



## RE 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

**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 others less fortunate than ourselves through organising fund raising activities, for example, CAFOD, 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 Governor  
Ms Julie Bullock

“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 and 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. As well as this, promoting the Gospel Values of the Church also underpins everything we do and the ethos of the school.

As a Catholic school, we seek to develop an ethos in our school whereby the spiritual, moral, social and cultural needs of all within our school community are supported. This will be 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 is designed to provide guidance for the delivery of Religious Education teaching in schools. 'To Know You More Clearly' is the name of the new Religious Education Directory, which is to be fully implemented by 2025.

The roll out of the RED across the school for the academic year 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 will be as follows:

<b><u>Class</u></b>	<b><u>2023-2024</u></b>
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

<b><u>Class</u></b>	<b><u>2024-2025</u></b>
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

## **Impact on spiritual development**

As a Catholic community we strive to support the pupils in the development of their spiritual life, so that through reflection, pupils will acquire insights and attribute meaning and purpose to their personal existence. We believe that this begins with a personal experiential encounter with the living Christ and that once experienced this needs to be fostered and developed through:

- a) Personal and community prayer
- b) A sense of God's presence throughout the life of the school
- c) Liturgies where pupils become aware of entering His presence
- d) Hearing His word spoken in Scripture
- e) Experiencing the community of the faithful
- f) Celebration of the Mass
- g) A varied curriculum that creates a sense of awe and wonder
- h) Quiet times of reflection
- i) Opportunities to express personal views and insights while searching for the truth together

### **Impact on moral development**

At the heart of the Church's and the school's moral teaching lies the understanding that we love because we are first loved by God. We are called to reflect God's love for us in our relationships with others and, since His love is unconditional and freely given, we have the freedom to respond to His love, or reflect Him. How we understand and use this gift of freedom is crucial to our moral development – to our becoming fully human.

At St Edward's we believe:

- a) Love is at the heart of the Catholic understanding of morality
- b) Morality touches all parts of the curriculum
- c) Every human action has a negative or positive influence on life
- d) Individuals are created by God to choose what is right or wrong
- e) We, as a Church, hate the sin but love the sinner
- f) Wrongs need to be dealt with but the individual must be treated with respect
- g) Pupils should grow in their understanding of what is right and wrong so as to become fully moral beings

### **Impact on social development**

God did not create us to live in isolation, but to live in social unity. Therefore, it is part of the responsibility of the school to support pupils, and their families, in the formation of good social attitudes. The school community will nurture our pupils to:

- a) Learn about the obligations, constraints and satisfaction that go with membership of a community
- b) Become aware of their own identity as individuals and to take account of the feelings of others
- c) Participate in a supportive way in group and school activities so as to develop co-operative skills that will help us all live together
- d) Learn what it means to be a responsible citizen

### **Impact on cultural development**

Cultural development is the increasing understanding and command of those beliefs, values and customs, knowledge and skills which taken together form the basis of identity and cohesion in society. Cultures will grow and change; features of the past influence and present and will shape its future form. Pupils at St Edward's will;

- a) Be introduced to the values and customs held within our Catholic cultural tradition
- b) Become aware of cultures of the past through historical programmes of study
- c) Respect the values, customs and cultural heritage of people who belong together faiths or ethnic cultures
- d) Have their cultural achievements outside school acknowledged and valued

## **Planning**

It is the responsibility of the Religious Education Lead to ensure that the curriculum topic and objectives are mapped and planned out across all of the year groups from EYFS to Year 6.

Class Teachers are responsible for medium term planning which highlights the key scriptures being studied and the activities that the children will complete in order to develop their understanding of Catholic Life and scripture.

## **Delivery**

The RE curriculum is delivered by the class teacher, who follows the 'Vine and The Branches', 'The Way, The Truth and The Life' programme or the new Religious Education Directory objectives. It is delivered through a variety of teaching methods using a cross curricular approach that encompasses drama, music, art, history and literacy. Two and a half hours are dedicated to the teaching of Religious Education per week.

## **RSE**

Relationships and Sex Education is taught on a termly basis and as a school we follow TenTen. This programme was compiled by the Archdiocese and is taught through a Catholic Lens.

## **The Wider Church and Community Links**

We strive to bring the children in our care to a greater global awareness of the needs of others. We encourage a generous and spontaneous response to appeals, whether it is in the form of prayer or practical help (eg: fundraising, collections, donations etc.) We ensure that this education is embedded throughout the whole school life and curriculum and invite staff and pupils to participate in parish celebrations and events within the community. We also have strong links within the community to help those in need, such as local charities and food banks. We also encourage inter-action with other local schools and have links with our local secondary feeder school, Blessed Carlo Acutis Catholic and Church of England Academy.

## **Special Educational Needs**

As a Catholic school, we are aware that all children are a unique gift from God, each with their own individual talents and needs. Our whole school approach to the teaching of Religious Education is inclusive and we ensure that children with Special Educational Needs are catered for within teaching using an appropriate adapted approach. Pupils are able to work to their different abilities and all children are made to feel that they have achieved.