



Religious Education Policy

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.

EDUCATIONAL AIMS & VALUES

The main aims are to:

- encourage pupils in the beliefs and practices of the Catholic Church;
- educate pupils to be healthy, stay safe, make a positive contribution and achieve economic well being;
- support pupils to enjoy their education and achieve personal, social and academic standards that they are capable of;
- educate pupils intellectually, socially, morally, aesthetically, physically and spiritually;
- give instruction in the basic skills, namely reading, Numeracy, Oracy and Literacy, by the most effective methods available to us;
- encourage the development of all pupils, so that they will learn to take their place in society;
- instil in pupils a sense of decency, commitment, self-reliance, responsibility, respect for others and healthy esteem;
- create an atmosphere that is relaxed but purposeful, and facilitate the achievement of these aims by forming the best possible relationships between teachers, children, parents and others involved;
- help the pupils develop an understanding of their cultural heritage.

We are concerned with the development of the whole personality of each individual. We try to teach what each child needs, regardless of age, sex or ability. We try to make it difficult to fail. We try to present the child with work which is attractive. We try to create incentives, to increase the natural thirst for knowledge and skills that is present in almost all children, and to channel efforts into useful and interesting pursuits. We want children to enjoy school and to make the best use of their time here.

We do not forget that we are part of a process, and we want our children to go on to the next stage of their education with a built-in desire for further interesting work and experience.



Values and precepts

We want our pupils to achieve their full potential and to become good members of the community by embracing, with us all, the following precepts:

- to tell the truth
- to keep promises
- to respect the rights and property of others
- to act considerately towards all living things
- to help those who are weaker and less fortunate than ourselves
- to take personal responsibility for all our actions
- to develop self-discipline.

The values underlying these precepts are reflected also in the school rules:

- to be polite towards adults and toward other pupils
- to try our best in everything we do
- to respect and care for other people and their property
- to be proud of our school and to take care of it
- to be honest and truthful.

These are translated into four basic rules which are taught and retaught regularly:

- do as you are told straight away,
- keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself,
- listen when someone else is speaking,
- respect others and be kind.

General Aims and Philosophy

As a Catholic school we strive to be a place where the presence of God is recognised and the Gospel Spirit of freedom, justice, peace and love pervades all our work.

Through our RE programme we help our children to recognise and appreciate the religious and spiritual dimensions of life in a way that is appropriate to their age and maturity.

As each child [and adult] engages in the educational process within our school evangelisation and catechesis will be taking place as each person is ready for it.

It is our aim to provide the tools appropriate for learning so that faith development can continue in the home and in the parish.

We wish to make sure that each member of our school is aware of the many faith differences within the wider community, and where these occur within the school we welcome the richness they can offer.

Religious Education has a role to play in the process of learning across the whole curriculum. It contributes to the personal development of our children and helps them to be sensitive to their environment.



We aim to help the children to recognise their own gifts and talents and those of others. We offer celebration of success and achievement, giving thanks for our world and each other.

The school provides positive Catholic teaching based upon 'The Way, The Truth and The Life' scheme. The celebration of the Mass, Liturgies, Assemblies and Prayer are an integral part of our teaching.

Roles, functions and responsibilities

The role of the Headteacher:

- To maintain and develop the Catholic ethos of the school as outlined in the school Mission Statement
- To manage pastoral and welfare systems for all members of the school community so as to create a positive and caring ethos
- To ensure that the requirements of the RE curriculum are met and curriculum provision is appropriate and relevant to the needs of the children.
- To monitor and evaluate standards of teaching, learning and resource usage and plan, with the RE Co-ordinator, a programme of objectives within the framework of the School Development Plan
- To ensure effective communication within the school and promote effective relationships with parents, parish, local community and secondary schools.

The role of the RE subject leader:

- To liaise with the Headteacher, governors, parish priest, and other key parishioners regarding Masses, services, Sacraments and other significant events within the church calendar, where the school is involved
- To ensure the celebration of the Church's Liturgical Year is upheld in school
- To provide teaching and support staff with the specific knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Faith in order to ensure accurate and confident delivery of the doctrine
- To monitor and evaluate the subject closely, through classroom environment and lesson observations, book and planning scrutiny and pupil interviews
- To consult with staff on the planning and delivery of the units of work when necessary, providing guidance and support to ensure quality learning and teaching
- To liaise with the Leader for Assessment to train staff in the effective assessment of RE
- To liaise with SLT to monitor the quality of opportunities and activities provided for the children and the levels of achievement attained in relation to national standards and similar Catholic schools
- To liaise with the Headteacher to plan and timetable assemblies, hymn practices and Class Masses on a termly basis
- To liaise with the Headteacher to support to provide readings and Prayer of the Faithful for School Masses and ensure that they are effectively delivered in Mass through practice with the children
- To liaise with the Headteacher to provide parents with information for their child's sacramental preparations and on the delivery and content of SRE.



- To liaise with the Headteacher to update the RE section of the school website on a regular basis
- To order and allocate resources to classes and the central resource area within budgetary restrictions
- To highlight key areas of learning and experience through the policy document, action planning and the units of work
- To check resources, materials and equipment regularly for needs arising and ensure permanent resources are respected and returned, to ensure easy access for all staff
- To develop and review the RE curriculum policy according to Diocesan guidelines in consultation with staff and Governors
- To attend inservice courses and disseminate information to other members of staff

The role of the class teacher:

- To demonstrate and foster the gospel values
- To provide a role model
- To deliver the RE programme and assess children's progress and report to parents
- To share in the preparation and celebration of liturgy and worship in school.

Staff meetings and reflections on RE are held termly and as feasts and celebrations arise.

An Action Plan for the development of the RE Curriculum is reviewed annually by staff and Governors as part of the School Development Plan review. The Action Plan details actions over a year, outlining success criteria, monitoring opportunities, timescale, costs and personnel involved.

RE 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 [*Evaluating the Distinctive Nature of the Catholic School*], we recognise two aspects of Religious Education in the school.

1. 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.
2. Explicit or structured Religious Education - those timetabled or planned periods of time given to an explicit consideration of religious education in the classroom. It is the policy of this school to provide a minimum of 10% of the target week to explicit RE.

Religious Education is taught, developed and resourced with the same commitment as any other subject.

Our RE programme includes learning intentions which take into account the religious and educational needs of our children:

- those from supportive Catholic homes
- those for whom the school may be their first and perhaps only experience of Church



- those from other Christian traditions
- those from other faith backgrounds

The CTS programme "**The Way, The Truth & The Life**", is followed by all class teachers who also take into account:

- this policy
- the liturgical calendar
- the seasonal calendar
- other areas of the curriculum where they are appropriate;
- the bringing together and practice of life experiences, scriptures, Doctrine, Liturgy, Prayer, Celebration.

Teachers are made aware that the "The Way, The Truth & The Life" (WTL) programme is used as the basic resource but teachers can extend it with their creative teaching.

Our classes are mixed age classes so the programme of study contained in WTL is taught over a two year period within one class, instead of over a two year period in two classes.

Our RE programme promotes our children's capacity for wonder, awe, reverence and imagination. It will encourage children to recognise their own value and importance as individuals, and recognises each child's right to achieve their potential in life. It provides our children with the language of religious experience - a "literacy" in religious activities, places, stories, symbols, rituals, people and objects. It will help children to develop the confidence to express their own beliefs and listen to others.

Since our aim in Religious Education is an active response to life and worship we focus on activities which allow such a response and through which the children can express themselves.

We explore our RE themes and topics through a range of activities which include: story telling, writing, singing, art, movement, drama, games, visitors and visits to places outside school.

Each class has a termly '**Knowledge Organiser**' which contains the main learning objectives and vocabulary for that term. They are emailed to parents and published on the website.

Skills

The acquisition of skills is essential as a means to increasing knowledge and understanding. A skill is an ability or aptitude developed through training and practice.

The skills we aim to address are:-

- Investigation skills
- Interpretation skills
- Communication skills
- Critical skills
- Social skills
- Evaluation skills

Equal Opportunities, Inclusion and Differentiation

A central message of the Catholic faith is that although we are all different, God loves each one of us equally, regardless of background, gender or ability. It is therefore vital that we recognize



and cater for the individual needs of children, acknowledging that all children have different gifts and talents and that these should be celebrated.

Learning tasks are matched to the abilities of the children to enable them to achieve success, helping them to develop to their full potential and to develop a positive self-image. We aim to ensure that resources do not reinforce any kind of stereotypes and that they do reflect our own school community. It is important that the children are provided with images, which reflect the multi cultural society in which we live, enhancing their awareness and knowledge of other faiths and cultures, respecting the rights of the individual at all times. This is essential in preparing children to take their places in a multi - cultural society.

Children with **Special Educational Needs**, whether they are children with learning difficulties, or children who are able and talented in RE, will be presented with tasks to suit their ability. Differentiation for these children may be in the amount of support offered by the teaching and support staff, or tasks with varying levels of difficulty, including tasks which will extend the more able children's spirituality or knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the topic being covered.

Collective Worship *(Please refer to our Collective Worship Policy)*

Preparation For Sacraments

"The Sacraments are celebration of the presence of Christ permeating every moment of our lives."

Preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist is done by Catechists in St Edward's Church in the Parish of St Maximilian Kolbe. This involves an invitation being extended to all families of Catholic Children to attend Mass and find out about the **Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist**.

At school we have a special 'Communion Breakfast' for the children who have made their First Holy Communion. This involves them wearing their special clothes to school and having a 'party' meal with their Y3 classmates, followed by music, dancing and photographs.

Community Links

Parents, Governors, parishioners and other interested visitors are invited to Liturgies, Masses and assemblies.

We have a Mini-Vinnies group who meet weekly to plan projects to help others.

Parish groups such the Saint Vincent de Paul Society are invited to bring some elderly people for Christmas lunch with the children in December. They are served and entertained by our Mini-Vinnies.

We aim to develop in our children, concern and charity towards others in the community. We involve the children in fund-raising events throughout the year for local, national and international charities or causes.

We also have a GIFT Team, who help to make things for parishioners (i.e. Lent bags).



Assessment and Evaluation

At the end of each topic every child will evaluate, recording their own personal responses to the topic, and the knowledge and understanding they have gained. They may use published assessment exercises from the WTL scheme or teacher - led activities. The use of the Knowledge Organisers may also contribute to the assessments.

Class teachers will use pupils' evaluations to inform their planning and aid reporting to parents.

The assessment and evaluation process is continuous and may involve discussion between teachers and children.

Teachers record their assessment of each pupil's learning journey against statements of attainment in 'Learning about Religion' and 'Learning through Religion'.

The subject co-ordinator collates teacher assessments and analyses individual pupil progress and across all pupil groups. Teachers provide a sample of annotated work, from assessment topics, across three ability ranges and moderate the work together 2 or 3 times a year.

Informing Parents

Parents are invited to meet with teachers during the Autumn and Summer terms to discuss their children's progress in all curriculum areas including RE.

At the end of the academic year parents are provided with a written report which comments on children's development in RE.

Ours is a welcoming school and parents, Governors and friends are encouraged to join with us for acts of worship or classroom activities.

Review of Policy - a review of the RE policy is timetabled into the School Development Plan as necessary, following the annual review of the Action Plan for the development of RE.

Prayers:

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Sign of the Cross</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit Amen</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Morning Offering (Infant)</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dear Jesus I give you this morning all my work, all my play, all I do and say. Help me to do my best and be my friend today. Amen</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Morning Offering (Junior)</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">O my God you love me You're with me night and day, I want to love you always In all I do and say. I'll try to please you, Father Help me through the day - Amen</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Going Home Prayer</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dear Jesus, thank you for today. Thank you for my work, Thank you for my play. Dear Jesus, watch over me tonight, And always. Amen</p>



<p><u>Act Of Contrition</u></p> <p>O my God I thank you for loving me. I am sorry for all my sins, For not loving others And for not loving you. Help me to live like Jesus, And try not to sin again. Amen</p>	<p>Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done On Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, And forgive us our trespasses As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. Amen</p>
<p>Hail Mary, full of grace, The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, Pray for us, sinners, now, And at the hour of our death. Amen</p>	<p>Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, Is now and ever shall be, World without end. Amen</p>

Lunchtime Prayers

<p>KS1</p> <p>Dear Jesus, Thank you for the food we are about to eat, And thank you to all those who prepared it for us. Amen</p>	<p>KS2</p> <p>Thank you for the food we are about to receive, And thank you to all those who prepared it for us. Amen</p>
<p>KS1 & KS2</p> <p>Dear Jesus, Thank you for the food we have eaten And thank you God for all my friends. Thank you God for everything. Amen</p>	

<p><u>Prayers to which children will be introduced during Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.</u></p> <p>Sign of the Cross Our Father Hail Mary Glory Be</p>	<p><u>Prayers to which children will be introduced during Years 3, 4, 5 and 6</u></p> <p>I confess Lord have mercy Gloria Nicene Creed</p>
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<p>Grace at meals The Lord be with you: And also with you Lord hear us: Lord graciously hear us Morning and going home prayer Peace be with you. Act of Contrition <u>AND</u> Prayers for special occasions Simple litanies</p>	<p>Offertory Prayers Eucharistic Prayers Holy holy Lamb of God Rosary Act of Contrition Magnificat Psalms Way of Cross</p>
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RE Resources

This is a list of books on our Library shelves. It is not exhaustive because we are constantly topping up our school supply of books to engage and instruct the children in RE.

<p>Rainbow Good News Bible Harper Collins 15 copies The Lion Children's Bible Lion 11 copies The Junior Bible Creation 6 copies Jesus Calls 6 copies Moses 6 copies The Family of Abraham 6 copies The Children of Jesus 6 copies The Lion Story Bible King Nebuchadnezzar's Golden Statue Come Down Zacchaeus!</p>	<p>Sunshine Books Heinemann Religious Stories The Birth of Jesus People Jesus Met Stories Jesus Told The Story of Easter The Jews Leave Egypt Moses on the Mountain The Birth of Krishna The Story of Prahlad Guru Narak The Story of Id The Birth of Buddha The Buddha and the Bodhi Tree</p>
<p>The Living Festivals Series: Chanukah Divali Festivals of the Buddha Holi Ramadan + Id - Ul - Fitr</p>	<p>The Beatitudes For Children A Calendar of Saints James Burkley Saints + Martyrs Universe Public Stories of Everyday Saints (40 stories with Bible links & activities) Veronica Heley</p>
<p>Christmas / Advent Christmas Clare Chandler (Wayland) Christmas A - Z Matthias + Thomson The Lion Children's Book Mary Batchelor Cracker Full of Children's stories - 7+ (Doubleday)</p>	<p>My Very First BIG Bible Stories Baby Jesus The Good Samaritan Jonah and The Whale The Lost Sheep In The Beginning Noah & The Ark</p>
<p>Other Faiths and Festivals Hanukah Fun (great things to make and do) Festivals: Jewish Festivals Buddhist Festivals</p>	<p>Other Faiths and Festivals: cont. The Holy Qur'an (The meaning of) Pathways to Belief (BBC) video Islam,</p>



<p>Hindu Festivals</p> <p>Religious Festivals by <i>John Mayled</i></p> <p>I am a Sikh - <i>Aggarwal + Fairclough</i></p> <p>Festivals Together (A guide to multicultural celebrations)</p> <p>World Religions - <i>Susan Meredith</i></p> <p>Religions of the World - <i>Collins Fact Book</i></p> <p>Religions of the World - <i>Sainsburys</i></p> <p>All in Good Faith - Primary School Assembly</p> <p>Stories Multicultural Activities - <i>Scholastic</i></p> <p>Early Years Activity Chest</p>	<p>Hinduism, Sikhism</p> <p>Teaching Other Faiths in the Catholic + Church primary School - <i>Victoria Hummel</i></p> <p>Peking Opera Painted Faces / Chinese Banner</p> <p>One Child, One Seed - <i>Kathryn Cane</i> - (South African Counting Book)</p>
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Individual Copies	
The Children's Bible in 365 Stories	Lion
The Lion Book of Bible Stories 7 Prayer	2 copies
Good News Bible (illustrated)	Collins
The Story Atlas of the Bible Elrose Hunter	
New World - The Heart of the New Testament in Plain English	Oxford
Winding Quest - The Heart of the Old Testament in Plain English	Oxford
The Ladybird New Testament	
The Jerusalem Bible	Darton, Longman & Todd
The Good News Bible Special Edition	Bible Society
The Lion Encyclopaedia of the Bible	
Holy Bible	Doray Version
Lectionary for Masses with Children (green)	Sundays of cycle C
Lectionary for Masses with Children (red)	Weekdays
God's Story (3) - told by the people of God	
Experience Jesus Today - Understanding the Gospel	
Some Catholic Prayers (Hail Mary, Rosary, I Confess)	Hubert Richards
The Way of the Cross for Children	H J Richards 2 copies
The Ten Commandments for Children	H J Richards
God's Story 2 - told by the people of God	
Church's Story 3 x 2	
Parish Mass Book Year A Part 1	
Parish Mass Book Year B Part 2	2 copies
Parish Mass Book Year C Part 1	3 copies
Parish Mass Book Year C Part 2	
The New Baptism Book	
The New Marriage Book	
Masses With Children	Veritas
The Liturgy of The Word With Children (a complete 3 year programme)	Katie Thompson
The Complete Children's Liturgy Book (for every Sunday)	Katie Thompson
Sharing Time + Assemblies - Bright Ideas For Early Years	Scholastic
The Infant Assembly Book	Doreen Vause
The Junior Assembly Book	Doreen Vause
Into The Garden of Dreams (Pathways to Imagination 5 - 8yrs)	Brilliant Publications
Gazing in Wonder - Developing Spirituality with Young Children	Jill Fuller
Looking Beyond - Developing Spirituality with Junior Children	Jill Fuller
All round Success (self esteem)	Wiltshire Education
A Letter for Me from St Paul the Apostle Boxed set	Pauline Books



<p>Prayer / Poetry</p> <p>Children's Daily Prayer 2004 - 2005 LTP</p> <p>My Prayer Book compiled by Michael Hollings</p> <p>Your Hand God, Praying with Children E J Dwyer</p> <p>Thank You Prayers Little Lions</p> <p>Glimpses of Heaven - Poems & prayers of Mystery & Wonder Lois Rock</p> <p>365 Children's Prayers Lion</p> <p>Walk With Me (An Advent Journey of Prayer)</p> <p>Welcome! Celebration for Young Children for the Church Year Jenny Pate</p> <p>Prayer / Poetry: cont</p> <p>A Year of Celebration - Songs for Children</p> <p>God Speaks to his Children - texts from the Bible</p> <p>Miss Mac the Church Cat - an Autobiography</p> <p>Hail Mary Sabrina Bus</p> <p>Our Father Sabrina Bus</p>	
<p>Posters (Admin Stockcupboard)</p> <p>Taize - Icon of the Virgin Mary</p> <p>Maria Mediatrix</p> <p>Nostra Signora Di Yaros Cave</p> <p>Virgina Delia Tererezza Di Vladmir</p> <p>African Virgin</p> <p>The Ascension</p> <p>Christianity</p> <p>Hinduism</p> <p>Islam</p> <p>Scripture Quote + photograph (John 7:38)</p> <p>Pentecost</p> <p>Baptism } Explanation</p> <p>Confirmation } Booklet</p> <p>Eucharist } The Sacraments of</p> <p>Initiation } Christian Initiation</p> <p>Cross Pasquale</p> <p>Cross - Cycle of the Infant Jesus</p> <p>Last Supper</p> <p>Children's Letters to God</p>	<p>Artefacts / Prayer Table Focus</p> <p>The Annunciation</p> <p>Virgin and Child</p> <p>Holy Family</p> <p>Virgin - hands outstretched</p> <p>Tree Cross</p> <p>Plain wooden cross</p> <p>Prayer Mat</p> <p>Qu'ran Book Stand</p> <p>Candle holders / Candles</p> <p>Circle of Friends - candleholder</p> <p>The 'Hug' - 'Family'</p> <p>Church's Year Seasonal banners x 4 Green,</p> <p>White, Purple, Red</p> <p>Welcome to the Mass Poster Book with CD rom</p>

This Policy was reviewed in June 2019

It will be reviewed every two years or sooner as necessary.