

Saint Mary's Catholic Primary School



Catholic
Primary School
Congleton
A Voluntary Academy

Religious Education Policy

*Saint Mary's Catholic Primary School is a Christ centred learning community,
where all are safe, valued and loved."*

Policy Schedule	Date	Signed
Ratified by the Governing Body:	September 2024	Executive Head: Martine Gum Chair of Governors: Val Bridge
To be reviewed:	September 2026	

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

*“I am the way and the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me.
If you really know me, you will know my Father as well.”*

John 14: 6-7

Rationale

At the heart of Catholic education lies the Christian vision of the person. This vision is expressed and explored in Religious Education. Therefore, we believe that Religious Education is never simply one subject among many, but the foundation of the entire educational process.

- We believe Religious Education is, then, the core subject in a Catholic school.
- The children come to live and learn their faith, to develop good relationships with other people and to live true Christ centred lives. We at Saint Mary’s Primary School respect and promote each child’s stage of spiritual development.
- Religious Education will be planned, taught, assessed and monitored with the same rigour as other curriculum subjects.
- We understand 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.

‘The outcome of excellent religious education is religiously literate and consciously engaged young people who have the knowledge, understanding, and skills – appropriate to their age and capacity – to reflect spiritually, and think ethically and theologically, and who recognise the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.’¹

Aims

The aims of Religious Education are taken from The Religious Education Directory, ‘To Know You more Clearly’, which has the following objectives:

- to engage in a systematic study of the mystery of God, of the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, the teachings of the Church, the central beliefs that Catholics hold, the basis for them and the relationship between faith and life;
- to enable pupils continually to deepen their religious and theological understanding and be able to communicate this effectively
- to present an authentic vision of the Church’s moral and social teaching to provide pupils with a sure guide for living and the tools to critically engage with contemporary culture and society;
- to give pupils an understanding of the religions and worldviews present in the world today and the skills to engage in respectful and fruitful dialogue with those whose worldviews differ from their own;
- to develop the critical faculties of pupils so to bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture;
- to stimulate pupils’ imagination and provoke a desire for personal meaning as revealed in the truth of the Catholic faith;
- to enable pupils to relate the knowledge gained through religious education to their understanding of other subjects in the curriculum

We also mark the passage of the liturgical seasons and events, including feast days in school and with the community.

¹ The RE Curriculum Directory 2023

Curriculum time allocation

In line with Bishops' Conference recommendations, 10% of curriculum time is allocated to Religious Education.

Programme of Study

The Way, The Truth & The Life' programme will continue to be used as recommended by the Diocese for EYFS, Years 5 and 6.

The Vine and The Branches, a new resource from the Teachers' Enterprise in Religious Education, will be used in Years 1-4 in 2024..

The Programme is divided into Six Branches:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1: Creation and Covenant | 2: Prophecy and Promise |
| 3: Galilee to Jerusalem | 4: Desert to Garden |
| 5: Ends of the Earth | 6: Dialogue and Encounter |

Process

The Religious Education programme will provide a comprehensive and systematic study of the mystery of God and of Jesus Christ, of the Church, and of the central beliefs which Catholics hold. So our children and young people will be enabled to:

- Grow in knowledge of and openness to, the mystery of God.
- Become familiar with the person, life and teachings of Jesus Christ who, as Saviour and Lord, reveals both the face of God and the fullness of what it is to the human.
- Grow in understanding and appreciation of the Sacred Scriptures and their central place in the tradition and teaching of the Catholic faith.
- Grow in experience, knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Church, her life and teachings, her significance in the world today and her concern for peace and justice.
- Prepare for, participate in and appreciate liturgical prayer and worship.
- Develop a moral awareness to understand the real impact of Catholic belief on personal and social behaviour.
- Reflect more and more profoundly upon the human condition, and their own and others' lives in the light of the Christian vision of the human person.
- Develop tolerance and respect for others.

Methodology

A variety of teaching and learning strategies will be used from across the curriculum adapted appropriately to the needs and learning styles of pupils. Creative RE is encouraged through cross-curricular teaching.

Assessment, Monitoring, Recording and Reporting

- Assessment of standards is carried out according to Diocesan guidelines using the criteria in the 'Levels of Attainment in RE in Catholic Schools' agreed by Bishops' Conference.
- In-house moderation meetings are held termly.
- Monitoring of teaching and learning takes place through moderation and book looks and lesson visits.
- Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to parents/carers in a written report at the end of each academic year. Parents are also given a verbal report during Parents' evening.

Sacramental Preparation

In Year 3 our children begin their focused sacramental preparation. Links between the parish, home and school support the children in this Faith journey. Older children are welcome to join the Sacramental programme. Classes are held in school by the RE coordinator, Headteacher and Year 3 teacher to prepare the children for First Forgiveness and Holy Communion.

Displays

Class displays will reflect the current topic being taught in RE. Classroom displays will be updated each term. The school environment will reflect the liturgical calendar and Catholic Ethos of the school.

Other RE policies

Prayer & Liturgy Policy

RSE Policy

SMSC Policy

PSHEE Policy