

Sacred Heart Catholic

Primary School

To live, love and learn joyfully in the family of Christ

Religious Education Policy

Approved by Governors: February 2025

Date for review: February 2026

Introduction

This policy is a statement of the aims, principles and organisation for the teaching and learning of Religious Education (RE) at Sacred Heart School and should be viewed in relation to our Mission Statement which states:

“Live, love and learn joyfully in the family of Christ”

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
- In a Catholic school, at the core of the core, is Religious Education, for the sake of which Catholic schools exist in the first place.²

The Aims of Religious Education

- to engage in a systematic study of the mystery of God, of the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, the teachings of the Church, the central beliefs that Catholics hold, the basis for them and the relationship between faith and life.
- 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 to provide pupils with a sure guide for living and the tools to critically engage with contemporary culture and society;
- to give pupils an understanding of the religions and worldviews present in the world today and the skills to engage in respectful and fruitful dialogue with those whose worldviews differ from their own;
- to develop the critical faculties of pupils so to bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture;
- 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 curriculum³

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

² Religious Education Directory 2023, p13

³ Religious Education Directory 2022 p6

Outcome of Religious Education

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.⁴

Religious Education at the heart of the curriculum

- Religious education is the core of the core curriculum and is to be the source and summit of the whole curriculum.
- Religious education is an academic discipline with the same systematic demands and rigour as other disciplines.
- Religious education is to be delivered within a broad and balanced curriculum, where it informs every aspect of the curriculum. Every other subject is to be informed by religious education and have a strong relationship with it.
- In each year of compulsory schooling, religious education is to be taught for at least 10% curriculum time within each repeating cycle of the regular school timetable.

Programme of Study:

As a Catholic school, *Sacred Heart Primary*, is required to comply with the Religious Education Curriculum Directory (2012) / Religious Education Directory (2023). Sacred Heart Primary does this by teaching the 'Way, the Truth, the Life' scheme (currently in Key Stage 2). The RED 2023 provides a model curriculum which this school follows in *Reception, Year 1 and Year 2*.

Curriculum Structure for Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1

The model curriculum has six components known as branches which map helpfully onto the six half-terms of the school year. Five of these have a core theme which invites pupils to learn about an aspect of Revelation, Scripture, life in Christ, and life in the Church, and to discern what their learning means academically and experientially enabling them to see, judge, and act through a deeper knowledge of the Christian faith. The Encounter & Dialogue branch involves the study of other religions, encountering other pathways of belief drawing on the teaching of the Church about intercultural dialogue

Creation and covenant	Prophecy and promise	Galilee to Jerusalem	Desert to garden	To the ends of the Earth	Dialogue and encounter
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Detail of the curriculum can be found on our website: [Religious Education Directory 2023](#)

⁴ Religious Education Directory 2023, p6

Curriculum Structure for Key Stage 2

The Curriculum Directory distinguishes four principal Areas for Study:

Area of Study
Revelation
Church
Celebration
Life in Christ

The scheme used to deliver the content of the Curriculum Directory is 'The Way, The Truth and the Life'. Christ is at the heart of the programme. It is centred on Jesus who said that He came that, 'we might have life and have it to the full.' The children are helped to understand all that He means to us and how we live as his followers.

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Year 3	The Christian Church	Mary mother of God	Called to change	Eucharist	Celebrating	Being a Christian
Year 4	The Bible	Trust in God	Jesus the teacher	Jesus the Saviour	The mission of the church	Belonging to the Church
Year 5	Creation	God's Covenants	Inspirational people	Reconciliation	Life in the Risen Christ	Other Faiths
Year 6	The Kingdom of God	Justice	Jesus the Bread of Life	Jesus the Son of God	The work of the Apostles	Called to serve

Other Faiths are taught in the following age groups:

Year 3 Judaism	Year 4 Islam	Year 5 Hinduism	Year 6 Islam
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Children should be able to:

- Work within a variety of learning situations - individual, group, class.
- Develop ways of thinking, feeling, acting which will lead them to be reflective, open, enquiring.

In this way they begin a process which will lead to a genuine lasting understanding and provide a basis in childhood for the mature commitment of faith in adult life.

Assessment, Monitoring, Recording and Reporting

- Assessment of standards is carried out against the Age-Related Standards in Religious Education (3-19) interim document / Expected Outcomes in RED 2023 (
- Assessment is made of pupils' oral ability in RE as well as written work to give a true assessment of understanding.
- Assessment moderation / standardisation takes place in school amongst colleagues, with schools in *St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy Trust* and at diocesan meetings.
- Monitoring of teaching and learning takes place through moderation and scrutiny of work, lesson visits, interviews with children, coordinators evaluations of work done each term.
- Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to parents/carers each year in line with other core subjects.

Home

Parents are informed about the topics their child is studying via our RE Newsletter. The school endeavours to create an atmosphere in which it works with parents in partnership in the religious development of their children.

Leadership of the subject:

Michelle Fusi is the RE Lead has responsibility for leading, managing and supporting the delivery of Religious Education and the continuous professional development of teachers in Religious Education

Fr. Charles Cahill is the link governor with responsibility for Religious Education.

Policy Review:

This policy will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed by the *Headteacher, SLT and link Governor* and updated every two years.

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