 St Edward’s Catholic Primary School

Religious Education Policy

**Values and aims:**

*Our values and aims are rooted in the school mission statement.*

***To love, to serve and learn.***

We are a school family journeying together in God’s love.

We serve each other to achieve our best.

We learn in fun and creative ways,

respecting everyone’s gifts.

**Aims of Religious Education:**

*At St Edward’s we encourage our children to know, love and serve God and to achieve this we aim:*

• To provide a Christian environment, where mutual care and love of each other, respect for life and love of God are encouraged and developed.

• To celebrate our Christian and Catholic beliefs in –

* daily acts of worship
* class and school assemblies
* services of the word and communion
* liturgies and Masses which celebrate important events and feast days

• To familiarise the children with the Gospel message.

• To enable children of all abilities to develop their full potential in an environment where they know they are loved and can love others.

• To enable our children to search, question and examine their own personal lives in the light of what they are learning.

• To recognise and respect members of other religions and cultures.

• To encourage our children to grow in understanding, love and respect of the sacraments.

• To encourage positive self-esteem where each individual can recognise their importance within the school, home and in the wider parish community and accept and appreciate that everyone has something to offer.

At St Edward’s our children are encouraged to learn in an environment where all aspects of mutual care and love of each other, respect for life and love of God are continually promoted. *We seek to achieve this through:*

• Living the church’s liturgical year using our RE scheme, The Way, The Truth and The Life - which explores the beliefs, values and way of life within the Catholic tradition.

• Providing visual signs of our faith within the the school and classroom environment

• Helping our children learning to appreciate and respond to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural dimensions of life, through a variety of mediums:

* discussion
* personal experiences
* written work and practical activities
* Promoting links with our church, St Edward’s, in the Parish of St Maximillian Kolbe.

At the heart of Catholic education lies the Christian vision of the human person.

This vision is expressed and explored in religious education. At St Edward’s we believe each child is unique and comes with their own gifts of the Holy Spirit and it is our duty to celebrate and develop those gifts.

English, Maths and Science are core curriculum subjects and we consider RE to be ‘the’ core subject at St Edward’s and it will be planned, taught, assessed and monitored with the same rigour as the other core subjects. In line with Bishops’ Conference recommendations, 10% of curriculum time is allocated to RE (not including Collective Worship).

**Outcomes of Religious Education:**

*Religious Education to be the systematic study of the mystery of God and of Jesus Christ, of the Church, and of the central beliefs which Catholics hold, which leads to:*

* Religiously literate young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills – appropriate to their age and capacity – to think spiritually, ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.’
* Children who are able to respond to the ultimate questions about human life, its origin and purpose

**Management of Religious Education**:

*This is the responsibility of the RE Subject leader/Headteacher. Their role is to:*

* Monitor and assess the RE curriculum throughout the school to ensure continuity and progression.
* Ensure that ‘Gospel values’ remain at the heart of everything we do at St Edward’s, being reflected in our prayer life and liturgy and in our personal and extended relationships.

*At St Edward’s we believe that religious education is never simply one subject among many, but the foundation of the entire educational process.*

Policy reviewed: September 2022

Next review: September 2024