

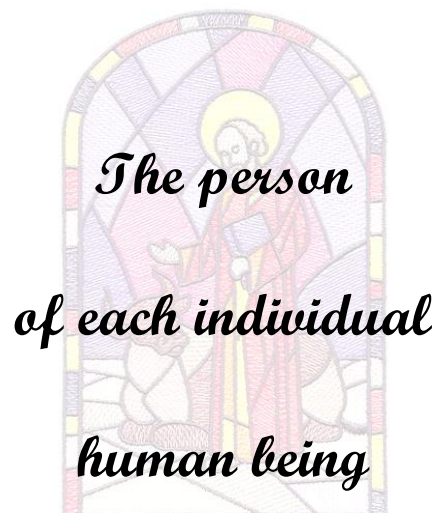
# OUR BLESSED SAINTS FEDERATION

## Religious Education Policy



St. Luke's Catholic Primary School

2022-2023



*The person  
of each individual  
human being  
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

Religious Education at St. Luke's is the core of our curriculum and is at the heart of our mission to educate the whole person through development of intellectual knowledge as well as emotional and affective learning. The mystery of the Word and an understanding of God's revelation, which is fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ, becomes tangible helping our young people so that they may come to understand the richness of our Catholic faith through our relationship with God.

At St Luke's, we:

- 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 and St Luke, 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.
- Opportunities to respond to their learning, recognising how Catholic teaching affects their day to day life and the choices they make.

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 (discern);
- 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.

The outcome of Religious Education at St. Luke's is religiously literate and engaged young people who not only have the knowledge, understanding and skills appropriate to their age/ability/capacity but who are also able to reflect spiritually and think ethically and theologically, linking God's Word to their everyday lives.

## Aims

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

### INTELLECTUAL

- To provide a whole-school approach to RE ensuring the continuity and progression of an intellectually rigorous RE curriculum.
- To ensure that the teaching of RE is relevant to the needs and abilities of each individual child, is comprehensive in content and engages pupils to develop their knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith.
- To provide pupils with opportunities to deepen their religious and theological understanding and be able to communicate this effectively.
- To ensure that RE will be planned, presented, evaluated, assessed and resourced effectively.

### CULTURAL

- To provide a richness of experience via a multicultural approach to education threaded through the entire curriculum.
- To teach other faiths and be welcoming and respectful to others with other faiths.
- To promote equal opportunities by acknowledging and respecting the needs of the individual child and the diversity of home backgrounds.

### 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 encourage and develop links with family, parish and diocese and to provide a framework for Sacramental preparation.
- 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, care for our environment and other global issues.

- To help our children to become responsible and thoughtful members of the community through the promotion of moral issues, of fairness, right and wrong, self-discipline, respect for others and to value the importance of relationships.

**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 as recommended by the Diocesan RE Education Department. 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 three basic human questions and three Christian beliefs that are the Church's response in faith:

- ❖ Where do I come from? (Life /Creation)
- ❖ Who am I? (Dignity/Incarnation)
- ❖ Why am I here? (Purpose/Redemption)

#### Planning and organisation

10% of curriculum time is allocated to 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

Whole school assemblies, teacher-led prayer and liturgy, class-led prayer and liturgy, obligatory Mass and any other religious celebrations are in addition to this allocation. CAFOD's Universal Church and campaigns will also be followed and used as part of RE teaching where it is considered appropriate. Cross-curriculum links within other subjects are also made in addition to the time allocation.



At St. Luke's we follow The Way, The Truth and The Life programme as part of a 2-year cycle to ensure coverage. Within our 2-year cycle, we follow the sequence published on the Shrewsbury Diocese website and access the medium-term planning from Leeds Diocese. Under the new curriculum framework, planning, year group expectations, and interpretations of the new curriculum to assess whether the standards are being met are made available on the Leeds Diocese website to support teacher's planning. Consideration will also be given to the following when planning:

- Prior learning
- Ensuring Christ is at the centre of the lesson
- Creativity
- Artefacts and resources
- Learning styles and pace
- Use of technology
- Time for pupils to plan (pupil-led prayer and liturgy)
- Use of prayer
- Music
- Challenge and differentiation:
  - ❖ RE will be taught in the main as a whole class activity. 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.
- Opportunities for children to reflect of God's Word and to make links with their own experiences (and the experience of other world faiths where appropriate).

### **Assessment, Recording and Reporting**

Assessment establishes what children know and understand and can do. It does not assess faith or the practice of faith. Assessment of standards is carried out according to Diocesan guidelines using the criteria agreed by Bishops' Conference. Each class teacher completes an 'RE Assessment Grid' for their class each half-term. An agreed selection of pupils are formally assessed using 'Context Moderation Sheets'. Assessments are based on observations, artwork, discussion notes, photos as well as written work, and are then used to inform planning. We believe that all children should have the opportunity to be included in Religious Education and support those children with Special Educational Needs.

The RE coordinator(s) will monitor planning, teaching and assessment on a regular basis.

RE is included on the children's annual reports and is also discussed with parents at termly parents' evenings.

### **Resources**

At St Luke's we have purchased good quality resources for each class to be able to teach our The Way, the Truth and the Life programme of study. Every class has access to their own Bibles (Children's Bibles are provided for children in Key Stage 1), The new series of books form The Way, The Truth and The Life and a dedicated worship areas with a cross/crucifix, candle, Holy Water, Rosary beads, Bible, class daily prayers. Other resources are available from a central area (computers; 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. We aim for our children to accept that we are part of a world religious family within which national, racial and cultural differences should never introduce division. We want our children to understand, appreciate and gain from other religious traditions by approaching and learning in a spirit of openness and humility. During the summer term, for children in Years 5 and 6, RE teaching time will be used studying other faiths. Our aims are:

- 🌐 To understand that we are all children of God
- 🌐 To look at, learn about and understand other faiths and cultures

#### **Other Curriculum Areas**

- 🌐 To develop a knowledge and appreciation of the skills in music, drama and art of other faiths and communities .

Through our teaching about other faiths, we hope that our children will recognise that we can learn a lot about ourselves and our Catholic Faith by developing our understanding of all religious traditions. Our key message will be of respect.

## 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 that is inline with Bishop's Directive (see RSE Policy). The school have chosen to follow 10:10 Life To The Full.

## SOCIAL

As well as learning about world faiths, we want our children to appreciate their own cultural traditions. In our culturally rich society, we value contributions from pupils and adults from all cultural backgrounds. We promote a positive ethos for bi-lingual children in our school and we encourage our children to participate in cultural activities and traditions. Children and staff will use all aspects of the curriculum - Literacy, History, Geography, PSHE, Art, Music, Dance, Drama - to participate in, and to appreciate, their own and other cultural traditions.

Our aims are:

- 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.

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

**Reviewed March 2022 by Karina Alcock (RE co-ordinator)**

**Approved by L Evans (Headteacher) Date March 2022**

*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.*