

## Religious Education – Frequently Asked Questions (for Parents)

*(Aligned with the Religious Education Directory and Catholic Schools Inspectorate expectations)*

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### Religious Education – Frequently Asked Questions

#### Why is Religious Education central to life at St Edward's?

Religious Education is at the heart of our school because it shapes the identity, ethos and mission of St Edward's as a Catholic community. RE supports children to grow in their relationship with God and to understand how faith informs moral choices, relationships and daily life. It underpins our mission to love, serve and learn, following the example of Jesus.

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#### How much curriculum time is given to Religious Education?

In line with diocesan expectations, Religious Education is allocated **10% of curriculum time** in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, which equates to **at least two and a half hours per week**. This reflects the importance of RE as a core subject within the Catholic curriculum.

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#### What curriculum do you follow for Religious Education?

We follow the **Religious Education Directory (RED)** for Catholic schools, *To Know You More Clearly*. The RED ensures that Religious Education is carefully sequenced and progressive, enabling children to deepen their theological understanding as they move through the school.

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#### How do children learn about other faiths?

While Religious Education at St Edward's is rooted in the Catholic faith, we are committed to promoting respect, understanding and dialogue.

Each year, the school holds a dedicated **World Religions Day**, during which each class explores a **different world religion**. This supports the RED strand of **Dialogue and Encounter**, helping pupils to learn about the beliefs, traditions and lived experiences of people of other faiths and cultures, and to develop respect for diversity within our society.

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#### How is Religious Education taught?

Religious Education is taught in engaging, reflective and age-appropriate ways. Lessons include Scripture, discussion, prayer, reflection, art, music and drama. Key religious vocabulary is

explicitly taught, displayed on classroom working walls and revisited in every lesson to support secure understanding and progression.

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### **How is progress in Religious Education assessed?**

Teachers use ongoing formative assessment, including discussion, observation and written work, alongside short quizzes to check pupils' understanding of key knowledge and vocabulary. Prior learning is regularly revisited to ensure retention and progression. This approach enables staff to identify next steps and support all pupils effectively.

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### **How are pupils involved in prayer and worship?**

Prayer and worship are central to school life. Pupils take part in daily class prayer, whole-school worship and class liturgies. Children are also given opportunities to plan and lead prayer and worship, developing confidence, leadership and a sense of ownership of their faith journey.

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### **How do pupils live out their faith in practice?**

Pupils are encouraged to put faith into action through **Catholic Social Teaching**, charitable work and service to others. Groups such as **Little Apostles and Mini Vinnies** support children to become active disciples, leading prayer, planning charitable initiatives and responding to the needs of others.

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### **How does the school work with families and the parish?**

We value strong partnerships with families and our parish. We work closely with parents to support children's faith development through shared prayer, liturgies and sacramental preparation. Initiatives such as the **Prayer Bear** help strengthen the home-school-parish relationship.

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### **Is Religious Education inclusive for all pupils?**

Yes. Religious Education at St Edward's is fully inclusive. All children are supported to access learning in RE at an appropriate level, including pupils with Special Educational Needs. We ensure every child is valued and enabled to experience success, belonging and spiritual growth.