-motivated, self-disciplined, to show respect for themselves, for others and the environment.
- To assist our children's spiritual growth in terms of their prayer life as part of their education/curriculum
- To embed an ethos of high standards and expectations of all members of the school community.

Rationale of Religious Education

At St Luke's, we are aware that Catholic schools are established to:

- regard Religious Education as 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. (Bishops' Conference of England and Wales 1988)
- enable the development of religiously literate young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills - appropriate to their age and ability - to think spiritually, ethically and theologically.
- support parents in their responsibility for their children's education. We recognise that our children come from a range of backgrounds and abilities and that our teaching of Religious Education will reflect this. (cf. Curriculum Directory p.9).
- contribute to the Church's mission to educate. For those already engaged in the journey of faith, religious education will be catechesis, and for some children, religious education will be evangelisation, the first opportunity to hear the good news of the Gospel. (cf. Curriculum Directory p.10).

Within the vision and mission of our Diocese of Shrewsbury, we share with our families and our parish of Our Lady of the Rosary, the collaborative ministry of education.

The Aims and Objectives of Religious Education in Catholic Schools

Curriculum religious education in Catholic schools aims to promote:

- Knowledge and understanding of Catholic faith and life;
- Knowledge and understanding of the response of faith to the ultimate questions about human life, its origin and purpose
- The skills required to engage in examination of and reflection upon religious belief and practice.

The objectives of curriculum religious education in Catholic schools are:

- to develop knowledge and understanding of the mystery of God and of Jesus Christ, of the Church, and of the central beliefs which Catholics hold;
- to develop awareness and appreciation of Catholic belief, understanding of its impact on personal and social behaviour and of the vital relationship between faith and life, life and faith;
- to encourage study, investigation and reflection by the pupils;
- to develop appropriate skills: for example, ability to listen; to think critically, spiritually, ethically and theologically; to acquire knowledge and organise it effectively; to make informed judgements;
- to foster appropriate attitudes: for example, respect for truth; respect for the views of other; awareness of the spiritual, of moral responsibility, of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life and especially the challenge of living in a multicultural, multifaith society.

Aims

At St Luke's, our aims in the teaching of RE are:

INTELLECTUAL

- To present an intellectually rigorous RE curriculum in a broad and balanced way.
- To set realistic targets so that the children can experience a sense of achievement.

- To ensure that the teaching of RE is relevant to the needs and abilities of each individual child.
- To ensure that RE will be planned, presented, evaluated, assessed and resourced with the same commitment as any other subject.

CULTURAL

- To provide a richness of experience via a multicultural approach to education threaded through the entire curriculum.
- To teach other faiths with an openness of attitude and relationships with believers of these faiths.

PHYSICAL

- To develop a thoughtful and positive attitude to all aspects of Health Education.

SOCIAL

- To ensure that St Luke's is a community actively promoting positive ways to raise the self esteem of every member of our community
- To provide opportunities to develop self-esteem and self-motivation.

GLOBAL

- To develop a social conscience by raising awareness of issues linked to justice, peace and care for our environment and all our brothers and sisters worldwide.

Spiritual and Moral aims are listed in a separate policy.

Objectives

In order to achieve our aims at St Luke's, we will endeavour to cover the following objectives in each of the developmental areas:

INTELLECTUAL

- **Programmes of Study and the process of Teaching**
At St Luke's we provide an effective whole school RE programme using The Way, The Truth and the Life. This programme enables teachers

to make clear links to the Catechism of the Catholic Church and to the Bishop's RE Curriculum Directory. The WTL programme supports:

- ❖ Clear planning. At St Luke's, we use medium term planning sheets suggested by the Diocese.
 - ❖ Differentiation. RE will be taught in the main as a whole class activity although opportunity for individual and group work will be given as indicated in the scheme. When appropriate, work set may be suitably differentiated to meet the particular needs of the children. Differentiation can be through outcome or varied levels of work set.
- **Assessment, Recording and Reporting**
 - ❖ Assessment of standards is carried out according to Diocesan guidelines using the criteria in the Levels of Attainment booklet agreed by Bishops' Conference.
 - ❖ Each teacher keeps a class record of assessed work and records of pupils' progress.
 - ❖ The school portfolio of pupils' work contains six samples of work from each teacher for each assessed topic covering a range of abilities.
 - ❖ An in - house moderation meeting is held every term
 - ❖ Monitoring of teaching and learning by observing lessons will happen termly
 - ❖ Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to parents/carers in a written report at the end of each academic year.

- **Resources**

At St Luke's we have sufficient resources to be able to teach our The Way, the Truth and the Life programme of study. We keep our resources in a central area and provide access to some items related to current topics within the classroom. The resources include: books for use with children; resource books and computer software for teachers; boxes of religious artefacts which enrich the teaching of World Faiths; a wide range of posters.

CULTURAL

- Teaching Other Faiths

At St Luke's, we provide opportunities for learning about and appreciating the diversity, culture and traditions of different religions. During the

summer term, for children in Years 5 and 6, RE teaching time will be used studying Other Faiths.

- **Other Curriculum Areas**

To develop an understanding of cultural aspects of life in other curriculum areas e.g. Music, Art, Drama

PHYSICAL

- To learn about all aspects of a healthy lifestyle including diet, exercise and hygiene e.g. in PE, science, PSHE lessons and involvement in the Healthy Schools Programme
- To follow a Relationships and Sex Education programme agreed by our governors and parents (see RSE Policy).

SOCIAL

- To be aware of the need for every member of our school community to feel special and wanted
- To address areas of social concern (see Anti-Bullying Policy).
- To place value on and celebrate the efforts and achievements of all in St Luke's e.g. Celebration Assemblies, Golden Assemblies and Governors' Awards.
- To continue school/parish events in order to develop stronger social links between St Luke's and Our Lady of the Rosary e.g. Family and School Masses, joint fund raising events.

GLOBAL

- To promote awareness, both locally and further afield, of issues concerning justice, peace and looking after the Earth and its people
- To incorporate the work of charity agencies, promoting an awareness of their work and fund-raising for them e.g. CAFOD Fast Days, Good Shepherd/Catholic Children's Society, Mission Together.

Spiritual and Moral objectives are listed in a separate policy.

Religious Education in the Classroom

Since the total curriculum in our school is based on the values of the Gospel and because we see all education as revealing the mystery of God, we recognise two aspects of Religious Education in the school:

- Implicit, or unstructured Religious Education - those opportunities which arise in the course of the school day to lead pupils through curriculum content or through relationships to a religious understanding of their implications. It is the policy of this school to use such opportunities as they arise.
- Explicit, or Curriculum Religious Education - those timetabled or planned periods of time given to an explicit consideration of Religious Education in the classroom. It is the policy of St Luke's to allocate the following time to the teaching of Religious Education:

| Teaching Time for RE per week | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Foundation Stage - through WTL / PSED | 2 hours |
| Key Stage 1 | 2.5 hours |
| Key Stage 2 | 2.5 hours |

The Role of the Religious Education Co-ordinator

Please see appendix

Sacramental Programme

The Sacramental Programme is led by Parish Catechists in liaison with RE Subject Leader/ Head Teacher.

Equal opportunities (See Equal Opportunities Policy)

Health and Safety (See School Health and Safety Policy)

SEND (See School SEND Policy)

Last Inspection Report (See Subject Leader's File)

Governor responsible - Catherine Rogerson.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the RE Co-ordinator, and is evaluated and reviewed by the governors and whole staff.

Reviewed September 2020

The outcome of religious education is religiously literate young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills – appropriate to their age and capacity – to think spiritually, ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in every day life.