October 2026

Religious Education (RE) Policy

St Mary's & St Benedict's RC Primary School

Policy for Religious Education

Mission Statement

Together in God's family, we grow in faith, knowledge & love to reach our full potential, and to become the people that we are created to be.

Rationale of Religious Education

- Religious Education is central to the educative mission of the Church. *'At the heart of Catholic education lies the Christian vision of the human person. This vision is expressed and explored in Religious Education.'*[1]
- Religious Education is a core subject in the Catholic school.
- For some in the classroom, Religious Education may well be received as catechesis, deepening and enhancing their personal faith; for some it will be evangelisation, the first time they will have been presented, personally, with the truths of living faith. Nevertheless, its primary purpose is the step-by-step study of the mystery of God, the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, the teachings of the Church and its application in daily life. The criteria by which it is to be judged are educational.[2]
- Religious Education is planned, taught, assessed and monitored with the same rigour as other core curriculum subjects.

The outcome of Religious Education is religiously literate and engaged young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills – appropriate to their age and capacity – to reflect spiritually, and think ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.[3]

The Aims of Religious Education

- To present a comprehensive content which engages pupils and is the basis of knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith;

[1] Religious Education in Catholic Schools, Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, 2000, para 4

[2] Religious Education in Catholic Schools, a statement from the Catholic Bishops' Conference, 2000, p. 8-9

[3] *Religious Education Curriculum Directory*, Catholic Bishops' Conference, 2012, p. 6

- To enable pupils continually to deepen their religious and theological understanding and be able to communicate this effectively;
- To present an authentic vision of the Church's moral and social teaching so that pupils can make a critique of the underlying trends in contemporary culture and society;
- To raise pupils' awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities to respect and understand them;
- To develop the critical faculties of pupils so that they can relate their Catholic faith to daily life;
- To stimulate pupils' imagination and provoke a desire for personal meaning as revealed in the truth of the Catholic faith;
- To enable pupils to relate the knowledge gained through Religious Education to their understanding of other subjects in the curriculum;
- To bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture.[4]

Curriculum time allocation:

In line with Bishops' Conference recommendations, 10% of curriculum time is allocated to Religious Education. This does not include Collective Worship.

Programme of Study:

To fulfil the above aims and to address the structural elements outlined in the Religious Education Directory, 2023 - Understand, Discern and Respond- 'Magister Resources' programme is linked to the Religious Education Directory 2023, 'To Know You more clearly'.

Process:

Religious Education is taught through the process of Understand, Discern and Respond. This follows the six branches which invites pupils to learn about an aspect of Revelation, Scripture, life in Christ, and life in Church, and to discern what their learning means academically and experientially enabling them to see, judge, and to act through a deeper knowledge of the Christian faith. The six branches are: Creation and Covenant, Prophecy and Promise, Galilee to Jerusalem, Desert to Garden, To the Ends of the Earth and Dialogue and Encounter. The pattern is outlined in the Religious Education Directory 2023, 'To Know You More Clearly'.

[4] Religious Education Curriculum Directory, Catholic Bishops' Conference, 2012, p. 6

Methodology:

A variety of teaching and learning strategies will be used from across the curriculum adapted appropriately to the needs and learning styles of pupils.

Inclusion and Equality:

The governing body have wider responsibilities under the Equalities Act 2010 and will ensure that our school strives to do the best for all of the pupils, irrespective of disability, educational needs, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, sex, gender identity, religion or sexual orientation or whether they are looked after children. All pupils in our school, irrespective of ability, faith and background will have appropriate differentiated access to the Religious Education programme.

Other Religions:

Two other religions are taught from EYFS to Year 6. These are Judaism which is celebrated during the autumn term and Islam which is celebrated during the summer term. One week's teaching and learning time per year is given to each.

In branch 6 'Dialogue and Encounter' pupils will encounter other pathways of belief drawing on the teaching of the Church about intercultural dialogue.

Assessment, Monitoring, Recording and Reporting:

- Assessment of standards is carried out using the expected outcomes assessment sheets as outlined in the Religious Education Directory 2023, 'To Know You More Clearly'.
- Each teacher keeps a class record of assessed work and records of pupils' progress.
- An in-house moderation of pupils' books is held every term
- Monitoring of teaching and learning will consist of learning walks, followed by termly book scrutinise and pupil voice.
- An external RE moderation of pupils' book, with other schools in the cluster, is held every term.
- Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to Governors through the link governor report sheets each term.
- Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to parents/carers in a written report at the end of each academic year.

Management of the subject:

Kirsty Brennan is the RE Lead who has responsibility for leading, managing and supporting the delivery of and training in Religious Education.

The Role of the RE Lead

- To be responsible to the Headteacher and colleagues for the monitoring of teaching, assessment and planning of Religious Education based on the development of the children at each stage. Monitoring occurs to support staff and should include classroom observation, learning walks, book scrutiny, planning and discussion with pupils.
- To manage resources and facilities for Religious Education.
- To liaise with the Diocesan Department for Education particularly through attendance at RE Leaders meetings and inform the Headteacher and colleagues of current standards and developments within Religious Education.
- To attend appropriate training for Religious Education, keep up to date with current developments and feed these developments back to staff.
- To advise individual colleagues and induct new members of staff as required on the Religious Education process and teaching methods.
- To implement the change to the interim Age-Related Standards in Religious Education (3-19) and support staff during the transition period.
- To collect and keep pupil books showing pupils working at expected from *at least* Years 2, 4 and 6 at the end of each academic year.
- To facilitate in-house moderation of pupils' books every term
- To attend Diocesan moderation meetings with the required pupil books.
- In consultation with the Headteacher to communicate with parents, governors and the parish community regarding issues relating to Religious Education.
- Working with the Headteacher and colleagues, to undertake a regular audit / review of Religious Education in line with the school development plan.
- To be familiar with the current inspection framework and to consult with the SLT to complete the DSEF document.

- To keep up to date with changes to the Religious Education Curriculum Directory.

Policy Review:

This policy will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed by Kirsty Brennan (RE Lead) and updated every two years.