

RE Policy

Date approved:	October 2022 LAC
Date reviewed:	Advent 2022
Date for next review:	Advent 2025

Mission Statement:

At ST JOSEPH'S WE LOVE, LEARN AND GROW TOGETHER!

LOVE	LEARN	GROW
Love of our faith	Learn about our faith and Jesus	Spiritually
Love of Learning	Achieve our potential	Academically
Love life/the world	Learn from our mistakes	Morally
Love ourselves	Learn who we are / who I am	Confidently
Love others	Learn from others	Socially

“Religious Education in a Catholic school is a comprehensive and systematic study of the mystery of God, of the life and teachings 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; in a manner which encourages investigation and reflection by the pupils, develops the appropriate skills and attitudes and promotes free, informed and full responses to God’s call in everyday life.”

(Religious Education Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools)

Aims of Religious Education

These aims are taken from the Bishops’ Curriculum Directory

- To present engagingly a comprehensive content which is the basis of knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith;
- 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 so that pupils can make a critique of the underlying trends in contemporary culture and society;
- To raise pupils’ awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities in order to respect and understand them;
- To develop the critical faculties of pupils so that they can relate their Catholic faith to daily life; 6. 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;
- To bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture.

“The outcome of excellent Religious Education is religiously literate and 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 are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.”

[From the Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools]

Time Allocation

In line with Bishops' Conference recommendations, 10% of curriculum time is allocated to Religious Education. This does **not** include Collective Worship.

Religious Education Programme

The school follows the 'Come and See' programme, which is used in all key stages. This follows a fixed topic, whole school approach. The whole school explores each religious theme through the same topics at the same time, with links to the liturgical calendar. These topics are incorporated into the whole school curriculum map/cycle. Come and See at Home outlines for parents what the children will be studying and how this can be followed through at home. Both are found under the Catholic Life tab of the school website.

Central to the programme are three basic human questions and three Christian beliefs that are the Church's response in faith.

Where do I come from?	Life -- Creation
Who am I?	Dignity -- Incarnation
Why am I here?	Purpose -- Redemption

The programme is delivered through a three-fold process: Explore, Reveal, Respond:

Explore- Search. An introduction to the topic where the children's life experiences are explored, questions are raised and wondered at, shared, investigated and reflected upon (One Week of Work)

Reveal- Revelation. This is the heart of the programme where knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith is revealed through Scripture, Tradition, doctrine, prayers, rites and Christian living. (Two Weeks of Work)

Respond- Response. This is where the learning is remembered, celebrated and responded to in daily life (One Week of Work)

During the year, 2 weeks is devoted to the teaching of another faith. Teaching material is provided in the Come and See Programme and enhanced with additional resources. Throughout their time at the school, each child will explore a world religion at least twice.

Long Term, Medium Term and Weekly RE Planning

Our whole school approach to the delivery of the scheme identifies the topics relating to each theme. Medium Term Planning is the responsibility of the RE leader who directs teachers to the content and focus of each Theme, and the starting dates for each topic. Teachers are responsible for planning each term's work and devising weekly plans.

Teaching and Learning

We recognise that all classes in our school have children of widely differing abilities, and so we provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child. We achieve this in a variety of ways, for example, by:

- Setting common tasks, which are open-ended and can have a variety of responses.
- Setting tasks of increasing difficulty.
- Grouping children by ability and setting different tasks for each ability group.
- Providing resources of different complexity, adapted to support the work of individuals or groups of children.

Assessment and Record Keeping

Assessment is carried out regularly by the class teacher in a variety of styles; through discussion, questioning, observation, marking written work and providing feedback, testing and achieving targets.

A copy of the RE assessment objectives for each key stage are available to all staff through our monitoring and tracking system, Insight, which is used to record children's' teacher assessments at end of each term. Children are also involved in self-assessment when they evaluate each topic. This self-assessment lends itself strongly to the Remember/Renew section of each topic and is an integral part of the 'Come and See' programme.

Monitoring of RE

Religious Education is the responsibility of the R.E. subject leader and the Headteacher. Their role is to monitor and assess the R.E. curriculum throughout the school to ensure continuity and progression. They also ensure that the aims and learning outcomes in the Curriculum Directory are identified and fulfilled.

The RE subject leader monitors planning, children's books, conducts Learning Walks and observations and holds children's voice monitoring session throughout the year. These takes place in line with the school monitoring cycle and she provides feedback to teachers and governors.

A school governor has specific responsibility for R.E. and liaises closely with the staff of the school to fulfil their monitoring duties.