ST ALBAN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Christ Be Our Light

Religious Education POLICY

This Policy was adopted by the Local Governing Body in Autumn 2024

This Policy will be reviewed in Autumn 2025

School Mission Statement

"St Alban's School exists to ensure that all children believe, achieve and succeed".

Our School Aims are:

Believe:

To provide an environment where the children become aware that "Eternal life is this to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you sent." (John 17:3).
To ensure that they are involved in the loving, caring ethos of the message of Christ, "Love one another as I love you." (John 13:34)
To develop every child's confidence, self-respect and an awareness of self as a valued member of society and celebrate the diversity in the school community

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Achieve:

To set standards of behaviour, effort and attainment by which, with the support and guidance of staff, the children can measure their own achievements and progress.
To promote equality and help all pupils to acquire the skills of literacy and numeracy appropriate to their individual stages of development.
To help pupils to develop an understanding of themselves and other people, of their relationships in personal, social, national and international spheres.

Succeed:

To provide a stimulating educational environment conducive to the intellectual, physical, emotional, spiritual and moral development of every child.
To develop the learning of practical skills and work towards ensuring the personal fulfilment of every child.
To provide opportunities to enable children to celebrate and share their achievements

Equality Statement Objectives:

- Plan opportunities within the curriculum for pupils to learn about the diversity of cultures.
- Provide appropriate support and resources to individual pupils who may experience barriers to learning.
- Promote and encourage a school ethos that has respect for others at the core.
- Promote equal participation in trips and clubs across ethnic and social groups.
- Minimise attainment gaps between different groupings, particularly at the end of each Key Stage.

St. Alban's Catholic Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff to share this commitment.

• **Working Together to Safeguard Children (2013):** Statutory guidance from the Department for Education which sets out what is expected of organisations and individuals to safeguard and promote the welfare of children

The aims of Religious Education in the Catholic Church

1. To present engagingly a comprehensive content which is the basis of knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith;
2. To enable pupils continually to deepen their religious and theological understanding and be able to communicate this effectively;

3. To present an authentic vision of the Church's moral and social teaching so that pupils can make a critique of the underlying trends in contemporary culture and society;
4. To raise pupils' awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities in order to respect and understand them;
5. To develop the critical faculties of pupils so that they can relate their Catholic faith to daily life;
6. To stimulate pupils' imagination and provoke a desire for personal meaning as revealed in the truth of the Catholic faith;
7. To enable pupils to relate the knowledge gained through Religious Education to their understanding of other subjects in the curriculum;
8. To bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture.

Taken from Religious Education Curriculum Directory (3-19) for Catholic Schools and Colleges in England and Wales.

RE Entitlements
The RE entitlements for each child at St. Alban's Catholic Primary School are stated in the school's entitlements document.

RE Curriculum
The National Curriculum programme of study has been adapted by the Local Authority and an agreed syllabus has been documented for all schools to follow.
As a Catholic school, the teaching of RE at St. Alban's also includes the curriculum content recommended by 'The Religious Education Curriculum Directory (3-19) for Catholic Schools and Colleges in England and Wales'. The diocese has created a Primary RE Plan including resources and units of work that covers all areas of the National Curriculum and RE Curriculum Directory. St. Alban's follows the diocese Primary RE Plan which includes liturgical themes for assemblies throughout the year.

Collective Worship
At St. Alban's Catholic Primary School we understand that Liturgy and Prayer is a valuable part of each child's faith and educational teaching. It is through these opportunities that children can learn about scripture, reflect on their own and others' lives and practices and celebrate and worship as a valued member of a community.
Children at St. Alban's are part of daily assemblies which are integral to the school day. The assemblies follow a structure of themes that are often linked to the liturgical calendar. These themes are taken from the Diocese of East Anglia's Primary RE Plan. Collective worship also includes the additional celebration of Mass. The whole school observes holy days of obligation noted in the church's calendar and celebrates noteworthy events in the school calendar e.g. the start and end of term and Advent and Lent.

Other Faiths
St. Alban's Catholic Primary School believes that it is important for all children to be educated about other faiths and religions to help inform them and allow them to reflect on their own beliefs and practices. Children are encouraged to compare their beliefs with others and recognise the main teachings and practices that are valued by people of their own faith as well as other faiths.
Our school follows the recommendations of the Local Authority's syllabus including the guidelines planned by the diocese of East Anglia. The school plans for children to learn about another faith each term. The long-term plan has a two-year cycle to allow the school to focus as a whole on three different faiths each year. These include; Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism and Buddhism.

Adaptive learning

It is important that all children at St. Alban's Catholic School is inclusive to all and pupils are able to access the teachings of the Christian faith no matter what their culture or ability is. All RE lessons are planned by class teachers including differentiated content, resources and expectations to suit the needs of individual learners. Differentiation is highlighted in class medium term plans.
Assessment is used to monitor and adapt lessons to allow for continually high expectations of learning in lessons.

Assessment and Monitoring
Staff should make continual assessments throughout lessons which they use to reflect upon their teaching and the children's learning. This formative assessment allows teacher's to build upon children's subject knowledge and understanding continually throughout the year.
Teachers' are also expected to make more formal judgements against the new standards as described in the 'Religious Education Curriculum Directory (3-19) for Catholic Schools and Colleges in England and Wales'. This summative assessment allows staff to monitor the overall progress that the children are making as they move through the school and continue their religious journey in the Catholic faith.

Roles and Responsibilities
RE leader – To lead and monitor the subject and ensure all policies are implemented.
Head Teacher/Head of School - To scrutinise the impact of learning and understanding of the RE curriculum.
Teaching Staff - To implement the curriculum and adhere to policies.
Non-Catholic Staff – To be supported by the RE expectation document to implement and adhere to policies.
Governors- To ensure the school is fulfilling its statutory responsibilities.

Professional Development and Training
As part of all staff's continual professional development, the school plans and offers suitable training to develop competency and understanding. This is managed by the RE leader and an individual's line manager.
The RE leader, Head Teacher/Head of School and Phase Leaders regularly attend training facilitated by the Diocese of East Anglia.
Training is also offered to members of the local community, including governors.

Equality Act 2010: Advice for schools: Non-statutory advice from the Department for Education, produced to help schools understand how the Equality Act affects them and how to fulfil their duties under the Act

Admission Arrangements – See Admissions Policy

No child will be refused admission to school on the basis of his or her religion or ethnicity. In line with the Equalities Act 2010, we will not discriminate against children of other or no faith and we will take all reasonable steps to provide effective educational provision to support their beliefs.

Safeguarding- See Child Protection ans Safeguarding Policy

RSE- See Relationship and Sex Education Policy

Complaints – See Complaints Policy

If there are any complaints relating to the teaching and ethos of the Catholic faith and RE teaching in general these can be referred to the **RE Curriculum leader.** Then, if unresolved, to the Head Teacher/Head of School.

In the case of an unresolved complaint the issue should be taken through the general Governors complaints procedure.

Appendix (Other Useful Documents)

i)) Diocese and Community Parishes
http://www.catholiceastanglia.org/

ii) Religious Education Curriculum Directory (3-19) for Catholic Schools and Colleges in England and Wales.
http://www.catholic-education.org.uk/media/k2/attachments/RECD_2012.pdf

iii) Agreed Syllabus 2013 – Religious Education in Cambridgeshire
https://www.learntogether.org.uk/Resources/Documents/RE%20in%20Cambridgeshire%20Agreed%20Syllabus.pdf

iv) Diocese of East Anglia – RE Curriculum Plan for Primary Schools