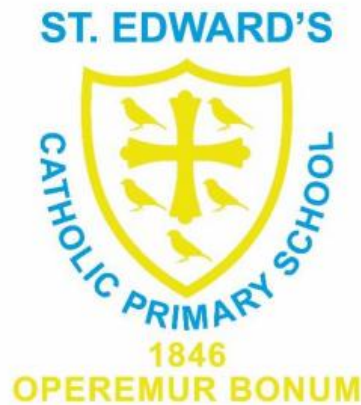


St Edward's Religious Education Policy 2025/2026



Our Mission Statement

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.

Our Mission Statement underpins all that we do at St Edward's. As a school community, we follow in the footsteps of Jesus and strive for all children to be their best. Children at St Edwards embody the key words from our Mission Statement and thrive to live them out in all that they do.

St Edward's was described as an "outstanding, happy, welcoming school where the Gospel values underpin all the school sets out to achieve" during our last RE inspection (2019).

The inspector went on to say:

"The pupils are delightful and their behaviour is outstanding. They are very caring towards each other. There is a strong sense of family in this outstanding school – it is apparent that all adults are committed to providing the best possible Catholic Education for all pupils in an environment of trust and Gospel values."

Pupils here at St Edward's show an excellent awareness of the needs of others. The school focuses on ways in which we can make life better for those less fortunate than ourselves through organising fundraising activities for CAFOD, the Good Shepherd and Mission Together. We volunteer to sing at local community events, and we are always willing to find ways in which we can love, serve and learn.

Head Teacher
Mrs Angela Snell

Religious Education Lead
Miss Fay McCulloch

Link Governors
Ms Julie Bullock
Mrs Christine Cornes

Religious Education

“Catholics believe that Religious Education is not one subject amongst many but the foundation of the entire education process. The beliefs and values it communicates should inspire and unify every aspect of school life.”

(Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales, 1988)

Religious Education is the core subject within our curriculum. It influences all that we teach and enables us to develop the whole person. The Religious Education Directory promotes children’s spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and prepares all pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of the present and the future. The Gospel values of the Church also underpin everything we do and shape the ethos of the school.

As a Catholic school, we seek to develop an ethos whereby the spiritual, moral, social and cultural needs of all within our school community are supported. This is expressed through our response to the Gospel call to love.

Religious Education Intent

- Provide each child with the opportunity to develop their relationship with God.
- Promote knowledge and understanding of Catholic faith and life.
- Develop awareness and understanding of the impact of faith upon our daily lives.
- Foster attitudes of respect towards all who live in our society.
- Develop skills linked to the reflection upon and practice of religious belief.

Implementation of Religious Education

The Religious Education Directory (RED) for Catholic schools and colleges provides guidance for the delivery of Religious Education teaching. *To Know You More Clearly* is the name of the new RED, to be fully implemented by 2025. Religious Education is organised around the six branches of the Religious Education Directory: Creation and Covenant, Prophecy and Promise, Galilee to Jerusalem, Desert to Garden, To the Ends of the Earth, and Dialogue and Encounter.

The rollout of the RED across the school for the academic years 2023–2026 will be as follows:

Class	2023-2024
Class 1 (Reception)	The Way, The Truth and The Life (EYFS)
Class 2 (Year 1 and 2)	The Vine and The Branches (Year 1) Pilot Scheme
Class 3 (Year 3 and 4)	The Vine and The Branches (Year 3) Pilot Scheme
Class 4 (Year 5)	The Way, The Truth and The Life
Class 5 (Year 6)	The Way, The Truth and The Life

Class	2024-2025
Class 1 (Reception)	To Know You More Clearly (RED) (EYFS)
Class 2 (Year 1 and 2)	The Vine and The Branches (Year 2)
Class 3 (Year 3 and 4)	The Vine and The Branches (Year 4)
Class 4 (Year 5 and 6)	The Way, The Truth and The Life
Class	2025-2026
Class 1 (Reception and Year 1)	The Vine and The Branches (Year 1) and EYFS RED
Class 2 (Year 1 and 2)	The Vine and The Branches (Year 1)
Class 3 (Year 3 and 4)	The Vine and The Branches (Year 3)
Class 4 (Year 5 and 6)	The Vine and The Branches (Year 5)

Planning and Delivery

- RE is given 10% of the curriculum time in KS1 and KS2 (equivalent to at least two and a half hours per week).
- The RE Lead ensures long-term planning and coverage of curriculum objectives across EYFS–Y6.
- Class teachers are responsible for medium-term planning, identifying key Scripture passages and learning outcomes.
- RE is delivered through a variety of teaching methods using cross-curricular links, including drama, music, art, history and literacy.

Assessment and Progression in Religious Education

Assessment in Religious Education at St Edward’s Catholic Primary School is purposeful and supportive, enabling teachers to check pupils’ understanding, inform next steps and ensure secure progression in theological knowledge and lived faith.

Teachers use a range of formative assessment strategies, including questioning, discussion, observation, written work, floorbooks and pupil voice. Short, low-stakes quizzes are used at the end of each branch to check pupils’ understanding of key concepts, vocabulary and Scripture linked to the Religious Education Directory (RED) branches being studied. These quizzes help identify misconceptions and inform future teaching.

Progression is carefully planned across mixed-age classes to ensure continuity and depth of learning. Where classes follow a particular year group programme, teachers ensure that pupils who have previously studied different RED branches are supported appropriately. For example, in a Year 1/2 class following the Year 1 curriculum, pupils in Year 2 complete an additional assessment linked to Branch 1 (Year 2) outcomes previously taught. This ensures that prior learning is revisited, retained and built upon, and that no gaps in understanding remain.

To ensure inclusion and equity, six focus children in each class are tracked more closely using clear 'I can' statements linked to RED learning outcomes. This allows staff to monitor individual progress over time, identify barriers to learning and adapt teaching to meet pupils' needs, including those with SEND.

Assessment in RE is moderated collaboratively. Staff meet regularly to share examples of pupils' work, discuss expectations and agree standards across year groups. This ensures consistency, confidence and a shared understanding of progression in Religious Education throughout the school.

The RE Lead monitors assessment and progression through book scrutiny, pupil discussions and staff dialogue, ensuring that all pupils deepen their understanding of Catholic faith and life as they move through the school.

Vocabulary and Knowledge in Religious Education

At St Edward's Catholic Primary School, the development of religious knowledge and vocabulary is a key priority within Religious Education. Teaching is carefully structured to ensure that pupils build a secure understanding of theological concepts and can speak, read and write about faith with increasing confidence and accuracy as they progress through the school.

Key religious vocabulary linked to the Religious Education Directory (RED) branches and learning outcomes is explicitly taught and displayed on class working walls. This vocabulary is referred to and revisited in every lesson, enabling pupils to recall prior learning, deepen understanding and use language accurately when discussing Scripture, beliefs and lived faith.

Teachers regularly revisit and reinforce key knowledge and vocabulary through retrieval activities, discussion, questioning and recap tasks. This ensures that learning is not isolated to individual lessons but is retained and built upon over time, supporting progression across year groups and mixed-age classes.

By consistently revisiting vocabulary and core knowledge, pupils develop a deeper understanding of Catholic faith and life and can articulate their learning clearly, confidently and respectfully.

Impact on Pupils' Development

Spiritual Development

As a Catholic community, we strive to support pupils in the development of their spiritual life, so that through reflection, they acquire insights and attribute meaning and purpose to their personal existence. This begins with an experiential encounter with the living Christ, fostered through:

- Personal and community prayer

- A sense of God's presence throughout the life of the school
- Liturgies where pupils become aware of entering His presence
- Hearing His word spoken in Scripture
- Experiencing the community of the faithful
- Celebration of the Mass
- A varied curriculum that creates a sense of awe and wonder
- Quiet times of reflection
- Opportunities to express personal views and insights while searching for truth together
- Faith-in-action initiatives such as Little Apostles, which encourage children to lead others in prayer and service.
- Prayer Bear, which helps children to develop prayer at home with their families.

Moral Development

At the heart of the Church's moral teaching lies the understanding that we love because we are first loved by God. Pupils are supported to:

- Recognise love as the heart of Catholic morality
- See morality as central to all areas of life and learning
- Understand that every human action has influence
- Choose freely between right and wrong, with respect for human dignity
- "Hate the sin but love the sinner"
- Deal with wrongs fairly but respect each individual
- Grow in moral awareness so as to become fully moral beings

Social Development

God created us to live in community, not in isolation. The school nurtures pupils to:

- Learn about the obligations, constraints and satisfaction of community membership
- Recognise their own identity while respecting the feelings of others
- Participate responsibly in group and school activities
- Develop cooperative skills and learn what it means to be a responsible citizen

Cultural Development

Pupils at St Edward's will:

- Be introduced to values and customs held within our Catholic cultural tradition
- Explore cultures of the past through history
- Respect the values and cultural heritage of people of other faiths and ethnic backgrounds
- Have their achievements beyond school recognised and valued

Catholic Social Teaching

At St Edward's, Catholic Social Teaching (CST) is our moral compass, guiding us on how to live out our faith in the world. We explore the nine key principles of CST across the year. Each

class is linked to an animal mascot that represents one of these values, supported with prayer and song, helping children to live out Gospel values in their daily lives.

Our Little Apostles group also supports CST in practice, encouraging children to be active disciples by leading school worship, planning charitable actions, and engaging with the wider community.

Prayer & Liturgy

Prayer and liturgy are central to the life of our school. Pupils take part in:

- Daily prayer in class
- Weekly whole-school assemblies and worship
- Child-led liturgies within classes
- Celebration of the Rosary, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, and Feast Days
- Sacramental preparation for First Forgiveness and Holy Communion, in partnership with families and parish
- Opportunities to join parish Masses and celebrations

We also encourage children to take faith into their homes through initiatives such as the Prayer Bear, which helps families to share prayer together.

Our Little Apostles and Mini Vinnies further strengthen pupils' lived faith, encouraging them to take an active role in prayer, service, and mission.

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)

Relationships and Sex Education is taught on a termly basis through **Ten:Ten's *Life to the Full*** programme, recommended by the Archdiocese. This programme is delivered through a Catholic lens, ensuring it is rooted in Gospel values.

Wider Church and Community Links

We strive to bring pupils to a greater global awareness of the needs of others. This is embedded throughout school life and includes:

- Fundraising, collections, and donations for CAFOD, local charities and foodbanks
- Active links with the parish, including participation in celebrations and liturgies
- Links with local schools and our secondary feeder school, Blessed Carlo Acutis Catholic and Church of England Academy
- Singing and volunteering at community events
- Opportunities to serve through initiatives such as Mini Vinnies and Little Apostles
- Home-school faith links through Prayer Bear

Staff Training & Subject Leadership

Staff at St Edward's Catholic Primary School are supported to deliver high-quality Religious Education through ongoing professional development. Teaching staff attend training provided by the Shrewsbury Diocese, accessed both in person and online, to ensure they remain confident and up to date with developments in Catholic education and the Religious Education Directory (RED).

The Religious Education Lead supports staff through shared planning, guidance and opportunities for professional dialogue, ensuring consistency and confidence in teaching and assessment across the school. This commitment to professional development ensures that Religious Education is delivered faithfully, accurately and with a clear understanding of progression in theological learning.

Pupil Voice in Religious Education

Pupil voice plays an important role in shaping and evaluating Religious Education at St Edward's Catholic Primary School. Children are encouraged to express their understanding, reflections and questions about faith through discussion, written work, prayer, worship and evaluation activities.

Teachers regularly gather pupil voice through class discussion, floorbooks, learning reflections and informal conversations, allowing pupils to articulate what they have learned and how their faith is developing. This helps staff to understand pupils' engagement with Religious Education and to adapt teaching to deepen understanding and address misconceptions.

Opportunities such as child-led prayer, class liturgies, collective worship and participation in Little Apostles and Mini Vinnies enable pupils to take an active role in the spiritual life of the school. Through these roles, children help to plan and lead worship, reflect on Scripture and live out Gospel values through service to others.

The Religious Education Lead also engages with pupils during monitoring activities, including pupil discussions, to gain insight into how Religious Education is experienced across the school. Feedback from pupils is valued and used to inform future planning and provision, ensuring Religious Education remains meaningful, engaging and relevant to all learners.

Special Educational Needs

As a Catholic school, we are aware that all children are a unique gift from God, each with their own talents and needs. Our approach to the teaching of RE is fully inclusive. Children

with Special Educational Needs are supported to access RE at an appropriate level and to achieve success in their learning. All pupils are valued and made to feel that they belong.

Monitoring and Review

This policy is reviewed annually by the RE Lead, Headteacher and Governing Body to ensure it reflects current Church guidance and the needs of the school community.