

# **Religious Education Curriculum Statement**

## **Intent**

At St. Winefride's, our priority is to nurture growth in the Catholic faith as a living reality through enabling a variety of religious experiences for all members of the community and by following 'The Way, the Truth and the Life' scheme of work for Religious Education. We aim to ensure that all children gain essential knowledge of the Catholic faith, with an inclusive awareness of the diversity and the commitment of individuals in their personal lives. Children experience learning in Religious Education in creative and innovative ways, embedded within the Liturgical Year of the Church. Understanding is gauged for individuals and learning is supported and challenged according to needs; progression is ensured through both the scheme and in regular opportunities for personal and collective reflection, prayer, and participation in formal liturgies of the Church. They have a strong understanding of the mission and charism of St. Winefride's: to be a beacon of Catholic education and values; shining their light within the guidance of our core values of Excellence, Happiness, Respect, Resilience and Compassion and rooted in our Faith in the person and presence of Jesus Christ.

Our annual ExploRE Week provides a rich experience of a range of world faiths. Our purpose is to ensure that every child at St. Winefride's enjoys exploring their personal faith and finds joy in expressing this through the rhythms of the Church's Liturgical Year and in Religious Education lessons. They reach richer depths in this expression through the permeation of Religious Education throughout every aspect of school life. Each child will gain an appropriate level of religious literacy and will therefore be able to express their own understanding of the Catholic faith and their personal spirituality successfully, using this knowledge to discern the ways in which God is calling them to live life fully as a unique gift from God.

## **Implementation**

### ***Knowledge at the Heart of the Curriculum***

#### **Curriculum Provision:**

To fulfil the above aims and to address the 4 areas of study – Revelation, Church, Celebration and Life in Christ, now expressed in the RED as learning through the lenses of Hear, Believe, Celebrate and Live, 'The Way, The Truth and The Life' programme is used as recommended by the Diocese.

Our starting point in Religious Education is **Hear - Revelation**. God is always the initiator in the history of our creation and redemption; it is His revealing of Himself that makes classroom Religious Education possible. We recognise that this revelation of God is the one source of divine revelation from which two streams flow: Sacred Scripture and tradition.

From Revelation we move onto **Believe - Church**; in other words, we consider how revelation gives life to the Church. The Church is the bearer of God's revelation and the means by which human beings live out their response to revelation, enlivened by the Holy Spirit. The Church in this world is the Sacrament of salvation, the sign and the instrument of the communion of God and human beings.

From here we focus on two aspects of the Church's response to God's revelation; **Celebrate** - **Celebration** – the liturgical, prayerful and sacramental life of the Church and **Live** - **Life in Christ** – the moral life and the pursuit of holiness with a focus upon the impact of faith upon how Christians live.

Teaching in Religious Education should help people be attentive to the meaning of their experiences, illumined by the light of the Gospel, so that they may respond to God more fully. Experience can also make the Christian message more intelligible. It serves in the examination and acceptance of the truths which are contained in the deposit of Revelation.

A variety of teaching and learning strategies are used from across the curriculum adapted appropriately to the needs and learning styles of pupils, including use of both art and music as a way into thinking more deeply about theological concepts.

The spiritual dimension of our lives permeates the whole life of the school, the environment, relationships, the curriculum, liturgies and assemblies.

Our Religious teaching relates to the lives and experiences of our children.

Appropriate religious language is developed where children will understand the meaning of symbols and ritual in the practices of the Catholic Faith.

We support and complement the catechetical programme of the parish and so contribute to the development of community and partnership between home, school and parish.

## **Impact**

At St. Winefride's we follow the guidance of the RED and consequently aspire to its outcomes:

The outcome of excellent religious education is religiously literate and consciously engaged young people who have the knowledge, understanding, and skills – appropriate to their age and capacity – to reflect spiritually, and think ethically and theologically, and who recognise the demands of religious commitment in everyday life. (Religious Education Directory 1.2 Article 3.)

The Catholic school is a community of faith, and religious education is where that faith seeks understanding, where pupils learn to love God with all their minds, where they learn to 'know their creed so well that they can give an account of it'. (RED 2.1.2.1)