Learning and growing together through prayer, belief and love

INTRODUCTION

Mission and Witness
At St Anselm’s, it is our aim to draw out and develop the potential in each person to the full, in the knowledge and belief of Christ as our inspiration and guide. We believe that his teachings are central to our mission as a school and as a faith community.

Partnership
We strive to build a purposeful and collaborative partnership between our families, our parish and our school in order to enhance faith formation and strengthen our bonds.

Community
We endeavour to foster an ethos at our school where we experience the true meaning of being a Catholic and each member of our community at St Anselm’s has a fundamental role to play.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE)

At St Anselm’s School we aim to cultivate in all pupils;

- a knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith.
- the skills required to engage in religious thinking and questioning.
- formation of faith.
- the ability to live out in their daily lives, the gospel values as taught by Jesus.

RE should be also challenging and academic. At St Anselm’s our point of reference for our policy and practice in the teaching of RE is the ‘Catechism of the Catholic Church’ and the Religious Education Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools which was published by the Bishops’ Conference in 1996 and provides a clear framework.

St Anselm’s School sets out to provide pupils with a firm foundation on which to build on their experiences to enrich their understanding of their faith.

PROGRAMMES OF STUDY

Revelation
Story, Scripture, Memory and Tradition of the Church

The purpose of this area of study is to help our pupils:

- to explore the importance of story in the human quest for meaning;
- to understand the role of Christian Scriptures as expressions of the ways in which humanity strives to understand the nature of God and the nature of human persons;
- to reflect upon the personal and community response to God invited by Scripture;
• to explore the sacred writings of other faith communities.

**Church**  
Community, Discipleship, Witness

The purpose of this area of study is to help our pupils;

• to reflect on the human experience of belonging to community at various levels;
• to reflect on the belief that, as people created in the image of a Triune God, Christians are called to be that community which is the Church.
• to develop a knowledge and understanding of people and roles in the Church and understand that to be Church is to witness to the good News of Jesus Christ;
• to explore the relationship between the Catholic Church and other denominations and faith.

**Celebration**  
Sacrament, Ritual, Prayer, Worship, Liturgy

The purpose of this area of study is to help our pupils;

• to explore the meaning of celebration which marks the growth and development of every human being;
• to understand that spiritual growth and development is rooted in the Church’s sacramental life which is expressed in sign and symbol throughout the Liturgical year;
• to reflect on the place of prayer in the life of the Catholic community and of individual Christians;
• to develop a knowledge and understanding of prayer in other faiths.

**Life in Christ**  
Lifestyle, Morality, Values, Attitudes

The purpose of this area of study is to help our pupils;

• to explore the values which underpin beliefs and actions in the human family;
• to understand the following of Christ as a call to holiness/wholeness of life;
• to reflect on the values which Christ expressed in his life and teaching;
• to explore the values and way of life of other world faiths.

**CURRICULUM**

**RE Curriculum**  
The curriculum offered at St Anselm’s reinforces the **beliefs** and **values** that are at the heart of our Catholic School.

To support the teaching of RE, the school uses the scheme, ‘The Way, The Truth and the Life’ produced by the Catholic Truth Society. The syllabus, Pupil and Teacher books, which make up this series, are firmly rooted in the Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools and therefore based on the content of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.
Emphasis is placed on the teaching of scripture and to support this, the use of bibles is very much encouraged, particularly in KS2.

**Other Faiths**
We recognise the importance of teaching the children to value and respect the beliefs and traditions of other faiths. One week of RE teaching is devoted to teaching Judaism in years 1-6. Islam is taught for a further week in years 1-6. These units should be taught during different school terms.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) learn about other religions through Knowledge and Understanding of the World.

**Statement on Education for Personal Relationships**
“Within the Christian Community there is a real need for giving gradual and positive sexual education to our children. Each school in consultation with governors, teachers and parents, should have, or build a developmental programme which aims to help our young people to have a properly formed conscience, to enable them to make right judgements and to take the right actions in the many and varied situations in which they may find themselves”

*Bishops’ Conference 1987*

See SRE Policy and RE Handbook.

**Curriculum Resources**
The RE Coordinator ensures that a range of resources are available to support the teaching of RE and the spiritual development of the community of St Anselm’s. These are kept centrally and include:

- Bibles and text books.
- Teachers’ resource books
- Resources for teaching Islam and Judaism.
- CD ROMs on ‘Teachers Only’

Additionally, all classrooms have an Interactive White Board and are wireless enabled for using laptops. All teachers should take advantage of the many resources for teaching Religious Education to enhance learning.

**ASSESSMENT**

**Formative** assessment in RE is carried out through observation, class discussion, talking with pupils at work, marking of written work, and question and answer sessions. Marking should show sensitivity to the child’s level of understanding and maturity and adhere to the school’s marking and feedback policy. Positive feedback helps the child develop a sense of self-worth.

Written assessments in R.E. take place at the end of each unit of work and form part of the **summative** assessment. One piece of assessed work each term is saved in the child’s assessment folder and passed to the new class teacher at the end of the academic year. Summative and formative assessment, together with the child’s work and responses, enable teachers to make an informed judgement about a child’s progress in RE using the Broad Areas of Attainment. We record levels of attainment each term on the school’s electronic tracking system.
SPIRITUAL, MORAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

These four interrelated aspects of a child’s development are nurtured by every facet of the school’s life, with Christ at the centre.

Spiritual Development
Spiritual development encompasses our relationships with other people and with God. Aspects of spiritual development include:

- The development of personal beliefs
- A sense of awe and wonder
- Belief in the existence of a divine being
- A search for meaning and purpose
- Recognising and valuing relationships
- Expressing thought and feeling through - art, music, drama, dance and literature
- Feelings and emotions
- Reflective thought

Moral development
Moral development includes:

- Knowledge and understanding of Christ’s teaching
- Self-awareness and self-confidence
- The experience of justice and fairness
- A knowledge of the code of conduct agreed by the school
- Moral principles

Social and Cultural Development
Social and cultural development incorporates fundamental Christian values which include:

- Telling the truth
- Keeping promises
- Respecting the rights and property of others
- Acting considerately towards others
- Helping those less fortunate and weaker than ourselves
- Taking responsibility for one’s actions
- Self-discipline

Our aim at St Anselm’s is therefore, to assist in children’s spiritual, moral, social and cultural development through:

- Christ being at the centre of all that we do
- Our prayer, liturgy and Eucharistic celebrations
- The values of our Mission Statement
- The involvement of the priests of the parish
- Our curriculum
- The relationships between everyone in our school community
- The examples set by adults in our school
- Praise for all the good that takes place in the School’s life
- Providing opportunities for pupils to exercise responsibility
- Celebration of the cultural diversity of our school
- Classroom organisation and management
• Opportunities to work in a variety of groupings

ST ANSELM’S IN THE COMMUNITY

Celebrations and Liturgy
We recognise that St Anselm’s is not an isolated community and try to ensure that both children and adults see the school as being an important part of a wider community. Our parish church is Our Lady and St Thomas of Canterbury. The school works closely with the parish priest in drawing up our yearly Liturgy and Mass Schedule.

Our schedule includes whole school masses or liturgies to mark the beginning and end of each term, Advent, Lent and Holy Week, and special feast days. Additionally, liturgies and masses are celebrated in class groups. In upper KS2 class liturgies are prepared and led by the children.

Prayer and Worship
Children are taught that prayer can take many forms. They are taught traditional prayers and are encouraged to use their own words for prayer. During assemblies and lessons there are times set aside to be still, to reflect in an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity.

All assemblies are relevant to the Liturgical Cycle, foster a sense of community and shared values and relate to the children’s experience and concerns. Focal points and music create an atmosphere conducive to worship.

Acts of Worship in the classroom take place every day except on those days when there is a collective act of worship and a list of prayers used for daily prayer is in the RE Handbook.

ENVIRONMENT, DISPLAY, PRESENTATION

The way in which we, as teachers, present teaching materials, displays and our classrooms in general can greatly affect the responsiveness and attitudes of children. At St Anselm’s we expect staff to ensure that:

• throughout the school RE displays reflect the liturgical cycle
• each classroom has an RE display board to reflect the current RE topic
• each classroom has a focal point for prayer and reflection, which can be used at any time during the day
• each classroom has the mission statement displayed and referred to across the curriculum
• each classroom has a class charter displayed, where children agree with their class teacher the values of respect for the rights of themselves and others in their class
• they have regard for the Health and Safety Policy, particularly when candles are lit.

ALLOCATION OF TIME

10% of our total teaching time is devoted to the teaching of RE.
HOMEWORK

In years 1-6 there should be one piece of homework per topic. In KS2 homework tasks are based around research activities linked to the RE topics and preparation for class liturgies.

REVIEW

As a living and growing community, the spiritual life of the school is always evolving; therefore RE always takes precedence in our School Development Plan and is a target for all staff through objectives in Performance Management.

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Training opportunities for all staff are identified and planned for strategically to ensure progression and growth. Inset is uploaded on the staffroom area on Fronter and displayed on the RE notice board in the staffroom.