



L A L E H A M L E A

A Catholic Independent Primary School for boys and girls aged 3 to 11

Acting Head Teacher: Mrs. M Reece

LALEHAM LEA SCHOOL & NURSERY

Religious Education Policy

This is a whole school policy which applies to all sections of the school, including Early Years Foundation Stage, Out of School Care and Clubs.

	Date	Signed
Date reviewed	November 2024	M Reece Head Teacher
Ratified by the Board of Governors	November 2024	M Ryan Chair of Governors
Date of next review	November 2025	



L A L E H A M L E A

A Catholic Independent Primary School for boys and girls aged 3 to 11

Acting Head Teacher: Mrs. M Reece

Laleham Lea is a Catholic Independent Primary School situated in Purley, Surrey providing education for boys and girls aged 3 to 11 years. The school aims to provide a broad, balanced and challenging curriculum within a happy learning environment. The majority of pupils are Catholic, but we warmly welcome children of all faiths who are sympathetic to our ethos.

This policy incorporates the aims and values of our school Mission Statement. We truly believe every child is unique and made in the image of Christ. Religious Education at Laleham Lea is not solely taught as a curriculum area but as a way of life, promoting the gospel values, giving praise and reverence to God. It is an opportunity for everyone to develop their own personal faith through word, action and to enter into a communion with God, made possible, through the divine work of Jesus his Son and the witness of the Holy Spirit, in keeping with Catholic Apostolic Traditions. This is achieved through liturgy, collective worship, assemblies, lessons, including curriculum content, and roles and responsibilities throughout the school which deepen our Catholic life and highlight our belief that Christ is at the Centre of all that we do.

Mission Statement:

Our Mission statement is central to us as a school:

Recognising that Gospel values are central to the life of the school, we at Laleham Lea aim to create a loving, welcoming environment in which our children may grow intellectually, socially and emotionally; an environment in which their talents are recognised and fostered, and their weaknesses treated with compassion; an environment which provides quality teaching and learning within a balanced curriculum framework and which helps every child to reach their true potential.

Together with parents, who are the first educators, we aim to lead our children towards tolerance, understanding and sensitivity to the needs of others so that they may grow up as well-balanced individuals with a strong sense of personal identity and an awareness of God's love.

The tools we will use to do this are:

- Caring
- Sharing
- Truth



L A L E H A M L E A

A Catholic Independent Primary School for boys and girls aged 3 to 11

Acting Head Teacher: Mrs. M Reece

- Love
- Trust
- Respect

Infant Child's Mission Statement:

Please help us to be happy and kind, to always try our best and help others do the same, as we are all special.

Junior Child's Mission Statement:

We know in our school that we are all part of God's family. We all work together to make a safe, happy environment, where we can learn and develop our talents to the full.

Laleham Lea aims to put Christ and His teachings at the heart of its existence by:

- Promoting our faith in a meaningful way for children, staff, parents and the wider school community.
- Valuing the individuality and uniqueness of each person by providing a stimulating environment where all can learn according to their strengths and abilities and with no place for racism.
- Showing courtesy, respect and love to all God's family/people.
- Providing a safe, caring and stimulating environment in which children can learn, staff can work, and everyone can be shown respect, courtesy and love.
- Encouraging each child to develop self-worth, a desire to learn and the skills to achieve their potential in all subjects.
- Fostering a love of God through both the knowledge and the practice of our faith in the celebration of the Eucharist, assemblies and prayer times.
- Strengthening the partnership that exists between all members of this community: priests, parishioners, families, staff and governors so that we all work together in the educating of our children.
- Providing a broad and creative curriculum that provides children with the essential skills needed in today's world and an awareness of the wonders of God's world both in Science and Art.

The Catholic faith that we share in Laleham Lea gives us the vision of what we are and what we are called to be as individuals and as a community.

Our school offers us numerous opportunities to try to share that vision and to help one another experience its meaning in our day-to-day life, by living and working together.



LALEHAM LEA

A Catholic Independent Primary School for boys and girls aged 3 to 11

Acting Head Teacher: Mrs. M Reece

The values which provide the foundation for education at Laleham Lea Catholic School are based on the Christian way of life. The teachings of Jesus and the fostering of awe and wonder is embedded throughout the curriculum.

The ethos of the school

The school Mission Statement sets out the principles on which the school bases all relationships and expectations. It is reinforced by the school's motto of, 'Spera In Deo' which means "Hope in God" and is taken from the book of Psalms.

The ethos of the school is reflected in every aspect of school life. It is transmitted through the day-to-day happenings of the school, so its development must be promoted and encouraged by practical means.

Context

School is only one, though very important, influence in a child's development. Therefore, a child's education is not confined to the hours spent in school. It is also experienced at home with the family, at Holy Mass, at play with friends and within society in general.

Thus, we consider all these factors within our RE Policy – the link between Home, School, the Parish and the wider community.

Education at Laleham Lea incorporates aspects of spirituality, moral, social and cultural issues.

To help the children develop their spirituality, we aim to develop their relationship with God and an understanding of:

- who they are,
- where they come from, and
- where they are going.

We endeavour to do this through:

- the general ethos and atmosphere of the school,
- the development of prayer,
- an appreciation for the sacraments, including attendance at Holy Mass,
- the nurturing and development of their God-given gifts and talents,



L A L E H A M L E A

A Catholic Independent Primary School for boys and girls aged 3 to 11

Acting Head Teacher: Mrs. M Reece

- the recognition of the wonder and beauty of God's creation,
- the development of their personal relationships.

We believe that there is an opportunity for spiritual growth whenever we inspire children with enthusiasm for learning and engage children in the pursuit of knowledge and truth.

Central to the children's moral development, is the formation of the individual's conscience and an understanding of the difference between:

- right and wrong
- freedom and responsibility
- justice and injustice
- wealth and poverty

We facilitate this by enabling pupils to develop a clear understanding of moral issues and values. Pupils are encouraged to conduct their lives on sound moral principles, impacting on their relationships with other people, the world and its resources. Catholic Social Teaching lies at the heart of Laleham Lea. The principles of Catholic Social Teaching are taught through regular assemblies which invite and motivate our pupils to love God and to love our neighbours, especially those living in poverty and to become active participants in our society to bring justice and peace.

In partnership with the home and the parish, we have a responsibility to assist in the formation of positive social attitudes amongst our pupils. In doing so, we recognise and affirm the first social grouping to which each child belongs, namely the family. Through formal and informal structures, we encourage our pupils to discover ways in which they can contribute to the good of both their local community and the wider world.

We aim to make provision for Social Development by:

- providing opportunities for co-operation and partnership, leadership and responsibility
- highlighting the importance of family, community and other social groupings

In fostering pupil's Cultural development at Laleham Lea, we endeavor to help them value the uniqueness of all. We encourage our pupils to appreciate that they belong in a multi-cultural society where they can proclaim their love of our neighbours, justice and peace.



L A L E H A M L E A

A Catholic Independent Primary School for boys and girls aged 3 to 11

Acting Head Teacher: Mrs. M Reece

We try to do this by giving our pupils a range of resources and experiences to reflect and promote awareness of our multicultural society.

Statutory Requirements:

In line with Bishops' Conference recommendations, 10% of curriculum time is allocated to Religious Education. This does not include Collective Worship. RE is a core curriculum subject at Laleham Lea School.

The ultimate aim of Religious Education is to situate Christ at the centre of all that we do. Religious Education aims to:

- to promote knowledge and understanding of Catholic faith and life
- to promote knowledge and understanding of the response of faith to the ultimate questions about human life, its origin and purpose
- to promote the skills required to engage in examination of and reflection upon religious belief and practice.

The Religious Education Curriculum

To fulfil the above aims and to address the 4 areas of study outlined in the Curriculum Directory – Revelation, Church, Celebration and Life in Christ - The Way the Truth and the Life programme is used as recommended by the Diocese. This scheme is based on the theological foundations of the Second Vatican Council and integrates the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the Catholic Levels of Attainment and the revised Religious Education Curriculum Directory.

'The Way, The Truth and The Life' is developed through three themes: Church, Sacraments, Holy Spirit and Christian Living. The topics are underpinned by one of the above themes and the structure of the four-week topics are initiated through; explore, reveal and respond. Each time the themes are taught, they are gradually explored in greater depth and differentiated according to the needs of the children. In each topic, there are attainment level indicators and attainment level summaries which assist teachers in the differentiation and assessment process.

Teaching about the Sacraments is carried out through "The Way, The Truth and The Life". Time is also allocated to teach aspects of the Mass and to reflect on the Sunday Gospel Readings. All children are encouraged to read and reflect on the weekly "Wednesday Word", which is emailed to our families to deepen their understanding of



L A L E H A M L E A

A Catholic Independent Primary School for boys and girls aged 3 to 11

Acting Head Teacher: Mrs. M Reece

the Faith. Other materials to be taught include the liturgical year, the Rosary, major feast days and devotions and aspects of the lives of some saints.

Whilst our RE curriculum provides a structure for religious teaching, Religious Education permeates all aspects of school life. All that we do, and say, is based on the Gospel values of love, respect and following the teachings of Jesus. We ensure that we provide every opportunity to enhance the religious dimension of our teaching and encourage wonder, awe and thanksgiving.

The aim of our Religious Education curriculum is to develop a love of God in our children by making them aware of His word and to develop a Christian attitude to those around us. We also aim to help the children understand their role as Catholics, in our community and within the wider world.

The RE Leader will offer support to all staff in the planning of the RE curriculum and other issues arising from the teaching of RE in school.

The Teaching of Other Religions

In accordance with the instructions from the Bishops of England and Wales, other Religions will be taught, each year, throughout the school. Other Religions taught on a two-year rolling programme include Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Islam and Sikhism.

Assessing Religious Education

Progress in RE and spiritual growth can be recorded in a variety of ways which include Art, Drama, Music, Writing and discussion.

The children are given the opportunity to discuss what they have learned, reflect on its importance to them and celebrate its impact on their lives.

Class Teachers will evaluate their teaching at the end of each theme. This is a useful way to assess and inform future planning according to the needs of the children. RE Assessments are recorded half-termly by the class teacher, and we follow the Diocesan guidance on which areas of RE are assessed. RE work moderation takes place termly in staff meetings.



L A L E H A M L E A

A Catholic Independent Primary School for boys and girls aged 3 to 11

Acting Head Teacher: Mrs. M Reece

All written Religious Education in books will be marked in line with schools marking and feedback policy, identifying next steps and ensuring rapid progress.

Monitoring of Religious Education

The School's Leadership Team (SLT), alongside the RE Leader, monitor standards and progress in RE on a termly basis. RE monitoring is planned for and includes learning walks, book scrutiny, lesson observations, pupil interviews and planning checks. The monitoring of RE feeds into the school's RE Development Plan and CPD planning.

RE Display(s)

Every classroom must have a specific RE display and a separate prayer focus, both of which should be obvious when entering the room. Children should be given the opportunity to assist in setting up and maintaining the prayer focus and RE display.

Prayer focuses must be prominent, uncluttered and at an appropriate height for the children to access. They should normally include the following elements:

- an appropriate cloth (with colours reflecting the liturgical year)
- crucifix or cross.
- candle – battery operated only.
- Bible or Bible story book – KS1 and EYFS – displaying key scripture relating to the current topic.
- an opportunity for children to record prayer intentions – this should be checked regularly, and these prayers prayed (as a class).

RE displays must:

- be in a prominent position in the classroom.
- always look fresh and be changed for each topic.
- reflect the current season of the liturgical year through liturgical colours (ordinary time – green; Advent & Lent – purple; Christmas & Easter – white/gold; feast days – red or white), signs and symbols.
- have the key vocabulary relating to the current RE topic.
- celebrate pupils' work.
- be interactive, where possible.
- prayer (which may be the children's work or a relevant prayer for the season).

Children should be given the opportunity to assist in setting up and maintaining the prayer focus and RE display.



L A L E H A M L E A

A Catholic Independent Primary School for boys and girls aged 3 to 11

Acting Head Teacher: Mrs. M Reece

Each class will take responsibility for the RE display in the Long Room, on a rota basis. The display will be a clear reflection of work within the class RE curriculum, linked to the liturgical year or special events within the life of the church e.g., Reconciliation and Eucharist.

Non-specific opportunities for the teaching of Religious Education

It is strongly felt that there are many opportunities throughout the school day to promote an understanding of the teachings of Jesus Christ. By its very nature, discussions about relationships, behaviour and the way we relate to the world around us occur frequently in dealing with everyday situations.

All members of staff will draw on the teachings of the Gospels when endeavoring to promote positive behaviour and attitudes. Our aim is to foster a love of Christ and a love and respect for each other.

Involvement of Parents and/or Carers

Our school recognises parents as the first educators of their children and sees the involvement of the school as being an ongoing partnership with parents. They should be made to feel that they have an important part to play in supporting and teaching their children about the beliefs and traditions of the Catholic faith as well as helping them develop their own personal faith.

Our aim is to fully engage in partnership with parents. We do this through:

- inviting parents to school religious celebrations such as Masses, class liturgies, Nativities and other seasonal celebrations
- ensuring parents are well-informed about school life through weekly newsletters.
- Providing families with Wednesday Word in order to bring the Gospel into our pupil's homes
- written reports for RE are provided annually
- RE newsletters are sent home each half term to inform parents of their child's RE topic in detail
- Curriculum maps, which are emailed half termly, contain RE information section



L A L E H A M L E A

A Catholic Independent Primary School for boys and girls aged 3 to 11

Acting Head Teacher: Mrs. M Reece

Monitoring and Review of the RE Policy

The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of all teachers, with support from the RE subject leader, who will monitor its effectiveness and impact. Governors will formally review this policy at least every two years to ensure that it continues to describe the school's approach to RE and that this approach is effective. There will be an attached governor to work closely with the RE subject leader, offering appropriate challenge and support.