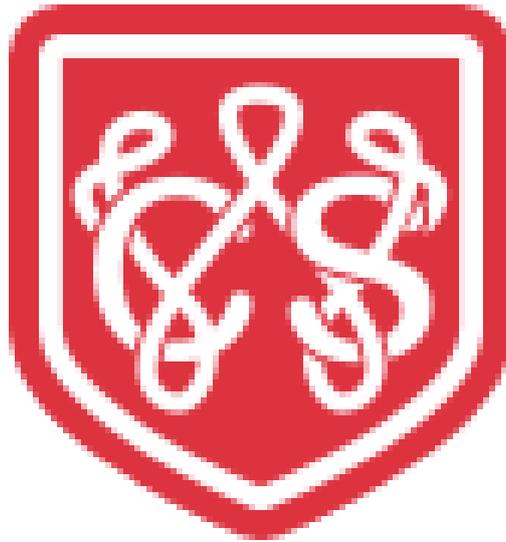


WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL PRIMARY SCHOOL



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION HANDBOOK

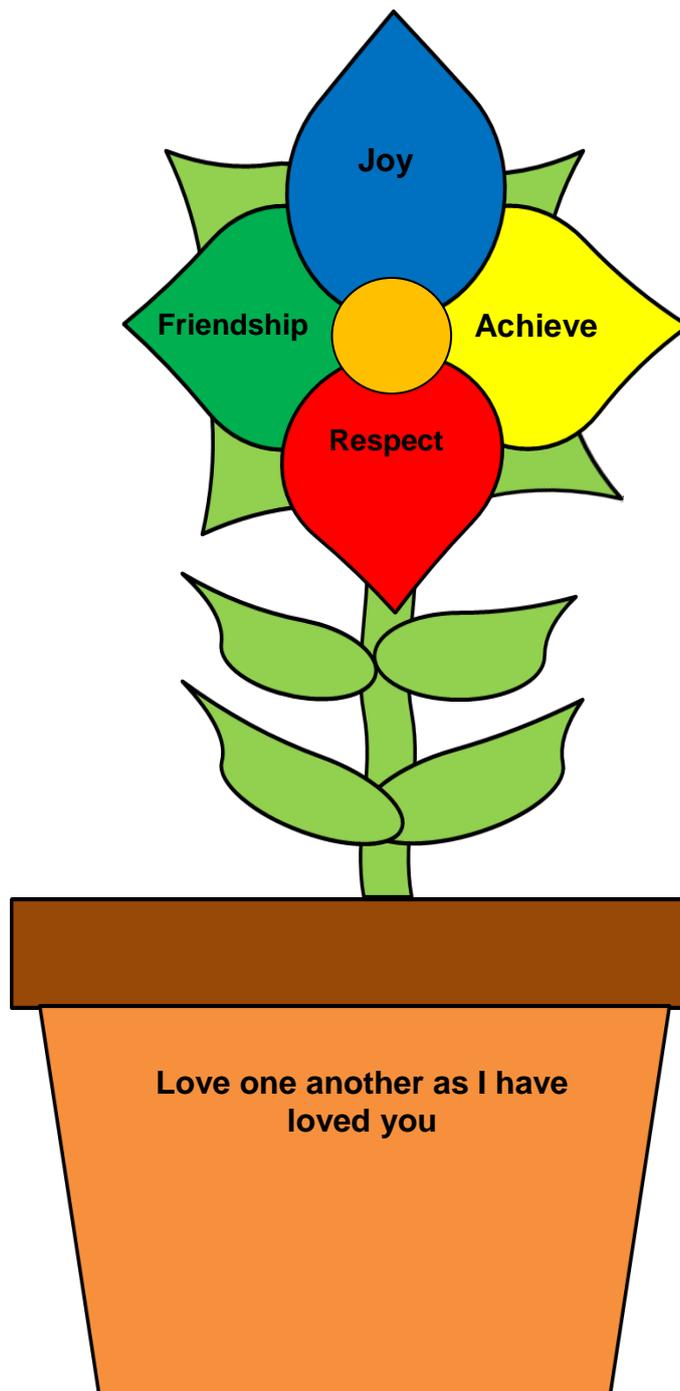
**Revised September 2016
RE co-ordinator Miss S Simmons**

Date of Review: September 2017

THE RE HANDBOOK

This RE Handbook is a document that gives detailed information to the staff of Westminster Cathedral School to help and support them in the delivery of Religious Education in the school and other related areas. It is also a source of information for all interested outside agencies that require information on the RE in the curriculum and related activities in the school.

This Handbook is based on the principles expressed in our Religious Education Policy



ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Role of the Parent

The role of the parent is of supreme importance in the religious education of all children. As the Catholic Bishop's Conference Statement on Religious Education in Catholic Schools May 2000 states, "The first educators in the faith are parents. It is they, above all others, who establish in their child the first sensitivity and responsiveness to the presence of God, to the practice of prayer and to the patterns of life in the community of faith, the parish. By their example in the home and in their participation in the Mass and the other sacraments, the foundations of life-long faith and discipleship in their children are laid down".

We aim to keep parents informed in all matters related to the education of their children in RE and other related areas:

1. Through the termly newsletters
2. The two parent evenings between parents and classteacher
3. The annual written report
4. The Headteacher's meeting with parents before admission.
5. Through celebrations of the Eucharist
6. The home/school links relating to RE

The Role of Our Catholic School

The Bishop's Conference Statement on Religious Education in Catholic Schools reminds all that the "partnership between home and parish is enhanced by the role of the Catholic school in which the educational mission of the church finds a particular and important expression".

At Westminster Cathedral School this "Educational Mission" is expressed further in the aims we wish to achieve through our School Mission Statement".

1. 'Where each child is considered unique and valued for his/her contribution to school life'
2. 'Where difficulties and problems are talked through and prayed through'
3. 'Where opportunities are provided for the development and extension of each child's spiritual, creative, intellectual, emotional, social and physical capabilities.'
4. 'Creating an environment where faith, hope and trust flourish'
5. 'Respecting and helping each other in our school and community'
6. 'Praying and hoping for peace within our hearts, the community and throughout the world.'

This is achieved:

1. Through the structured RE Programme (Come and See)
2. The RE Policy and its implementation
3. Good management of 10% RE teaching time
4. The monitoring of RE
5. Endeavouring to create, a happy caring and secure environment
6. Establishing a calm, stable environment which is conducive to learning.

The Role of the Headteacher

The role of the Headteacher and the Governors as representatives of the community have a vital role ensuring the highest possible standards in RE in our Catholic schools and to foster within our schools in the words of the Bishop's Conference Statement "communities of faith".

At Westminster Cathedral this is achieved by:

1. The School Development Plan RE Targets
2. The Headteacher's/RE Co-ordinators termly report on RE in the Headteacher's Report to the Governors
3. The allocation of the school budget for the provision of RE resources.
4. The allocation of time at staff meetings to RE
5. Regular In-service in RE (one of the five INSET days per year)
6. Ensuring that relevant RE documentation is kept up to date.
7. Ready support and advice to colleagues in the delivery of RE
8. Liaison with the Diocesan RE Adviser
9. Liaison with the Parish Priest of the Holy Apostles to organise Masses, - appropriate monitoring of RE.

The Role of the Parish Priest of the Holy Apostles

The Parish Priest of the Holy apostles is seen as a regular visitor to the school community and is in regular contact with the school.

1. He celebrates Mass in the school hall, at the beginning of the school year, Advent, Easter, at the end of the summer Term for Year 6 leavers and on other occasions.
2. Welcomes classes/school when they attend Mass at the Holy Apostles Church
3. Meets parents at Meetings for parents before their children enter the school, and before secondary transfer.
4. Liaises with the school over the Preparation for First Confession and First Holy Communion.
5. Teaches RE in the classes.

The Role of the Class Teacher

Westminster Cathedral recognises the vital role of the individual class teachers in the effective teaching of RE in their particular classroom and year group. As the Bishop's Statement on Religious Education May 2000 in its expectations states "RE teaching in the Catholic School will be enlightened by the faith of the school community and by the faith of the RE Teacher".

The Headteacher/RE Co-ordinator and Deputy Headteacher encourage an enthusiastic approach to the subject by being good role models themselves whenever possible. They emphasise that it is their dedication, sincerity and belief in the faith that comes across to the children.

To help the individual class teacher in this important work the school provides the following help:

1. The RE Co-ordinator/Headteacher to advise classroom teachers in their work and to pass on to them any new current thinking in the teaching of RE.
2. The RE Policy and RE Handbook to inform staff of their responsibilities in the teaching of RE
3. The Provision of RE resources for the teaching of the subject.
4. The provision of a "The Way, the Truth and the Life" Teachers Manual and related material to help with the teaching of the school RE programme.
5. The use of 10% of the working week on the teaching of RE.
6. Participation in Inservice provided for teachers by the Diocesan RE Adviser.

The RE Curriculum Directory

The RE Curriculum Directory is a document that describes the content of the curriculum in RE for Catholic Schools. It tells us what should be taught in religious education lessons. Its purpose is to inform teachers what the opportunities for study, investigation and reflection are for pupils and the knowledge and understanding which they should receive. Each teacher has a copy of this document.

Using the RE Curriculum Directory

The “Come and See” Religious Education Syllabus is based on the *Religious Education Curriculum Directory*. Links are also provided for each year group to the RECD.

THE AIMS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT OUR SCHOOL

(These aims are in accordance with those written in the Bishop’s RE Curriculum Directory 2012).

Religious Education lies at the heart of the curriculum and school life.

Our aim is to create a happy caring stable environment which is truly Catholic and based on the life and teachings of Christ and the Catholic Church.

To enable all members of the school community to understand and to live our mission statement “***Love one another as I have loved you***”.

To enable each child to deepen his/her relationship with God and to further his/her understanding of the Faith, through RE teaching, prayer and celebration.

To enable each child to develop a sense of moral and social responsibility supporting and caring for those close to them and extending to the wider community.

To help each child to feel valued and respected for his/her contribution to school life, where success is celebrated and difficulties and problems talked through and prayed through.

OUR APPROACH TO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

We aim to provide an environment where every child feels secure. We teach the children how to respect and value each other as individuals and how to care for one another so they help to foster a calm, happy and caring community. And thereby to live our mission statement – “***love one another as I have loved you***”.

We discuss our attitudes and behaviour and how they affect the well being of other members of our school community.

We aim to teach the children and each other, by example, in the daily life of the school.

We pray together, teaching both specific school prayers and how to pray spontaneously and peacefully.

We gather together for daily assemblies and to celebrate the Liturgy on a number of occasions each term.

Through RE, assemblies and liturgies, we teach concepts, knowledge of the scriptures, the church and moral attitudes.

We follow the Religious Education Programme – “Come and See”.

We encourage home, school and parish links.

We welcome the visits of the parish priest of the Holy Apostles and clergy and their involvement in the life of the school.

We promote the children’s awareness of the local and wider communities by encouraging them to participate in charitable activities and fund raising.

We acknowledge that everyone is equal in the sight of God and follow a policy of equal opportunities.

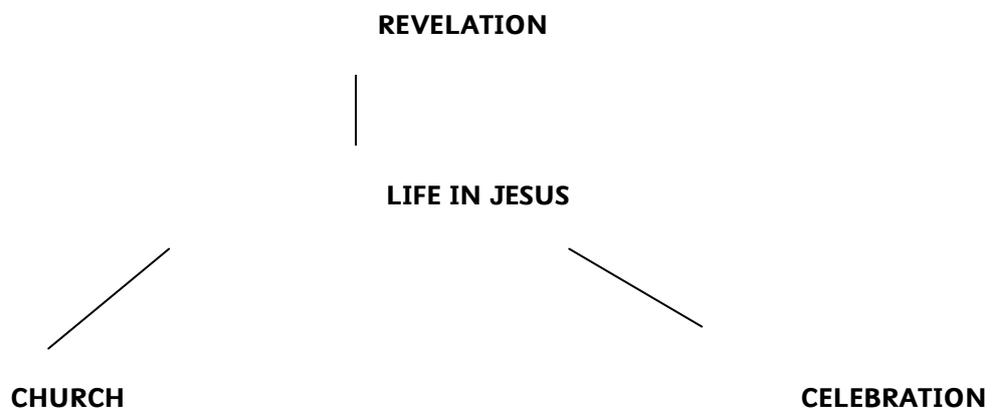
We promote the Catholic Identity of the School through the Governors' Admission Policy.

We support the parish of the Holy Apostles, Pimlico in its preparation of the children in Year 3 for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMME AT THE SCHOOL

Westminster Cathedral has a place and function within the Church. We strive to develop the child's knowledge of the faith, a knowledge that is related to the child's own experience. This positive Catholic teaching is based upon the "The Way, the Truth and the Life" programme, a Religious Education Syllabus for primary schools.

It is proposed that each of the following areas should, as far as possible, be covered in each Book of the series



Attempts to make clear connections between the truths of faith and the child's own experiences of life are essential even though their experience at this age will be very limited. Children will need constant help to relate what they are learning to their own lives. There will be opportunities to show them how to put the teaching of Jesus into practice at home and at school.

It is important to keep in mind that the Gospel message will, at some point, take the pupils beyond the scope of their own experience and hopefully transform it.

PLANNING

Throughout the topic RE planning needs to be available in the class teacher's planning file on the staff drive. Medium term plans and any additional support materials for topics can be found in the RE folder on the staff drive.

TEACHING TIME

The teaching of RE must take up 10% of the working school week, excluding collective acts of worship as laid down by the Bishop's conference.

That is 2 ½ hours at Key Stage 2 and 2 ¼ hours at Key Stage 1. All teachers' timetables must reflect this allocation of time. RE is an integral part of the curriculum in the Early Year Foundation Stage (Reception). Children will engage with themes from the Re units through a variety of adult led and child initiated activities.

METHODS OF TEACHING

At Westminster Cathedral School the children have the opportunity to be taught in different ways:

- a) Whole class discussion and teaching
- b) Group discussion and feedback
- c) Differentiated activities according to ability
- d) Partner Work
- e) Individual Research and Study
- f) Role-play and presentation to the class

Teachers are encouraged to be varied and as creative as possible in the methods they use in the teaching of RE and to share their ideas.

Classroom Assistants and support staff are used to support classroom RE, where appropriate.

MARKING OF WORK

Each class teacher is responsible for the marking of recorded work in RE books

The marking is done in accordance with the school guidelines (*See Marking Policy*)

When marking RE all comments need to respond to the religious learning intention and not literacy. The use of targeted questions during marking will often enable children to verbally demonstrate their understanding at a higher level. The child's comments should be recorded in the RE book by the adult. Where a child has been asked a written question it is essential that they are given the opportunity to write their answer. All religious spellings must be corrected.

ASSESSMENT

It is not possible or appropriate to attempt to assess the children's religious commitment, but assessment can be made in the pupil's knowledge, understanding and skills.

Assessment tasks are carried out termly. We produce a moderation portfolio of assessed work using common tasks for Years One to Six. (An activity is included for Early Years to be used for Year 1 children in a YR/Y1 class, using the Early Years book. Early Years teachers may present examples of work for the school portfolio, but this will not be levelled or moderated.) Children are assessed for one topic per term and all children are assessed for the same topic.

The assessment task only serves as part of the evidence used to support the 'best fit' level of attainment achieved by the pupil in this term. The task should be given a straight level and not sub-levelled. Teachers will award a sub-level to each child at the end of each term taking into account all their work across that term.

All strands will be covered on a three years cycle. The information provided helps to inform the teacher's future planning in RE.

Pupils are levelled using the RE assessment levels which can be found in the brown RE assessment book (Levels of Attainment in Religious Education in Catholic Schools) this can also be found in the RE folder (assessment) on the Staff drive. When planning and deciding levels teachers need to refer to the Westminster Diocese Agreed Levels of Understanding (copies are provided by the RE Curriculum leader and kept in class planning files). For each topic that will be assessed, assessment tasks are highlighted on the assessment focus task sheet for teachers to use when planning their lessons.

Teachers are informed beforehand which topics are assessment topics. For moderation and monitoring purposes teachers are expected to keep an electronic Record of Assessment form (data record) which is emailed to the Headteacher once the termly assessment is completed.

Questioning and verbal assessments are a valuable way of assessing children's understanding of RE. Teachers need to be familiar with the Agreed Levels of Understanding in order to assess children at a given level and use effective questioning to move children on to the next level.

Adults need to write the question they are asking the child and scribe their response. This should be recorded in the RE book.

Pupil assessment activities are recorded in their RE book. The teacher's annotated assessment sheet needs to be stuck in directly after the pupil's assessed piece of work. These need to show the level given for the topic, the dates of the assessed pieces of work and next steps. The electronic

Record of Assessment form (data record) containing the list of individual pupil levels should be emailed to the RE leader once the termly assessment is completed.

MODERATION

In-school moderation takes place after every assessment topic and samples of levelled work are kept in the school RE assessment Portfolio. The RE Subject Leaders also attend regular deanery and diocesan moderation.

TARGETS

Children's target sheets should be stuck in RE books at the beginning of each topic. In the Key Stage 2 these targets should be discussed in advance with the children so they know what they have to achieve during the topic. During an assessment topic these should be signed, dated and annotated by the teacher once there is evidence that children have consistently demonstrated and achieved that target

HOMEWORK

Children are set RE Homework where appropriate. This can be related to classroom RE, involve research, or the learning or writing of prayers.

DISPLAY

All classrooms must have an RE display relating to the current 'Come and See' topic.

All classrooms have a prayer corner.

Teachers are encouraged to emphasise and draw attention to the prayer corner with the highest possible standard of display and presentation. The children are encouraged to face or gather around this area at prayer times.

CLASSROOM PRAYER AREAS

Each classroom has a prayer area. As a school the prayer area is an aid to our prayer life and a focus in the classroom. Each teacher tries to make this area as attractive and as tasteful as possible. ***(See Appendix A advice on Prayer Areas)***.

REPORTING

There are parent evenings in the Autumn and Spring Term, when parents have opportunity to see their child's work and talk to the class teachers about ways in which the home and school are able to support each other.

In the Spring Term, parents are able to see the children's work.

A written report is sent home during the Summer Term.

MULTICULTURAL AND MULTIFAITH PROGRAMME

As part of the RE programme all children will study other faiths- Judaism and one other world religion. This will be decided as a school each new academic year.

MONITORING

The Headteacher/Co-ordinator collects in a sample the children's RE exercise books after each topic.

General feedback is given at a staff meeting; individual feedback is also given if appropriate.

RE teaching is also monitored in accordance with our Monitoring Programme.

BIBLES

All classes should have a Bible and selection of RE Books and Bible stories in their class book corners.

Y5 and Y6 - all classes have their own set of the Sunrise edition of the Good News Bible to use in RE lessons.

Y3 and Y4 - children use the Rainbow edition of the Good News Bible – there is presently one set between 2 classes.

Children from reception to Y2 use the Children's First Bible – with some children in Y2 beginning to use the Rainbow edition in the Summer term.

PRAYERS

At Westminster Cathedral, we aim to help children value and respect the power of prayer and to use it to help strengthen the children's relationships with God.

We want to be a praying community. It is important for the children to know the "formal" prayers of the church which we may all pray together and which we all hear and say with the parish/family communities outside school.

We also value "formal" prayers which have been written especially for children and which hold meaning for them. With these two aspects in mind we aim to teach particular prayers increasing in difficulty as the children develop.

We all pray collectively at school in the morning (in class or at assembly) before lunch and at the end of the school day.

Prayer does not only mean "formal" prayers. We do hope to help each other to listen to God speaking to us and to respond in our hearts and minds during moments of silence. We also encourage prayer writing by the children themselves.

Each class has a prayer area which provides a focus for prayer in the classroom.

At school the children are taught to know by heart the following prayers.

The Sign of the Cross	The Lords Prayer
The Hail Mary	The Glory be to the Father
The Morning Offering	The Night Prayer
Grace before/After Meals	

During Key Stage 2 children become familiar with and are encouraged to learn

The Prayer for the Dead	The Praying of the Rosary
The Act of Contrition/Sorrow	The Responses to the Mass
The Guardian Angel Prayer	The Apostles Creed

THE SCHOOL PRAYER FOCUSES

The school has a prayer focus for each month. The focuses follow the traditional themes that the Church reflects upon as the liturgical year moves through its cycle.

Prayer Focuses for the Academic Year are:

September is the month of our Guardian Angel

October is the month of the Holy Rosary

November is the month of the Holy Souls. (Armistice Day 11th November/Remembrance Sunday)

December is the month of the Holy Season of Advent

January is the month of the Holy Family

February is the month of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady. (Feast day Our Lady of Lourdes 11th February)

March is the month of the Holy Season of Lent (moveable season) and St Joseph

April is the month of the Cross

May is the month of Mary, Mother of God

June is the month of the Blessed Sacrament and Sacred Heart of Jesus.

July is the month of the Holy Spirit.

Prayers the children should know by heart.

The information given with the prayers is for the teacher. It can be used to explain the prayers to the children and the information can be used and adapted by the teacher to suit the age group and ability of the children.

ASSEMBLY

At Westminster Cathedral School the Daily Collective Act of Worship is an essential element of our School Life.

We value the opportunity to gather as a community which can pray together, sing together, share sadness together and celebrate good news together.

On Mondays and Fridays the whole school gathers together for an assembly. These are led by the Head or Deputy Head. There are separate Key Stage assemblies on Thursdays. These are teacher led on a rota basis. There are separate Key Stage Hymn practises within the week. If a class is not in an assembly the children receive collective worship in the classroom.

Once every half term a class is responsible for leading an assembly for the whole school and for KS2 a Mass at Holy Apostles. These are related to a particular feast day or season in the liturgical year, or are linked with the "Come and See" themes or particular personal qualities. Readings from the bible and stories form an integral part of the assemblies. They are related to the children's daily lives and practical applications are stressed, encouraging the children to put what they hear in the gospels into action.

If because of some special change in the school timetable it is impossible to have an assembly, staff are informed via the staff notice board and hold their own collective worship in the classroom, after registration.

LITURGY

At Westminster Cathedral we believe that celebrating the Mass together is important to the Spiritual life of the whole school community. We try to make each celebration of the Mass a community celebration which involves the children, teachers, support staff, parents and parishioners.

These masses are carefully prepared by the children and appropriate themes are chosen. The children welcome the visitors, serve the mass, undertake the readings, prayers and offertory procession. Drama is occasionally used. Art work connected with the theme is used to decorate the Hall.

Mass is usually celebrated for us by the parish priest of the Holy Apostles.

Mass is celebrated to mark the beginning of the school year, the beginning of the major seasons of the Church Year, such as Advent and a Mass for Year 6 Leavers.

Sometimes we have a Mass just for Key Stage 1 or Key Stage 2 or class masses. There is usually a Mass for Ash Wednesday or the time does not allow for that an Ash Wednesday service. There is always a special Holy Week Mass in which we outline the events of Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday and Good Friday for all.

Our First Holy Communicants lead us in a Special Mass of Thanksgiving for the Eucharist.

These celebrations of the Mass take place in the school hall.

A service of Reconciliation is held during Advent and Lent for the pupils in Years 4-6. After the service there is an opportunity for the children to make Individual Confession. Usually 5-6 priests attend.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME

The children in Year 3 are invited to join the Holy Apostles programme in preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. The School supports the Parish Programme.

SPIRITUAL AND MORAL DEVELOPMENT

Westminster Cathedral School has always tried to create the atmosphere needed to fulfil our Mission Statement where respect for oneself and others is both explicit and implicit in everything we try to do.

We try to emphasise the qualities of self-discipline, self-control, perseverance determination, a sense of fair play and thoughtfulness for others in school and in the wider community.

(See Behaviour and Discipline Policy, Equalities Policy, Personal Social and Health Education Policy and SMSC).

CREATING A SECURE, STABLE AND HAPPY ENVIRONMENT

We believe that the way in which we welcome children into our school enables the foundation of happy and secure community.

Prior to starting in the Reception Class, we invite the children to spend an afternoon in school with their class teacher. If possible, we arrange for the class teacher to visit the children in their nursery schools and undertake home visits.

We stagger our admission days and times to allow the children to become socially integrated and to get to know their teacher.

Children joining other classes are taken on a tour of the school and if possible given the opportunity to spend time in their classes before admission.

We take care to establish a calm, stable, working atmosphere in the school and to establish a routine, as we believe that all children thrive if they are confident in the knowledge of what is consistently expected of them.

We view each child as an individual and value each child's contribution to the life of the school. We acknowledge that children learn by example. We consider it essential that each child realises that all staff care for his/her well being and show respect. It is also important that children see adults working alongside each other and co-operating with each other.

We stress the importance of consideration for others and illustrate how behaviour affects other members of the school community. Politeness and good manners are considered essential and are positively encouraged. Good behaviour is praised and used to illustrate the positive benefit it brings to the school community. Misbehaviour is corrected and care is taken to show how it brings unhappiness to others. Each case is handled sensitively and children are encouraged to learn from their mistakes. A readiness to apologise and to forgive is strongly promoted.

To foster continuity and stability. We foster links with our feeder secondary schools by inviting their teachers to visit the pupils in school before transfer.

LINKS WITH THE HOME

To provide the best Catholic education we believe that it is essential to establish and to maintain links with the parents.

1. Wednesday Word

The Wednesday Word, sharing Sunday's Gosepl with children and their families is issued weekly.

2. Home-School Agreement

On accepting a place at the school parents and carers are requested to sign a Home School Agreement document which acknowledges the catholic identify of the school and outlines the commitment expected of the parents and children as the basis for a good working relationship between home and school.

3. Welcoming Prospective and New Parents

We provide relevant information about the school in the school prospectus which is available to prospective parents.

We show parents around the school, before applications are made, if this is requested.

We organise an afternoon for parents and children in the term before admission to the Reception Class, to give the parents the opportunity to meet each other, the Headteacher. There may be representatives of the Governing Body, Parish Priest of the Holy Apostles, School Nurse or representatives from the Friends' Association and to help give an overall picture to the new parents and to inform them of all they need to know about the school.

4. Regular Information about the child and his/her progress and welfare

The Headteacher and teaching staff are always very willing to talk to the parents about the education and welfare of their child.

The Headteacher is generally available before or after school to see parents if they have any questions suggestions or concerns. If she is unavailable the Deputy Headteacher may be seen or an appointment made through the secretary.

Class teachers are often busy preparing lessons before school and often attend meetings and courses after school, so if anything which requires lengthy discussion it is best to make an appointment by sending a note or telephoning the school.

One of our Teaching Assistants is available in the playground in the morning to take routine messages.

Parent afternoon/evenings are held during the year, when parents are invited to discuss their child's progress with the class teacher. Written reports are sent home once a year.

5. Parents Supporting the Work of the Teacher at Home

The school prospectus contains guidelines on how parents and carers can support their child's learning at home.

Parents' Evenings to discuss aspects of the curriculum, and how particular subjects are taught, are held when appropriate.

Information about forthcoming topics to be covered in each subject is provided termly.

6. Providing Information about the School and what is happening

The weekly newsletter conveys a wide range of information about the work of the school. Separate letters are also sent home about events.

7. **Parents, Parishioners sharing the religious life of the school**

Parents, local parishioners are always invited to attend any celebration of the Mass, which takes place in school. Parents are notified in the usual way and parishioners through the “Holy Apostles” Weekly Newsletter.

Fund raising during Lent, and other occasions during the year provide links with the Local and Wider Community.

HOME/SCHOOL LINKS IN RE

A termly RE Newsletter is sent home giving:

Information about the RE topics being studied and how parents may help.

Feast days being celebrated

Assembly themes

Masses being celebrated

Charitable fund raising events

Sacramental Preparations

LINKS WITH THE WIDER COMMUNITY

We welcome the visits of the Parish Priest of the Holy Apostles and other members of the Clergy.

We value the clergy’s contribution to the teaching of RE in the classrooms.

We take the children regularly to Mass at the Holy Apostles Church.

Our school choir sings at The Holy Apostles Parish Carol Concert each year and other local community and fund raising events.

We attend special occasion events and Masses at Westminster Cathedral e.g. CCS Advent Carol Service.

We encourage the children to participate in fund raising for the benefit of the Local and Wider Community e.g. CAFOD, NSPCC, LEPR, The Passage, Great Ormond Street Hospital, Children Cancer, Roald Dahl charity.

We support the Holy Apostles adopted parish in Turkana in Kenya by fund raising activities. We have helped provide the village with fishing boats as well as build rooms to be used as a school.

INDUCTION OF NEW COLLEAGUES

All new members of the staff must read very carefully the RE policy and the RE Handbook. They are encouraged to ask the RE Co-Ordinator, Miss S Simmons for any help in any matter relating to RE. Newly Qualified teachers attend the RE Day organised by Westminster Diocese at the start of the Autumn Term.

RESOURCES

The RE Resource Area is located in the Staff Room

All teachers are given the following basic resources to aid their teaching in class.

1. A copy of the “Come and See” Teachers Manual appropriate to their year group
2. A large Illustrated Children’s Bible for the classroom prayer corner and for pupil/teacher use.
3. Class sets of Bibles/ God’s Story books for pupils used in both Key Stages.
4. The Library/Class libraries have a selection of RE books.
5. There are a number of resources available on the computer – Teacher Resources/Subject/RE.
6. All RE posters and charts are kept in the RE Resource Area. Teachers are encouraged to approach the RE Co-ordinator to see what is available for their use.
7. Altar cloths, liturgical vessels and candles for Mass are kept in the Ground Floor Stock Cupboard.

Staff should ask the RE Co-Ordinator if there is anything they need

Appendix A

ADVICE ON PRAYER CORNERS

Key Questions

Does this help children to focus during their prayers?
Would it help me?
Is it attractive and tasteful?
Is it relevant to children, to the liturgical year?
Is it clear what the prayer focus is about?
Is the prayer corner in keeping with the current theme?

Location

Is it at the children's level?

Liturgical Colours for the Academic Year	
Time of Year	Colour
Beginning of the school year-Beginning of Advent	Green
During Advent	Purple
Beginning of Spring Term-Epiphany (6 th Jan)	White
Day after Epiphany (7 th Jan)-day before Ash Wednesday	Green
Ash Wednesday- Easter (During Lent	Purple
Easter to Pentecost	White
Pentecost to end of school year	Green

Ritual Objects

Quality not quantity, less rather than more.
These might include pictures, icons statues, rosary, holy water, prayer books
Bible, candles
Candles need to be in a secure holder. They must never be left unattended
(Matches must be kept locked away when not in use).

Other Decoration:

Glass beads, stones, bark, photos
Flowers – could be something growing like bulbs.
Symbols of the season i.e. red poppy, autumn leaves, seashells.
Children should be encouraged to write and display their work and
Compose prayers for the prayer corner.
Individual prayer intentions could be displayed or written in a prayer
Intention box.

<i>Colours for Re Display and Prayer Focus</i>	<i>Prayer Focus</i>
	<i>Suggested items to include on prayer focus</i>
Ordinary time (Jan & Feb)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Holy Family picture/statue. o Mission statment o A Bible open at a reading linked to current topic or Sunday Gospel. o Symbolic link to topic – (i.e. Baptism – bowl of water)
Lent to Easter (Feb to March/Apr)	February/March (Lent) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Cross draped in a purple strip of material. o Crucifix o A bare branch o Symbols of the 3 main practices of the Lenten season -Prayer - praying hands/prayer card/prayer book. - Almsgiving - CCS collecting box -Fasting - Class Lenten promises
Easter to Pentecost (Apr & May)	April Mission statement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Empty tomb, o Risen Christ picture. o Plant in flower (symbol of new life). May <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Picture of the disciples at Pentecost o May The Month of Mary -statue/picture of Mary. o Rosary beads (link to Mary’s special prayer
Ordinary Time (June & July)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Mission statement o A Bible open at a reading linked to current topic or Sunday Gospel. o Symbolic link to topic – (i.e. Baptism – bowl of water)□
Ordinary Time (Sept to Nov)	September <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Mission Statement. October – Month of the Rosary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Rosary beads. o Rosary booklet o Pictures from the Mysteries of the Rosary (on Staff drive) November – In November We

	Remember <ul style="list-style-type: none">o White clotho White pillar candleo Eternal Rest prayer
Advent (Dec)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Advent wreatho Empty stable