

St. Luke's Catholic Primary School

R.E. Handbook

Reviewed: 2017



We follow in the footsteps of Jesus, as we live, love and learn together.

The outcome of Catholic religious education is to develop “religiously literate young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills - appropriate to their age and capacity - to think spiritually, ethically or theologically and who are aware of the demands of religious commitments in everyday life”.



Our Mission Statement

St Luke's Mission Statement

At

St Luke's Catholic

Primary School;

*We follow in the footsteps of
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1. The Aims of Religious Education

The Mission Statement for our school states

“We follow in the footsteps of Jesus as we live, love and learn together.”

The aims of Religious Education at St. Luke’s Primary School are;

- That we should be a Gospel centred community:
- To provide a friendly loving and welcoming environment where the Christian faith is nurtured.
- To provide each child with the opportunity to develop their relationship with God.
- To respect and take account of each child’s faith background and journey towards or with God.
- To foster appropriate attitudes in respect of the views of others living in a multicultural, multi-faith society.
- To provide a broad, balanced, interesting and stimulating curriculum so as to enable our children to achieve their potential and celebrate their achievements.

Religious Education is for all.

It is a collaborative activity that respects and promotes the child’s innate capacity for awe, reverence and imagination for the spiritual.

2 Our Objectives

Catholic schools are guided in all they do by an important and coherent vision of education. This vision is based on the truth revealed by God about ourselves, our life together in community and our ultimate destiny with God. This gives rise to an educational endeavour centred on the person of Jesus Christ, who is our Way, Truth and Life.¹

What is Religious Education?

- Religious education is about engaging with the deepest questions of life and finding reasons for the hope which is within them (1 Peter 3:15).
- It is about the Christian vision of the human person.
- It is the core subject which is central to the life of the Catholic school.
- Religious education is the systematic study:
 - of the mystery of God, as discovered through the Bible and particularly through the life and teachings of Jesus Christ,
 - the teachings of the Church,
 - the lives of the saints,
 - the relationship between faith and life.

To meet the demands for providing sound religious education programme we are responsible for:

- Presenting a “systematic” presentation of the Christian story, message and way of life (initiated through the Come and See Scheme of work.) in ways appropriate to the age and stage of development of the child.
- Providing opportunities for celebration, prayer and reflection in implicit and explicit ways.
- Providing children with the language of religious experience – a “literacy” in religious activities, places, stories, symbols and rituals, people and objects.
- Enabling staff involved to understand the underlying theological as well as the educational principles.
- Providing appropriate materials about other faiths and ensuring that staff involved, have adequate preparation for their use.

¹ Joint Pastoral Letter on Catholic Education:, Bishops’ Conference, September 2007 cited Come & See Teacher’s Books Page 10.

- Utilising appropriate strategies from the National Curriculum to ensure that the R.E. programme is academically rigorous.
- Promoting links with the parish and home through sacramental programmes and formal and informal contact with parents through Collective worship, celebrations, assemblies, meetings, etc.
- In the words of the Curriculum Directory, the outcome of Excellent Catholic religious education is “religiously literate young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills – appropriate to their age and capacity – to think spiritually, ethically or theologically and who are aware of the demands of religious commitments in everyday life”.

3. The Religious Education Programme

We use the “Come and See” programme of study in line with Archdiocesan policy. The aim of this programme is to explore the religious dimensions of questions about life, dignity and purpose within the Catholic tradition. “Come and See” aims to raise questions and provide materials for the children to reflect on their own experience and associate these with scripture and Church traditions. Links are also made with the experience of other faith traditions.

Overview and Concepts

Foundation and Focus

The central content of “Come and See” is the Christian belief in Jesus Christ, the Word and Revelation of God. Within this, the programme explores the dimensions of LIFE, DIGNITY and PURPOSE. Each term a basic question is asked relating to one of these beliefs about the mystery of life and material provided to enable the children to reflect on their own experiences and explore the beliefs, values and practices of the Catholic faith tradition.

Autumn	Where did I come from? Life – Creation
Spring	Who am I? Dignity – Incarnation
Summer	Why am I here? Purpose – Redemption

Themes

The basic question – belief for each term is explored through three types of themes:

Community of Faith – Church themes;

Autumn by Family – Domestic Church

Spring by Community – Local Church

Summer by World – Universal Church

Celebration in Ritual – Sacramental themes;

Autumn by Belonging – Baptism / Confirmation

Spring by Relating – Eucharist

Summer by Interrelating – Reconciliation

Way of Life – Christian Living themes;

Autumn by Loving – Advent / Christmas

Spring By Giving – Lent / Easter

Summer by Serving – Pentecost

Yearly overview.

Each year also studies another faith in the autumn term and the school will study Judaism in either the Spring or Summer Term depending upon the length of each term.

Domestic church family	Myself God knows and loves each one	Families God's love and care for every family	Beginnings God at every beginning	Homes God's dream for every family	People The family of God in Scripture	Ourselves Created in the image & likeness of God	Loving God who never stops loving
Baptism/confirmation belonging	Welcome Baptism; a welcome to God's family	Belonging Baptism an invitation to belong to God's family	Signs & symbols Signs & symbols in Baptism	Promises Promises made at Baptism	Called Confirmation: a call to witness	Life choices Marriage commitment and service	Vocation & commitment The vocation of priesthood and religious life
Advent/Christmas loving	Birthday Looking forward to Jesus' birthday	Waiting Advent a time to look forward to Christmas	Preparations Advent; preparing to celebrate Christmas	Visitors Advent: waiting for the coming of Jesus	Gift God's gift of love & friendship in Jesus	Hope Advent; waiting in joyful hope for Jesus; the promised one	Expectations Jesus born to show God to the world
Local church community	Celebrating People celebrate in Church	Special people People in the parish family	Books The books used in Church	Journeys Christian family's journey with Jesus	Community life in the local Christian community: ministries in the parish	Mission Continuing Jesus' mission in diocese [ecumenism]	Sources The Bible, the special book for the Church
Eucharist relating	Gathering The parish family gathers to celebrate Eucharist	Meals Mass; Jesus' special meal	Thanksgiving Mass a special time for saying thank you to God for everything, especially Jesus	Listening & sharing Jesus gives himself to us in a special way	Giving & receiving Living in communion	Memorial sacrifice The Eucharist the living memorial of Jesus' sacrifice	Unity Eucharist enables people to live in communion.
Lent/Easter giving	Growing Looking forward to Easter	Change Lent a time for change	Opportunities Lent: an opportunity to start anew in order to celebrate Jesus' new life	Giving all Lent a time to remember Jesus' total giving	Self-discipline Celebrating growth to new life	Sacrifice Lent a time of aligning with the sacrifice already made by Jesus	Death & new life Celebrating Jesus' death & resurrection
Pentecost serving	Good News Passing on the Good news of Jesus	Holidays & holydays Pentecost: feast of the Holy Spirit	Spread the word Pentecost a time to spread the Good News	Energy Gifts of the Holy Spirit	New life To hear & live the Easter message	Transformation Celebration of the Spirit's transforming power	Witnesses The Holy Spirit enables people to become witnesses
Reconciliation Inter-relating	Friends Friends of Jesus	Being sorry God helps us to choose well Sacrament of Reconciliation	Rules Reasons for rules in the Christian family Sacrament of Reconciliation	Choices The importance of examination of conscience Sacrament of Reconciliation	Building bridges Admitting wrong, being reconciled with God and each other Sacrament of Reconciliation	Freedom & responsibility Commandments enable Christians to be free & responsible	Healing Sacrament of the Sick
Universal Church world	Our world God's wonderful world	Neighbours Neighbours share God's world	Treasures God's treasure; the world	Special places Holy places for Jesus & the Christian	God's people Different saints show people what God is like	Stewardship The Church is called to the stewardship of Creation	Common good Work of the worldwide Christian family

Other Faiths

<i>Year Group</i>	<i>Other Faith</i>
<i>Nursery</i>	<i>Hinduism</i>
<i>Reception</i>	<i>Hinduism</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>Hinduism</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>Sikhism</i>
<i>3</i>	<i>Islam</i>
<i>4</i>	<i>Hinduism</i>
<i>5</i>	<i>Sikhism</i>
<i>6</i>	<i>Islam</i>

The Process

In each topic the learning occurs through the following process:

SEARCH - EXPLORE

This is the introduction to the topic where the children's life experience is explored, the question(s) it raises are wondered at, shared, investigated and their significance reflected upon.

REVELATION - REVEAL

This is the heart of the programme where knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith is revealed through the Word, in Scripture, Tradition, doctrine, prayers, rites and Christian living.

RESPONSE - RESPOND

This is where the learning is assimilated, celebrated and responded to in daily life.

Skills

We aim to develop the children's skills in the following areas.

Communication: Through listening, discussing, reading, writing, non verbal communication.

Imagination: The ability to put oneself in other peoples' situations times and places to visualise other experiences.

Observation: The ability to observe accurately and to interpret observations.

4. Planning

Long and Medium Term planning follow the programme already provided on page 9.

The R.E. Co-ordinator will ensure that staff know the dates when topics start and end. He or she will also co-ordinate Assessment dates, Masses, Collective Worship rotas etc. Before the start of each topic staff should be guided through the “Come and See for Yourself” pages which are common to each theme. These are familiarise staff with each topic.

The R.E. Coordinator provides a planner for each terms work on which are indicated:

- the basic question – Christian doctrine for the term.
- the 3 themes and topics through which these will be explored
- the starting dates for each topic
- the allocation of time required to ensure that the three learning outcomes for each topic to be achieved are shown.

Short term planning is the responsibility of the class teacher.

The class teacher will:

- allocate time for each learning outcome to be achieved
- plan the topic to ensure achievement of the 6 learning objectives.
- select appropriate activities for the whole class, groups or individuals and the activities chosen for this.

It was agreed by the staff in the Autumn Term 2014 to adopt the electronic planning sheet for R.E. planning and no longer to annotate the Come and See pages.

The learning & teaching styles

A variety of teaching and learning styles are used to deliver the “Come and See” programme and meet individual pupil’s needs. Work may be carried out as a whole class, in pairs, individually or in groups with an emphasis on active response in life and/or worship. Our focus is upon activities e.g. painting, storytelling, reflecting, worshipping movement and drama etc. Each child has a “Come and See” book to record their thoughts and ideas and collects work for their own Record of Achievement files.

5. Assessment

Assessment is an integral part of teaching and learning. By assessing children diagnostically, formatively and summatively, we recognise the unique contribution of every pupil to Religious Education and the whole range of skills, aptitudes and capabilities that every pupil may exhibit.

Assessment is focused by the overall aims and objectives of Religious Education and integrated into "Come and See". It is related to the concepts, skills and attitudes to be developed through the exploration of these and learning outcomes for each topic. Assessment establishes what pupils know, understand and can do. It does not assess faith or the practise of faith.

At St Luke's assessment involves

Informal assessment

1. Marking and discussing work
2. General observation of children engaged in tasks and activities
3. Observation of contributions made to display
4. Review end of task, activity, lesson, topic

Formal Assessment

We follow the Archdiocese Guidelines for assessment.

1. Mind mapping at the "Explore" part of chosen topics.
2. At the "Reveal" part of the process for one topic each term, an activity (recommended by the Christian Education Department.) is set aside to be used for the formal assessment of a theme. This is then used in line with the teacher's knowledge of the child from their class work to inform a formal judgement.

Age Related Expectations are set out below.

- Pre Level 1 Early Years Reception
- Level 1 Year 1
- Level 2 Year 2
- Level 3 Years 3 and 4
- Level 4 Years 5 and 6

Expectations

In each topic, teachers are offered brief summaries of what children can be expected to know, understand and be able to do. As for other curriculum subjects these are expressed in terms of most children and some children. They provide support for the tasks of differentiation assessment, recording and reporting.

(See Appendix 1 p31 of "Come and See")

6. Recording

At St. Luke's recording takes many forms.

- Notes from observations
- Written comments on children's work
- Visual evidence, displays, photographs, celebrations etc
- Pupils self-assessment
- End of topic record

Recording provides evidence of achievement. It involves pupils in self assessment and progress in dialogue with teacher.

7. Reporting

At St. Luke's, reporting provides feedback to pupils and parents on their achievements and progress;

Parents' Evenings in the Autumn and Spring term are held each year on which the child's progress is reported and written reports are delivered at the end of the academic year. As well as this, parents are very welcome to approach the class teacher at anytime to enquire about the progress and achievements of their child.

8. Evaluation of teaching

As a staff we are continually evaluating teaching through the observation of assemblies, displays, children's work and their response.

At the end of each topic we evaluate our lessons as part of our record keeping which is the fundamental importance of future planning. In the classroom display boards highlight the work carried out by each year group in the same "Come and See" topic. This illustrates progression and the different learning and teaching styles employed by individual class teachers for the same topic. It also gives the opportunity for children to see what work is going on in other year groups and to appreciate each others work.

9. Evaluation of Learning

The "review" section of each "Come and See" topic gives the opportunity for both teacher and child to assess learning in Religious Education. "Renew" presents opportunities to help further children's learning and is a continuous process which involves the co-operation of the children and teacher.

At St. Luke's pupils are encouraged to evaluate their own learning in various ways. At the start of each topic pupils complete a "What I know at the start of this topic." sheet. At the end of the topic fill in the section called "What I know now." recording points they have learnt.

10. Staff Development, Induction and Staff Communication

Newly qualified teachers and all staff new to St. Luke's are warmly welcomed. Induction takes place both formally and informally. This is through staff meetings, LEA and Archdiocesan courses and the assignment of the NQT to a mentor between whom meetings take place and problems, if any, discussed.

Induction to the "Come and See" programme takes place in a similar way. Staff are encouraged, when possible, to go on courses and are given help and advice when needed concerning Religious Education. The Religious Education Co-ordinator is available to anyone needing guidance (see policy for induction of new staff)

The R.E. Co-ordinator attends appropriate courses to keep and maintain up to date standards of good practise and the latest changes which will affect the school. This is then fed back to other colleagues within the school.

Any new teacher, not in possession of the C.C.R.S. will be encouraged to apply for a place on the course to benefit their own professional development and the children.

11. Resources – Staff Members Teaching R.E.

Mr. Albie Crist	Headteacher (C.C.R.S.)
Mr. Simon Holleron	Deputy Head / R.E. Co-ordinator / Yr5 (C.C.R.S.)
Mrs. Jacqui Andrews	Special Needs Co-ordinator (C.C.R.S.)
Mrs Helen Carson	Nursery
Mrs. Kellie Hayes	Reception (C.C.R.S.)
Mrs. Hannah Friend	Yr 1
Miss Anna Hampson	Yr 2
Miss Chelsie Casson	Yr 3
Mrs. Sarah Dobson	Yr 4 (C.C.R.S.)
Miss Ruth Heneghan	Yr 6 (C.C.R.S.)

12. Resources – Teaching

General Religious Education resources are held in the labelled shelving unit in the main entrances and with the R.E. Co-ordinator. "Come and See" / God's Story/ Church Story CD Roms are available to all staff on the One Drive as well as God' story 1 or 2, and Church Story 1, 2, or 3.

Good News bibles are stored in the Library on the first floor. The Co-ordinator has overall responsibility for overseeing resources and ordering new material subject to approval by SMT.

13. Relationship of R.E. to the Whole Curriculum

At St. Luke's R.E. has a core place in our curriculum. We relate R.E. to life, religion is for living not just for learning and our Catholic ethos permeates daily life at St. Luke's. Staff, where appropriate, plan collaboratively.

14. Collective Worship

Children should have an opportunity to partake in Collective Worship everyday. This will usually take place in their own classrooms. Once a week it will take place at Key Stage Level in Key Stages 1 and 2. During the year the children will also take part in whole school Masses, class Masses and seasonal acts of collective worship.

15. Links with Parents

We have close links with parents at St. Luke's which starts prior to children entering Nursery with home visits from Nursery staff. Prior to entry into Reception, parents are invited to meetings to discuss school life.

We operate an open door policy and a positive attitude towards parental help in school. Through pre-school meetings, sacramental preparation meetings, parents' evening, newsletters and school celebrations, we involve parents in their child's Religious Education and indeed their education as a whole. We have an increasing number of families with English as an additional language and arrange support for these parents with "coffee afternoons" and speaking English courses. (see policy)

16. Links with Parish

At St. Luke's we have created and fostered relationships with the parish of 'St. Luke the Evangelist' in many ways. The parish priest is very supportive of Religious Education, Collective Worship and Catholic life in school. We attend parish Masses on holydays and jointly organise fund raising

activities. There is “Little Church” each Sunday led by Parish catechists for the benefit of the children. “The With You Always” Sacramental preparation is led and organised by Parish catechists and the Parish Priest.

17. Inter – relationships between R.E. and other policies at St. Luke’s

Religious Education at St. Luke’s involves our children having provision for equal opportunities, special educational needs, cross curricular links and the use of ICT (see relevant policies)

Revised for Come and See June 2012

Latest update October 2017

Simon Holleron

R.E. Co-ordinator