



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School Policy

Policy for Religious Education



Mission
Together we love, learn, follow Jesus
Vision
At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, through an open and generous heart, we learn together as a family in faith, following the gospel values of love.
Values
Hope Thankfulness Collaboration Compassion Friendship Resilience Empathy Creativity Justice Respect

Mission and Purpose

At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Brindle, Religious Education is at the heart of our mission and daily life. Rooted in the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church, our RE curriculum nurtures children's spiritual, moral, academic and personal development. We aim to help every child grow in knowledge and love of God, deepen their understanding of the Catholic faith, and recognise their vocation to live out the Gospel in the world. Our school motto, ethos and Catholic identity shape everything we do. Religious Education is not simply a subject but a lived experience that permeates the whole curriculum, the school environment and the relationships within our community.

Curriculum Intent

From 2025–2026, St Joseph's follows the **new Religious Education Directory (RED)**, ensuring that our curriculum reflects the national expectations for Catholic schools and provides a rich, coherent and progressive programme of study.

We use the **Liverpool Archdiocesan planning materials** in all year groups, including Reception. These materials support teachers in delivering high-quality RE lessons that are faithful to Church teaching, academically rigorous and engaging for pupils.

Our intent is that pupils will:

- Develop a deep knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith
- Encounter Scripture, Tradition and the teachings of the Church in meaningful and age-appropriate ways
- Grow in spiritual awareness, moral reasoning and the ability to reflect
- Understand and respect other faiths and worldviews
- Recognise their dignity as children of God and their responsibility to contribute to the common good
- Be equipped to articulate their beliefs with confidence and clarity

Implementation

Curriculum Structure

- The RE curriculum is taught for **10% of curriculum time**, in line with national expectations for Catholic schools.
- All year groups, including Reception, follow the **Liverpool Archdiocesan RED-aligned planning**.
- The curriculum is structured around the six branches of learning outlined in the Religious Education Directory.
- Lessons include Scripture, doctrine, liturgical learning, prayer, reflection and opportunities for creative and analytical responses.

Teaching and Learning

Teachers use a wide range of strategies to ensure RE is engaging, reflective and challenging. These include:

- Direct teaching and discussion
- Scripture exploration



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- Use of art, music and drama
- Opportunities for questioning, reasoning and debate
- Cross-curricular links where appropriate
- Regular opportunities for prayer and reflection

Early Years Foundation Stage

Reception follows the **Liverpool Archdiocesan RED-aligned EYFS planning**, ensuring that RE is fully integrated into the Early Years curriculum through:

- Play-based learning
- Storytelling and role-play
- Prayer and worship
- Exploration of key Scripture stories
- Celebration of the liturgical year

Prayer, Liturgy and Catholic Life

Religious Education is complemented by a rich programme of prayer and worship. Children participate in:

- Daily classroom prayer
- Whole-school and class liturgies
- Celebration of the liturgical seasons
- Masses and services in partnership with St Joseph and St Bede's Parish
- Opportunities for quiet reflection and spiritual growth
- Meditation

The Catholic Life of the school is strengthened through charitable outreach, social action, and the promotion of Gospel values in everyday life.

Assessment and Impact

Assessment in RE follows the expectations of the **Religious Education Directory** and the guidance provided by the Liverpool Archdiocese.

Teachers assess pupils through:

- Observation and discussion
- Written work
- Creative responses
- End-of-unit tasks
- Ongoing formative assessment

The impact of our RE curriculum is seen in pupils who:

- Demonstrate secure knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith
- Show reverence, respect and compassion
- Can reflect spiritually and morally
- Engage confidently in discussion about faith
- Understand their role in the Church and wider community
- Live out the Gospel values in their words and actions

Inclusion

All pupils are entitled to high-quality Religious Education. Lessons are adapted to meet the needs of all learners, including those with SEND or English as an additional language. Every child is supported to access the curriculum and express their understanding in ways that reflect their strengths.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The RE Subject Leader and Senior Leadership Team monitor the quality of RE through:



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- Lesson observations
- Book scrutiny
- Pupil voice
- Planning reviews
- Monitoring of prayer and liturgy
- Discussions with staff and parish partners

Findings inform ongoing development and ensure that RE remains central to the life of the school.

Professional Development

Staff receive regular training through:

- Liverpool Archdiocesan CPD
- School-based training
- Diocesan cluster meetings
- INSET days

This ensures that teachers are confident in delivering the RED and supporting pupils' spiritual and religious development.

Date: January 2026

Next review: January 2027