Sacred Heart Catholic

Primary School

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

Religious Education Policy

Approved by Governors: **May 2026**
Date for review: **May 2028**

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 curriculum[3]

[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 Directory (2023). The RED 2023 provides a model curriculum which this school follows from Reception to Year 6.

Curriculum Structure

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

Detail of the curriculum can be found on our website: Religious Education Directory 2023

[4] Religious Education Directory 2023, p6

RE Overview 2025-2026

The Religious Education Directory- To know you more clearly.

	EYFS	Year 1 How people know about God	Year 2 Baptism	Year 3 Eucharist	Year 4 Lives transformed by Faith	Year 5 Significance of the Old Testament in understanding Jesus	Year 6 St. John's Gospel
Autumn 1 **Creation and Covenant**	God loves me. God made me and the world.	God Creator Father	Noah Sacrament of Baptism	Creation as God's gift.	Abraham	Moses	John's prologue New Creation
Autumn 2 **Prophecy and Promise**	Mary had a baby called Jesus.	Jesus Annunciation-Nativity	Nativity-visitation Magnificat Advent	Mass Matthew's nativity	Elijah and John the Baptist	David	Women in salvation history
Spring 1 **Galilee to Jerusalem**	Jesus was born for everyone.	Jesus' ministry	Ministry Parables and miracles	Matthew Miracles and Parables	Who do you say I am?	Jesus- New law	Signs in John's Gospel
Spring 2 **Desert to Garden**	Lent, Holy Week and Easter	Lent and Holy Week	Holy Week Easter vigil	Institution of the Eucharist	Forgiveness and Reconciliation	Salvation	Jesus' passion according to John
Summer 1 **To the Ends of the Earth**	Jesus, the Holy Spirit and the Church	Resurrection, Ascension and Pentecost	Ascension Pentecost conversion	Mass and Mission	Peter and the Church	Holy Spirit and Confirmation	New Adam and faith in the resurrection
Summer 2 **Dialogue and Encounter**	Friends of Jesus	Sign of the Cross	Who is my neighbour?	Passover	St Paul Christian Unity	The Bible	Dialogue in action
	Local (faith) community	Judaism- One God and Torah	Judaism- Sabbath and Hebrew	Islam- One God, creator	Islam- 5 Pillars	Judaism- The Torah, shema	Dharmic Faiths

Other Faiths are taught through the Dialogue and Encounter unit.

EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Local (faith) community	Judaism- One God and Torah	Judaism- Sabbath and Hebrew	Islam- One God, creator	Islam- 5 Pillars	Judaism- The Torah, shema	Dharmic Faiths

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:

Ruth Guiver 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.

Neil Mendonca (Chair of Governors), 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.