



Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Our Mission Statement

'Love Jesus, love learning, love each other'

We believe that every child is a unique creation of God.
Within a happy, inclusive and secure environment, following
Gospel Values, we will work together to inspire and
nurture every child.

We will strive to instil a lifelong love of God, of learning and of
each other and an aspiration towards high personal
achievement.

Policy Title	RE Policy		
Last Review date	Sept 2026	Next Review Date	Sept 2028
Responsibility	RE SUBJECT LEAD		
Change history	Leadership Title change	August 2023	



Statutory Requirements

Conference of Catholic Bishops of England and Wales (CCBEW) Requirements:

The Religious Education Curriculum Directory (3 - 19) for Catholic Schools and Colleges in England and Wales 2012 (RECD) clearly states, the Bishops' Conference expectation that 10% of taught curriculum time is given to the teaching of Religious Education in each academic year from EYFS through to Yr6. These time allocations do not include collective worship, assemblies or hymn practice.

Legal requirements

The law, School Standards and Framework Act 1998, requires all maintained schools and academies:

- Provide Religious Education for all pupils
- Recognise and respect that parents have the legal right to withdraw their pupils from Religious Education and Collective Worship.

In addition:

Governors in Catholic academies give a written commitment to have a statutory responsibility to preserve and develop the religious character of their schools.

Aims and Objectives

The ultimate aim of Religious Education, in our school, is to situate Christ at the centre of all that we do. Jesus Christ is the absolute revelation of God. Through the Holy Spirit each of us, in the Communion of Christ's Church, has the means to know and to love God, our Father, by knowing and loving his Son, Jesus Christ.

"This is why religious education in our schools must be as rigorous as any other academic discipline: but it cannot, as it were, stop at the point of academic rigour. It is the working of the Holy Spirit that transforms knowledge into love; that moment of 'conversion' when the person encounters the risen Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. And this process, of course, has no limits in terms of the intellectual ability (or otherwise) of the individual student. One of the most beautiful aspects of personal faith is its capacity to bring together persons of all abilities." (From a homily given by Monsignor Matthew Dickens NBRIA Conference, April 2019)

Within the curriculum, Religious Education's main purpose is to engage pupils in a systematic study of the mystery of Christ which we believe holds the fullness of the truth that God has revealed. It will also provide the basis for an openness to the 'seeds of the Word' that are to be found in other religions (cf Redemptionis Missio 56, Nostra Aetate 2).

Pupils will:

- Know that we are all a part of God's family
- Know that God always loves us
- Learn about the Sacraments and what they mean to us
- Know why we prepare for the celebration of Christmas
- Know and understand why the local church and community are important to us
- Know and understand the different parts of the Mass
- Learn about the importance of preparing for Easter
- Know why Easter is an important time for the Church
- Learn about the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit and the part it has to play in our lives
- Know the importance of friendship and how we have to look after it
- Learn about the wider Church and its role in the world



- Learn about key figures in the Bible and be able to retell, explain and understand key scriptures
- Learn about the key figures in the Church – saints and martyrs – as well as modern day witnesses to the Faith
- Know about and respect Other Faiths

Teaching & Learning

Programmes of study must comply with the expectations of the RECD, and subsequent versions. At Holy Family School we use the Diocesan approved scheme “Lighting the Path”.

Teaching of Other Religions:

- The RECD contains an expectation that Catholic schools should teach about other religions in all phases from Early Years Foundation to Year 6.
- It is expected that pupils in Catholic schools learn about and from other faith traditions as this will help to prepare them for living as full members of our diverse society.
- Diocesan expectations: in the primary phase: the minimum requirement is that other religions are to be taught for the equivalent of 2 weeks of Religious Education lessons, in each academic year.
- At Holy Family School we aim to teach each of the major Faiths over the course of the academic year spending a week of Religious Education lessons on each Faith.

SEN

Work is matched accordingly for pupils with SEN. A special endeavour is made to identify those pupils who are perhaps less able in literacy, thus find recording difficult, but who have well-developed skills in RE.

Catholic Social Teaching

At Holy Family, Catholic Social Teaching is incorporated into the curriculum. Pupils are asked to put their faith into action. Celebrations of the Word and Acts of Worship reference Catholic Social Teaching, which helps to make the worship relevant to our lives today.

Cross-curricular Links

Teachers are encouraged to make meaningful links with religious education across the curriculum. These are especially encouraged through themed work and RHE for example.

Spiritual Development

At Holy Family we value and recognise the need to foster the spiritual development of our pupils in all aspects of school life. We encourage this by enabling pupils to be in touch with their natural curiosity and awe and wonder in everyday life and the world around them. The school plans for Spiritual Development within RE lessons, Collective Worship, the wider curriculum and within the general ethos of the school. Pupils are encouraged to engage in prayer and quiet reflection. Pupils experience individual class and whole-school prayer. All classes have the opportunity to reflect on the awe and wonder of God's creation through the use of the environment and curriculum.



The Sacraments

The pupils are taught about the sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, The Eucharist and Confirmation through 'Lighting the Path. Preparation for the sacraments of Reconciliation and The Eucharist takes place within the Parish. Members of staff celebrate with the pupils in the Parish, by attending the First Holy Communion masses etc.. Mass and assemblies are subsequently held to pray for the First Communicants, and celebrate together as a school community.

Prayer

Pupils have a very special relationship with God. They are open to Him and experience Him in themselves, in the people who care for them, in their sense of awe and wonder of the beauty of nature and in their experiences of sorrow, happiness, fear anger and disappointment. True prayer draws us to discover God within our deepest being. Pupils are introduced to prayer from the Early Years, initially within the environment created within the classroom. For example:

- Through a classroom full of colour, shapes, natural objects, living creatures, plants and flowers.
- Through the awe and wonder of the outdoor area.
- Through the adults responses to joy, sorrow, love, and the world around them.
- Through creating a focal point for prayer in each topic.

Pupils are also introduced to prayer through 'Come and See'.

- Pupils are introduced to traditional scripture, psalms and prayers.
- Prayer is part of each celebration.

Pupils are exposed to a variety of forms and styles of prayer. For example: traditional prayer; psalms; repetitive prayers, five finger prayer etc.

Time for prayer is made every day. Pupils come together as a school to pray in collective worship. Class prayers take place in the morning, before lunch, after lunch and at the end of the day. The pupils are encouraged to learn traditional prayers and also create their own spontaneous prayers in response to certain events, situations or feelings.

Opportunities for prayer are made in all Celebrations of the Word and assemblies. When gatherings don't take place, a time is set aside for prayers in the classroom. This is particularly applicable to the Foundation stage where the pupils may only attend one or two gatherings a week when they first begin school.

Focal areas

Each classroom will have a focal area which reflects the current unit of study, or the time of the Liturgical year. Pupils' work reflecting the theme will be displayed on or around the focal area. Each class has their own prayer book and class 'big book' which they contribute to throughout the year. This could be with learning opportunities they have had or with thoughts of wonder.

Acts of Worship (P&L)

Purpose:

- To affirm the Catholic nature of the school and its commitment to Gospel Values.



- To foster the community aspect of the school.
- To celebrate the individual talents and establish the worth of all individuals.
- To value the contributions of individuals to the school community and to develop pupils' understanding of this contribution.
- To give opportunities for the expression of awe and wonder, for thanksgiving and for the sharing of relief and anxiety.

Subject Organisation and Leadership

The Headteacher and Local Governance Committee are responsible for ensuring that Religious Education has a high profile, and is taught as a core subject, within the curriculum of the Catholic school.

The school must ensure:

- That there is a named person who is responsible for leading curriculum Religious Education;
- That the post-holder is a practising Catholic.

(As the post of leader of Religious Education is a reserved post, the Education Commission must be invited to exercise advisory rights on behalf of the Archbishop in the appointment process; in the primary phase, it is expected that schools appoint a practising Catholic to the post, informing the Education Commission of the name of the post-holder; the appointment of a non-Catholic to the post of leader of Religious Education in any phase, must be discussed with the Deputy Director: Religious Education and Spirituality, as the post holder may require an Exemption from the Archbishop. It must be noted that this option should only be used after all means of appointing a practising Catholic to the post have been exhausted)

- That the leader of curriculum Religious Education should have parity in status and remuneration with the leaders of other core curriculum subjects within the school;
- That curriculum Religious Education is well resourced, both in regard to content and the continuing professional development of those teaching the subject;
- That there is regular and comprehensive monitoring of curriculum Religious Education which clearly demonstrates the impact the subject has on the school.

Equal Opportunities

All teaching and learning of RE will ensure that every child has the right to be included and supported as far as possible in the knowledge that there is equality in terms of opportunity, social background, race, gender and disability.

The programme of study is designed to cater for pupils working at different levels and with different abilities. It is also designed to be challenging and raise expectations. Suitable opportunities are provided for all pupils by matching the challenge of the task to the ability and experience of the pupil. We plan to allow all to achieve, building self-esteem and fulfilling our aim to give all pupils the opportunity to experience success in learning and to achieve as high a standard as possible.

Assessment and Progress

The Catholic Education Service (CES) and the National Board of Religious Inspectors and Advisers (NBRIA) regularly publish and update documents containing the age-related standard for Religious Education. In addition, the Education Commission produces support documents for the assessment of the subject which we, at Holy Family School, use to support us with our planning and assessment of the subject.



Teachers at Holy Family School plan assess and record for Religious Education in the same manner as we do for all other core curriculum areas. Annual targets are set for all pupils and progress is tracked throughout the year. Data is entered into the tracking system each term, in line with other core subjects.

The Local Governance Committee

Curricular development is linked to the SIP and performance management cycle where necessary, and subject leaders will report to the LGC as part of the curricular review and development process.

Professional Development

All staff will receive ongoing training and updates in the RE Curriculum and methods of assessment.

Links with the wider community

The school supports the home, school parish triangle and welcomes members of the parish to special assemblies and termly school/parish masses. As a Catholic school, the pupils are encouraged to think and learn about people who are less fortunate than themselves and take part in fund raising for charities and involve themselves in the local community.

Links with parents

Parents are encouraged to come into school to celebrate class assemblies and whole school masses. Parents are informed about RE each term through the class newsletters, weekly newsletter and social media.

Parents' right to withdraw pupils from Religious Education

Parents are permitted, by law, to request that their child is withdrawn from receiving all or part of religious education. This request should be made in writing to the Headteacher.

The Headteacher will keep a record of all pupils who have been withdrawn from RE.

