



Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School

Religious Education Policy

Signed electronically by Chair of Governors: <i>J Curran</i>	Name: Joan Curran	Date: 25.11.2025
Signed by electronically Head Teacher: <i>M Wilson</i>	Name: Meg Wilson	Date: 25.11.2025
Ratified by: Governing Body on 25.11.2025		Next Review: 30 th Nov 2026

Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Part 1: EIA Screening

Policies, Procedures or Practices	Religious Education Policy	Date	10.11.2025
EIA CARRIED OUT BY:	Anthony Hamlen	EIA APPROVED BY:	Joan Curran

Groups that may be affected:

Are there any concerns that the policy could have a different impact on any of the following groups? (please tick the relevant boxes)	Existing or potential adverse impact	Existing or potential for positive impact
Age (young people, the elderly: issues surrounding protection and welfare, recruitment, training, pay, promotion)	All groups will be treated fairly and equally, with no bias, discrimination or preferential treatment.	All groups will be treated fairly and equally, with no bias, discrimination or preferential treatment.
Disability (physical and mental disability, learning difficulties; issues surrounding access to buildings, curriculum and communication).	As above	As above
Gender Reassignment (transsexual)	As above	As above
Marriage and civil partnership	As above	As above
Pregnancy and maternity	As above	As above
Racial Groups (consider: language, culture, ethnicity including gypsy/traveller groups and asylum seekers)	As above	As above
Religion or belief (practices of worship, religious or cultural observance, including non-belief)	As above	As above
Gender (male, female)	As above	As above
Sexual orientation (gay, lesbian, bisexual; actual or perceived)	As above	As above

Any adverse impacts are explored in a Full Impact Assessment.

Commitment to equality:

We are committed to providing a positive working environment which is free from prejudice and unlawful discrimination and any form of harassment, bullying or victimisation. We have developed a number of key policies to ensure that the principles of Catholic Social Teaching in relation to human dignity and dignity in work become embedded into every aspect of school life and these policies are reviewed regularly in this regard.

At Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School, we seek to create a unique and enabling community whereby children and staff are encouraged to journey beyond their expectations – academically, socially and spiritually – within a culture based on Gospel Values.

Love, Live and Learn as Jesus Taught Us

Mission and Aims

Rationale

Through the teaching of the Catholic faith within our school, we seek to encourage and promote the religious and spiritual growth and development of all children attending Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School.

The Catholic faith is central to the life of our school and permeates throughout the whole curriculum and all decision making and other aspects of school life.

Aims

- To develop the child's sense of awe and wonder
- To help children know, understand and appreciate the Catholic faith and its traditions
- To lay the foundations for an understanding of the liturgy and the sacraments
- To deepen the child's understanding of God through the experience of prayer
- To develop and encourage a personal response to God and the recognition of an awareness of moral responsibility, through the development of conscience.
- Recognise and appreciate the religious and spiritual dimension of life
- To provide a Christian environment in which everyone feels welcome, valued, respected and secure
- To acquaint children with a knowledge of other cultures and faiths in order to encourage a tolerance and respect (This will be in accordance with Diocesan guidelines)

Our Lady of Lourdes' community - at all times and in everything that it does - attempts to serve as witness to the Catholic faith through Our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is our firm belief that parents are the first and foremost educators of their children and that we have been called upon to assist and help them achieve their God given task. Each and every child in our school is valued and encouraged to achieve human wholeness – spiritually, morally, emotionally and academically in a happy, secure Christian environment.

We will do our utmost to provide the best possible Catholic education for every child in our care.

Religious Education

This policy has been formulated with our school community in mind and by seeking advice and guidance from outside agencies including the Diocese of Clifton Education Service, the Catholic Education Service and the Department for Education. The ideas and philosophies in Christ at the Centre (Stock 2013) and in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) have also helped to inform this policy.

The Importance of the Role of Parents in Religious Education

Our school community recognises the central role parents have in the religious education of their children. The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales re-iterated in their statement on Religious Education in Catholic Schools (2000): "The first educators in the faith are parents."

In recognition of this, we strive to maintain a faithful partnership with parents, communicating clearly both the curriculum and the wider spiritual opportunities offered to families and warmly inviting parents to share their knowledge and experiences with the school community.

Our school works closely in partnership with the home and Our Lady of Lourdes parish community to which our children belong. The General Directory for Catechesis confirms, "This partnership between home and parish is enhanced by the role of the Catholic school in which the educational mission of the Church finds a particular and important expression."

Religious Education in a Catholic school encompasses the whole educational mission of the Church and is not confined to timetabled Religious Education lessons.

The Importance of Religious Education Religious education is the "core of the core curriculum" in a Catholic school (Pope St John Paul II). Placing religious education at the core of the curriculum helps the school to fulfil its mission to educate the whole person in discerning the meaning of their existence, since "Religious

Education is concerned not only with intellectual knowledge but also includes emotional and affective learning. It is in the mystery of the Word made flesh that the mystery of what it is to be human truly becomes clear. Without religious education, pupils would be deprived of an essential element of their formation and personal development, which helps them attain a vital harmony between faith and culture." (Religious Education Curriculum Directory p4).

Our Aims for Religious Education

Religious education is at the heart of our school life. We aim to ensure that all pupils will have the opportunity to:

- Understand and live out our school mission statement
- Recognise and appreciate the religious and spiritual dimensions of life
- Develop a deeper knowledge and understanding of Catholic teaching and traditions and of the teaching of other religions, so that they can explain these ideas confidently
 - Make links between learning in religious education and in the wider curriculum
 - Take the space to reflect and ask questions about their own and others' experience of life
 - Deepen their personal faith commitment and respect the world views of others

- Develop a sense of love and responsibility for themselves, one another and the world around them, so that they can respond to this understanding in daily life (Catholic Social Teaching)

The outcome of excellent 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 (Religious Education Curriculum Directory p6).

The Curriculum

At Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School, religious education is primarily based on the Religious Education Curriculum Directory (RED) “To Know You More Clearly”. In line with the Bishop’s mandate, this curriculum will be fully implemented from Reception to Year 6 by September 2026. In 2025-26, Year 6 will follow the previous approved curriculum, “The Way, The Truth and The Life”.

In recognition of the importance of religious education in our school, we devote 10% of the teaching week to religious education lessons, not including Celebration of the Word. In Early Years, the timetable and learning style is more flexible, but teaching of Religious Education is prioritised to give children the opportunity to engage fully with the curriculum.

The Religious Education Curriculum Directory has a clear framework for learning:

Four Knowledge Lenses: Hear, Believe, Live and Celebrate indicate what should be known by the end of each age phase.

Ways of Knowing: Understand, Discern and Respond are the skills through which children progress and develop their thinking during the curriculum journey.

Expected Outcomes set out for each year group what pupils should be able to know, remember and do.

Curriculum Branches divide the model curriculum into half-term units of study which repeat annually, giving a spiral curriculum which allows children to build progressively on the prior knowledge and develop their understanding year by year.

The curriculum branches are:

Autumn 1 Creation and Covenant

Autumn 2 Prophecy and Promise

Spring 1 Galilee to Jerusalem

Spring 2 Desert to Garden

Summer 1 To the Ends of the Earth

Summer 2 Dialogue and Encounter

The curriculum is firmly founded on building children's knowledge and understanding of Scripture, while providing opportunities to make connections to other faiths and cultures, as well as to their daily lives.

RE in the classroom and beyond

At Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School, the teaching of religious education is designed to be as varied and creative as possible, to help children to engage fully with the ideas explored, to ask wondering questions and to lead their own learning in discerning their response.

Learning within the classroom may include:

- Whole class discussion and teaching
- Group discussion and feedback
- Drama and role play
- Independent research
- Exploration through music and art
- Godly Play
- External speakers / workshops

Learning in religious education cannot always be recorded and does not begin or end in the classroom. Learning from religious education will also flow into other curriculum areas as pupils make links between their learning. We aim to give children the opportunity to connect their formal learning with their wider understanding through regular opportunities to reflect and respond.

Learning beyond the classroom may include:

- Following the example of a role model in daily life at home or in school
- Participation in charitable activity and fundraising
- Inspiration through reflection in prayer and liturgy
- Conversations with clergy or parishioners in school
- Response to catechesis in the parish e.g. for Reconciliation or First Holy Communion
- Engagement with programmes based on Catholic social teaching e.g. Leaders in Faith; Oscar Romero Award; Caritas in Action.

We work closely with parents and with the parish to support children's progress in understanding and developing on their curriculum and faith journey.

Other World Views

Catholic education seeks to form pupils who are well prepared to play a positive role in society and to follow Jesus' teaching to "love your neighbour". We therefore embrace learning about other world views with "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 of England and Wales)

The Religious Education Directory includes a branch called 'Dialogue and Encounter' which focuses specifically on exploring other world views and recognising the connections with the Catholic faith. Opportunities for dialogue and encounter are sought throughout the academic year and especially focus on broadening pupils' experiences and on real-life encounters with those of other faiths or none, to enable connections and develop understanding. Examples may include:

- Opportunities for families in our community to share their faith and experience
- Conversations with invited visitors about their beliefs and experiences
- Q&A with faith leaders online or in person
- Visits to places of worship
- Guided exploration of artefacts from other faiths
- Independent reading, research and discussion

External speakers are always checked in line with the CES checklist for external speakers, to ensure safe and constructive dialogue and encounter opportunities for our pupils.

<https://catholiceducation.org.uk/guidance-for-schools/governance/item/1003587-checklistfor-external-speakers-to-schools>

Feedback, Assessment, Recording and Reporting

Developmental feedback is given in Religious Education to support children's progress and to challenge their thinking. This follows the school's Feedback Policy and may be given verbally.

Assessment follows diocesan and national guidelines, assessing against the expected outcomes for each branch in the Religious Education Directory.

The RE Lead will be developing a moderation process of outcomes in Religious Education both internally and with local Catholic schools, to ensure consistency of expectations with other schools in the diocese.

Outcomes for Religious Education are shared in line with other core curriculum subjects in end-of-year reports.

Monitoring and Evaluating

RE Leaders and SLT monitor every aspect of Religious Education in line with other core curriculum subjects. Monitoring is conducted at least termly and feedback is given to individual staff. Outcomes may inform further training at staff meetings or actions for the subject action plan.

Self-evaluation of Religious Education is the responsibility of the Headteacher, the RE Lead, Governors and the Senior Leadership Team, with further input from all teachers of religious education, from families and from pupils. This process ensures a culture of continuous improvement, so that teaching and learning in Religious Education remains the best it can be.

Staff Formation

All staff support the Catholic ethos of our school and strive to develop children's progress and understanding in matters of faith. There are regular opportunities for all staff to engage in personal prayer and reflection which may support their professional role.

All new teaching staff are invited to attend the diocesan training 'New to Catholic Teaching' course when they start at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School.

All teachers involved in planning and delivering Religious Education lessons have attended half termly diocesan training on the curriculum directory resources. The RE Lead collaborates with other local schools to share best practice more widely.

Conclusion

It is the school's policy and Ethos that Religious Education should be actively lived and practised throughout the day by all staff and children in their attitudes and responses to themselves and one another.