ST. GERARD'S
CATHOLIC
PRIMARY AND
NURSERY SCHOOL

Religious Education Policy 2026-27



St Gerard's Catholic Primary School

"Guided by God, St Gerard's Catholic Primary and Nursery School is an inspiring and aspirational community where we learn to love, hope, dream and achieve."

SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

"St Gerard's Catholic Primary and Nursery School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment".

Halton Children and Young People
SAFEGUARDING PARTNERSHIP

Introduction

"The pupils are at the heart of every decision made, including areas identified for continued improvement." – CSI Report (June 2023)

At St Gerard's, we believe that each child is unique. The recognition of this individuality, together with a concern for the total development of the 'whole child' is at the heart of our educational philosophy and aligns with our mission statement. Within our school, personal relationships can flourish and children of all faiths are respected and given the opportunity to explore their own capabilities and potential, in the know that they have the support and encouragement of a caring community.

Mission Statement

"Guided by God, we learn to love, hope, dream and achieve."

Our mission statement underpins everything that we do. As a school community, we follow in the footsteps of Jesus and strive for all children to be their best. Children at St Gerard's embody the key words from our mission statement, and thrive to live them out in all that they do.

Background

Our school is part of the parish of St Wilfrid's and we accept children living within the parish of St Marie's, traveler children and children from the local refuge. Many of our children come to us from non-Christian faith traditions, with no religious beliefs or affiliations whatsoever. All are made to feel welcome and all of the children participate within the school's religious activities.

Aims

At St Gerard's. Religious Education pervades our whole school curriculum and addresses all pupils within our school, regardless of religious backgrounds and commitment.

We aim to:

- Help pupils recognise and appreciate the religious and spiritual dimensions of life.
- Lead children to delve into a deeper knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith and other religious traditions.
- Challenge pupils to examine their own commitment and to respect that of others.

- Promote a welcoming atmosphere of cooperation where experience and expertise can be shared with mutual trust and openness.

Objectives

- We provide a high quality curriculum for all of our children that is in accordance with the standards and guidelines set out by the Archdiocese of Liverpool.
- Across the whole school, we follow 'To Know You More Clearly' from the Religious Education Directory (RED).
- We aim for our whole school to be delivering the RED curriculum by the end of the 2026-27 academic year.
- We ensure that 10% of RE is taught within the curriculum time within all year groups.
- We respect our own Diocesan and pastoral practice and support parish sacramental preparation programmes for First Holy Communion and Reconciliation.
- We recognise that there will be vacancies in the stages and levels of faith experienced by individual members of our school community. To support this, we promote strong interaction between home, parish and school to foster and embed true Christian attitudes.

RE in the Classroom

"A consistent and well-planned curriculum enables pupils to develop their knowledge and understanding of religious education." – CSI Report (June 2023)

Our whole school curriculum has Gospel values at the core, as we see all education as revealing the mystery of God. Within our school, we recognise two aspects of Religious Education:

Implicit (unstructured) – These opportunities arise in the course of the day to lead pupils through curriculum content or through relationships to a religious understanding of their implications.

Explicit (structured) – Timetable periods that give to an explicit consideration of RE in the classroom. 10% of the curriculum timetable is allocated for this plus explicit teaching during assembly times.

To Know You More Clearly- RED

At St Gerard's, we are on a journey of implementing the RED programme 'To Know You More Clearly'. This was rolled out in EYFS and KS1 in 2023-24, in Year 3 in 2024-25, in Year 4 in 2025-26 and will begin to be taught in Year 5 during the 2026-27 academic year. It is an enriching new programme that seeks to deepen the spiritual journey of students by fostering a profound understanding of Catholic teachings and values.

The programme imparts knowledge whilst cultivating a genuine and enduring relationship with God, something which contributes to the overall spiritual development of students. It encourages students to explore their faith through curiosity and introspection and creates a dynamic learning environment through engaging lessons, thoughtful reflections, and interactive activities.

Scripture is the foundation of each branch and develops knowledge, understanding, skills, compassion, and awe and wonder across the curriculum.

The ways of knowing describe the skills that pupils develop as they progress through the curriculum. These are:



Understand- helps pupils understand deeply the meaning of sacred texts, religious beliefs, sacred rites, and the lives of individuals and communities who are shared by these texts, beliefs and rites.

Discern- helps pupils be able to judge wisely in response to different interpretations of the meaning, significance and implications of texts, beliefs, rites and the ways of life so that they can arrive at justified conclusions about what is true, what is good and what is beautiful.

Respond- helps pupils to reflect personally and with integrity on what they have learnt and consider the implications for action these may have in their own lives and the world in which they live.

The knowledge lenses indicate what should be known by the end of each age phase. These are:









Hear- this discusses the human capacity for God, Divine Revelation and its transmission, Sacred Scripture, and the human response to God's invitation. It's called 'Hear' because it focuses on the Word of God which we hear.

Believe- this deals with the contents of the Creed. It is called 'Believe' because it focuses on the content of the Church's own profession of faith. Within this lens, we look at the doctrines that constitute our faith: trinity, incarnation, the Holy Spirit, the communion of saints and the role of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Celebrate- this is an exemplification of the Catechism that deals with liturgy and prayer. It is called 'Celebrate' because it deals with the liturgy in which the Church celebrates the Paschal mystery of Christ. Within this lens, we look at prayer, liturgy, sacraments and the Eucharist.

Live- this is an exemplification of Catholic Social Teaching and deals with the ways in which the Disciples of Christ are called to be in the world. It is called 'Live' because it focuses on the impact of faith on how Christians live. Within this lens, we look at the dignity of the human person, freedom, conscience, virtue, law, grace and sin.

Dialogue- the fifth lens is an exemplification of the Church's teaching on the relationship between Catholicism and other Christian traditions along with other religions and worldviews. It is called 'Dialogue' as it is the only authentic way of living faithfully in a world that accepts difference.

Encounter- the sixth lens engages children in a discrete study of other faiths, religions and worldviews. It focuses on the importance of loving our neighbours and respecting other cultures whilst learning how to live peacefully with difference.

Requisition

We place high priority on providing a high quality Religious Education to our children. We purchase valuable resources to ensure that teachers are fully equipped to provide the best education to children, both in and out of the classroom. There is generous funding available from the school budget to purchase resources and these are regularly updated. Within school, we also have a bank of RE resources that can be accessed by staff and include items such as God's Story books, Good News bibles and artefacts to enhance the teaching of the Word.

Special Educational Needs

As a Catholic school, we are aware that all children are a unique gift from God, each with their own individual talents and needs. Our whole school approach to the teaching of Religious Education is inclusive and we ensure that children with SEN are catered for within the teaching of 'To Know You More Clearly'. Pupils are able to work to their different abilities and all children are made to feel that they have achieved.

Equal Opportunities

When teaching Religious Education, all children are treated with equal respect. All children are expected to listen to the views of other people, and respect that sometimes there may be a difference of opinion. In the delivery of both curriculums, children are introduced to the views, beliefs and cultures of other faiths, are have the opportunity to study this each year.

Role of the RE Coordinator

"Relationships are key to the success of the school and help to create the love, awe and wonder that is shared with pupils and staff each day." – CSI Report (June 2023)

The Religious Education Coordinator is Miss Sanders. She is responsible for leading a Catholic educating community. She ensures that the programme of study is given full regard as a stand-alone subject, and within the whole school curriculum. She promotes close working between parish, home and school, and provides clear leadership and support in the implementation and organisation of Religious Education. She is also responsible for communicating regular updated to all staff regarding the subject.

Role of the Classroom Teacher

Teachers plan, teach and evaluate lessons in accordance with their current curriculum. Teachers ensure that planning and teaching are appropriate to the age and ability of all pupils within their class. They are also responsible for encouraging children to develop their spiritual and moral awareness of their and others' religions.

Staff Development

We are committed to keeping Religious Education central to future developments within our school. The RE Coordinator and other teaching staff attend Archdiocesan courses where necessary. Most teachers have extended their own subject knowledge by completing the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS) and those who have not yet completed it are encourage to, in order to further enhance the provision for our pupils. Staff also benefit from using the teacher notes in the 'To Know You More Clearly' materials, to further support their own subject knowledge. The RE Coordinator provides support to staff members using guidance from the Archdiocese. She is also part of the Widnes RE Cluster Group and is able to share good practice during meetings. When staff are new to the school, they receive a staff induction which highlights the ethos and mission statement of St Gerard's. Staff are provided with training and support to ensure that they feel confident to deliver the RE curriculum, and where training is available within the Archdiocese, staff will attend. New staff are also invited to plan with the RE Coordinator or another experienced member of staff who are helpful and willing to answer questions. All members of staff receive a range of RE guidance documents to support their teaching of RE.

Related Policies and Documents

- RE Non-Negotiables
- Prayer and Liturgy Policy
- Prayer and Liturgy Guidance Document
- Spiritual and Moral Development Policy
- RSE Policy
- PSHE Policy

Policy Updated

Date: September 2026

By: Miss L. Sanders (RE Coordinator)