



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Religious Education Policy

St Mary's 'A place of educational excellence with Christ at it's Centre'

Next Review September 2025

Rationale of Religious Education:

The primary purpose of Catholic Religious Education is to come to know and understand God's revelation which is fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. We place RE at the core of our curriculum here at St. Mary's. Everything we do is reflected in our mission statement,

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We believe that Religious Education helps pupils to know and experience the meaning of Christ's revelation in his or her own life and within the life of the community, the church.

The Religious Education Directory states: The importance of 'good Catholic schools' has not diminished over time. Whilst their educational and structural forms have had to adapt to political and social changes, the mission of Catholic schools remains unchanged. At the heart of that mission is good religious education. Similarly, while changes in culture and society have presented new challenges for Catholic school leaders and teachers, their role as religious educators remains as vital today as ever to the mission of Catholic schools. In a Catholic school, all pupils are invited to encounter Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ as the living person at the heart of their study in a way that respects their individual religious identity. As well as seeking to assist parents with the education and religious formation of their children, Catholic schools strive also to be of service to society. Religious education plays its part in this endeavour by enabling all pupils 'to be confident and secure in their religious faith and knowledgeable and respectful of other religions,' and so play 'a crucial role in building a cohesive society' (Christ at the Centre, 2012, p.9).

Aims and Objectives

Curriculum religious education in Catholic schools aims to promote:

- Knowledge and understanding of Catholic faith and life;
- Knowledge and understanding of the response of faith to the ultimate questions about human life, its origin and purpose;
- The skills required to engage in examination of and reflection upon religious belief and practice. The objectives of curriculum religious education in Catholic schools are:
- To develop knowledge and understanding of the mystery of God and of Jesus Christ, of the Church, and of the central beliefs which Catholics

hold;

- To develop awareness and appreciation of Catholic belief, understanding of its impact in personal and social behaviour and of the vital relationship between faith and life, life and faith;
- To encourage study, investigation and reflection by the pupils;
- To develop appropriate skills: for example, ability to listen; to think critically, spiritually, ethically and theologically; to acquire knowledge and organise it effectively; to make informed judgements;
- To foster appropriate attitudes: for example, respect for truth; respect for the views of others; awareness of the spiritual, of moral responsibility, of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life and especially the challenge of living in a multi - cultural, multi - faith society.

Religious Education in the Classroom

Since the total curriculum in our school is based on the values of the Gospel and because we see all education as revealing the mystery of God, we recognise two aspects of Religious Education in the school:

Implicit, or unstructured Religious Education- those opportunities which arise in the course of a school day to lead pupils through curriculum content or through relationships to a religious understanding of their implications. It is the policy of this school to use such opportunities as they arise.

Explicit, or Curriculum Religious Education – those timetabled or planned periods of time given to explicit consideration of Religious Education in the classroom. In line with the Bishop's recommendation, it is the policy of this school to give 10% of the timetable to the teaching of R.E in FS, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

Curriculum time allocation: 10% of curriculum time is allocated to Religious Education. This does not include Collective Worship or the RSHE delivery.

Programme of Study: *Come and See* (recommended by the Diocese)

To fulfil our aims and Objectives we use the *Come and See* programme to adhere to the Curriculum Directory, as prescribed by the Diocese. Children in Year R, 1 and 6 now follow the new scheme 'To know you more clearly' (please see Appendix 1). The aim of this programme is to explore the teachings of Jesus

through Scripture, allowing children to explore these through different parables, Gospels and stories.

During the Advent Term, we focus on the following:

- Domestic Church – Family
- Baptism/Confirmation – Belonging
- Advent and Christmas –

Loving In the Lent Term,

our focuses are:

- Local Church – Community
- Eucharist – Relating
- Lent and Easter – Giving

In the final term, the Pentecost term, we focus on:

- Pentecost – Serving
- Reconciliation – Inter-relating
- Universal Church – World

We celebrate Other Faiths, with a focus on Judaism each academic year for one week and then explore Hinduism, Islam and Sikhism on a three-year rolling programme.

Preparation for Sacraments

The celebration of Sacraments is central to the Catholic faith tradition. Coming to understand Sacraments is not a simple process but a complex interaction of a great variety of experiences and celebrations in which children take part during the years they spend in the Primary school. For many children this will include their first celebrations of Communion and Reconciliation. Knowledge about and understanding of these Sacraments is an integral part of Come and See. The children's learning in school about the sacraments through the Come and See programme will support catechesis offered at home and in the Parish. Work begins in the Foundation Stage and the opportunity for depth and development of this occurs throughout Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. This allows parents, teachers, priests and catechists in each local situation, great flexibility in making decisions about when and how children receive these Sacraments.

In the Advent Term each academic year, the children explore the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation:

- *EYFS – Welcome*
- *Year 1 – Belonging*
- *Year 2 – Signs and Symbols*
- *Year 3 – Promises*
- *Year 4 – Called*

Year 5 and Year 6 explore the Sacraments of Marriage and Ordination in their topics:

- *Year 5 – Life Choices*
- *Year 6 – Vocation and Commitment*

During the Lent Term, the children investigate the Sacrament of the Eucharist and in the Pentecost Term, we focus on the Sacrament of Reconciliation and saying sorry.

Teaching of other Religious Faiths

Although the majority of teaching time is spent on Christianity through the Catholic tradition, there is also a planned programme of study to include the exploration of other faiths. We celebrate Other Faiths, with a focus on Judaism each academic year for one week and then explore Hinduism, Islam and Sikhism on a three-year rolling programme.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

Each term, information is given to parents via the curriculum information sheet, outlining the content of the term's topics and highlighting any feast days that fall within the term, including Holy Days of Obligation. In line with our whole school policy on assessment, each teacher assesses the children they teach every term. This assessment is reported to and analysed by the RE Subject Lead. Parents are informed about their child's achievement, effort and progress in Religious Education at Parents' Evening in the Pentecost Term and in their child's End of Year report. At the end of the academic year, information is shared with the child's next Class Teacher.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Head teacher who is also the RE Lead. It is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years.

Appendix One

Diocese of Northampton Religious Education Directory To Know You More Clearly

The new Religious Education Directory, agreed by the Bishops of England and Wales, was published in 2023 with a view that all schools will have fully implemented the content into their RE teaching by September 2025. For secondary schools this is still the intended implementation date. However, this has been extended for primary settings until September 2026. Below is mapped out the expectation for implementing the directory for schools within Northampton Diocese.

September 2023- 2024

Primary schools have been given access to EYFS resources, produced by Arundel and Brighton Diocese, which they are invited to start trialling as part of a working pilot. Ambitious schools are encouraged to develop this further and begin to trial lessons within other year groups.

Secondary schools should begin to introduce the RED to Year 7.

All schools should create a mapped programme of CPD to support and develop the knowledge and understanding of Leaders, Governors and teaching staff within their schools. Example: introduction of a new “branch” each term which focuses on the theological content, pupil knowledge, skills progression, outcomes and assessment. Schools should also start to formulate their own planning formats which meets the expectations of each individual school.

It is envisaged that schools make links and form hubs with other local Catholic schools (Trust and Maintained schools together) and develop curriculum resources, review practice and moderate outcomes at least 3 times per academic year.

September 2024 - 2025

All primary schools will be teaching “To Know You More Clearly” in EYFS and invited to trial year 1 and year 6 using support materials from other schools or Diocese.

All secondary schools will be teaching “To Know You More Clearly” in Year 7 and Year 8.

September 2025-2026

All primary schools to be teaching “To Know You More Clearly” in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6 (yr 2-5 are optional)

All secondary schools should be fully compliant in teaching “To Know You More Clearly” in Year 7 – 9

September 2026

All schools compliant in all year groups.

Assessment outcomes will be reviewed as part of the working hubs and will feed into a summative document outlining the Diocesan expectations for assessment to be published September 2026.