

Do Catholic schools teach about other religions?

All Catholic schools are required to teach about other religions as part of the Religious Education curriculum.

This is a feature of Catholic RE in all stages of a child's development, from the beginning of primary school until the end of secondary school.

Why do Catholic schools teach about other religions?

Teaching about other religions is important for several reasons:

- Learning about the religion and cultures of those who do not share the Catholic faith is one of the ways in which Catholic schools embody the call to love one's neighbour. As the Church says, "The love for all men and women is necessarily also a love for their culture. Catholic schools are, by their very vocation, intercultural." (Congregation for Catholic Education p61).
- It is required by the Bishops, who state that the Catholic nature of our schools entails "a willingness... to try to understand better the religion of one's neighbours, and to experience something of their religious life and culture." (Catholic Bishops' Conference p3).
- Many of the children in Catholic schools are practicing members of other faiths and our schools need to be places of hospitality for these children. It is an act of respect and courtesy that our curriculum helps them to reflect on the nature of their own religious identity. As the Church says, "All children and young people [including those of other faiths in our Catholic schools] must have the same possibilities for arriving at the knowledge of their own religion as well as of elements that characterise other religions." (Congregation for Catholic Education)
- It prepares the pupils in our Catholic schools for life in modern Britain, giving them an understanding of the beliefs of others. This in turn will improve social cohesion and contribute to the common good by increasing mutual respect between those of different religions.

How much of the RE curriculum is given to the teaching of other religions?

In the Primary programme, 'Come and See' two and a half hours during the school year is spent on the teaching of another world religion. This constitutes one week of their Religious Education time.

A further two and a half hours is spent looking at another faith, namely Judaism.