

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Wallasey



RE Policy

Mission Statement:

"Love one another as I have loved you"

School Values:

Service
Justice
Love

School Vision:

We seek to build a welcoming, caring community of faith, where we love and serve our children to support them to gain all the necessary spiritual, academic, personal and social skills to succeed in our local and global community.

Adopted by Governors: Sep 2026

To be reviewed: Sep 2027

Aims and Objectives of Religious Education

In the life of faith at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Religious Education plays a central and vital part. At the heart of Catholic education lies the Christian vision of the human person. This vision is expressed and explored in Religious Education. Therefore Religious Education is never simply one subject among many, but the foundation of the entire educational process. The beliefs and values studied in Catholic Religious Education inspire and draw together every aspect of the life of a Catholic school.

The aim of Religious Education at St Joseph's encompasses all children from whatever background providing collaborative activities which respect and promotes the child's innate capacity for wonder, awe, reverence, and imagination for the spiritual.

We aim

- To foster a love of God through knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Faith from scripture and doctrine.
- To encourage the development of a personal relationship with God.
- To help children examine their own feelings, views and responses in the light of their understanding.
- To help children to an awareness of who they are - a unique person made in God's image
- To be aware of and respect other faiths.
- To study, investigate and reflect.
- To develop thinking and listening skills.
- To develop respect for truth and for the views of others.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School believes that Christian worship in a Catholic school is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in word and action to God's invitation to enter into a relationship with him, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

Teaching and Learning in R.E.

It is the policy of the school to give 10% of the timetable to the teaching of Religious Education. We view the total curriculum in our school as based on the values of the Gospel and we see all education as revealing the mystery of God.

In accordance with the requirements of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales and the Diocese of Shrewsbury, St Joseph's follows the Religious Education Directory, To Know You More Clearly. The school implements the Directory through the Diocese of Shrewsbury's Vine & Branches curriculum programme. Learning is organised through the six curriculum branches taught across the academic year: Creation and Covenant; Prophecy and Promise; Galilee to Jerusalem; Desert to Garden; To the Ends of the Earth; and Dialogue and Encounter. Through Vine & Branches, pupils progressively develop their religious knowledge and understanding through engagement with Scripture, Catholic belief, liturgy, prayer, Church teaching and lived Catholic faith. Teaching provides opportunities for pupils to hear, believe, celebrate and live the Gospel and to make meaningful connections between their

learning, their own lives and the wider world.

We aim to provide a rich and creative curriculum for Religious Education that engages all children through a range of teaching strategies and approaches. We believe it is

important to understand and recognise the children's own context and provide opportunities for their knowledge and understanding to grow in the light of their experience. We are fully committed to providing opportunities for all children to know, love and serve God, in such a way that will enrich their own lives and help them to understand their Catholic faith traditions, in an ever changing world and within the multicultural society they live in

Teaching and learning in Religious Education at St Joseph's takes into account the needs and abilities of the children ensuring learning opportunities are matched accordingly. Work may be differentiated in terms of activity, teacher support or outcome according to the needs and abilities of the children and the learning outcomes. We aim to develop links across the curriculum so that children are able to make meaningful connections across their learning. Discussion, drama, art and design are incorporated into the teaching of RE in ways that engage children as well as promote deeper and lasting understanding.

In lessons children have opportunities to work individually as well as co-operatively and collaboratively, developing their own knowledge and expertise as well as sharing their experiences with others. All work involves opportunity for reflection and discussion, encouraging the children to develop their moral and spiritual consciences.

Parents and carers are kept well informed about teaching in Religious Education through curriculum information shared each half term, detailing the Vine & Branches learning to be covered, and through school communications. Families are also invited to opportunities throughout the year to share in pupils' Religious Education, prayer and liturgical life.

Assessment in Religious Education

Teachers will make an overall judgement of each child's attainment in Religious Education based on a range of evidence gathered throughout each branch of the Vine & Branches curriculum. Assessment is linked to the expectations of the Religious Education Directory, To Know You More Clearly, and includes children's written work, discussions, observations and contributions during lessons.

Teachers will make termly summative judgements, which will be recorded on Sonar, the school's online assessment system. Assessment information will be reviewed to monitor the progress and attainment of all pupils, including pupil groups such as pupils with SEND and disadvantaged pupils. Moderation meetings will be held to support consistency in judgements and expectations across the school, informed by current diocesan and national guidance for assessment in Religious Education.

Assessment in Religious Education will recognise that children may demonstrate their knowledge and understanding in different ways. Teachers will consider what pupils can communicate orally as well as what they can record independently in writing. Where appropriate, teacher annotations will be used to capture children's responses and discussions about religious ideas.

Progress and achievement in Religious Education will be shared with parents/carers through the end-of-year written report and discussed at parent meetings. Pupils will receive a grade reflecting their knowledge and understanding.

Assessment in EYFS

In EYFS, baseline assessments will be undertaken on entry to identify children's prior knowledge and understanding. This information will be used to inform future planning and teaching.

Children's progress in Foundation 1 and Foundation 2 will be monitored throughout the year and evaluated at the end of each topic. Teachers will continually make informal assessments using a range of strategies, including:

- looking at children's recorded work and providing feedback;
- observing children during activities such as role play and carpet time;
- assessing speaking and listening contributions during lessons;
- making focused observations during prayer, worship and circle time.

Progress and achievement in Religious Education will be reported to parents/carers in a written report at the end of each academic year.

Monitoring of teaching and learning

Monitoring of teaching and learning in Religious Education forms a central part of the School Monitoring and Evaluation cycle. It is undertaken by the RE leadership team and includes lesson observations, scrutiny of pupils' work and teacher planning, and pupil voice. Prayer and liturgy are monitored as part of the school's wider evaluation of Catholic life and mission. Pupil focus groups provide further opportunities for the school to evaluate pupils' enjoyment of, and learning in, Religious Education.

Prayer

Prayer is at the heart of our school life and is a key part of every school celebration. Prayer and liturgy provide opportunities for pupils and staff to encounter God, reflect on Scripture and participate in the prayer life of the Church. Provision is guided by the Prayer and Liturgy Directory, To Love You More Dearly, and is detailed further in the school's Prayer and Liturgy Policy.

Additional prayers in FS, KS 1 & 2 include prayers at the beginning and end of the school day and prayers before and after meals. Each day the Angelus bell is rung at 12.10 and all classes sing or say the Angelus prayer together in their classrooms. Children have the opportunity to use and experience a range of prayer styles. Informal prayer has a very important place in the spiritual life of our children and includes the everyday language of praising, thanking, asking and saying sorry. Informal prayer encourages reflection by all pupils on their everyday life.

Liturgical worship

The seasons of the Church's year are focal points in the life of the school. Through Mass, Celebration of the Word and other forms of prayer and liturgy, we work in partnership with home and parish to nurture the spiritual development of our children. Pupils are given age-appropriate opportunities to participate in, plan and lead prayer and liturgy. Further detail is set out in the school's Prayer and Liturgy Policy, in accordance with To Love You More Dearly.

Ways in which we provide opportunity for different forms of worship:

- School masses.

- Special liturgical services to celebrate feasts of the Church's year
- Class masses
- Family Masses
- Services of Reconciliation during Lent
- Easter Assemblies
- Value and Gospel Assemblies
- Classroom Worship supported by focal areas where the children can reflect and pray. These are set up in each classroom to reflect changing topics.
- Stay and Pray sessions
- Advent and Lenten prayer trails in Church, to allow children to draw nearer to God.

Please refer to Prayer and Liturgy Policy for more detail.

Pupils play an integral part in school and class masses, and parish family masses that take place throughout the year.

Pupils take part in and lead class assemblies and are part of the planning process. They take great joy in sharing these assemblies with the school, parents and governors.

Pupils have many opportunities to plan and lead Celebration of the Word. Pupils take it in turn to work collaboratively to plan, set up and lead the liturgy for class prayer and liturgy. Pupils enjoy participating in and leading these sessions.

Sacramental Preparation

Our school Sacramental programme fully involves school, family and parish working closely together to support children and families in preparing for the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion. This preparation takes place when children reach Year 3 but also provides opportunities for older children to be included.

We believe that the school alone cannot undertake a child's religious education. The parents are the child's first teachers and support the child with his/her first religious experiences. Working alongside parish catechists we provide a programme of meetings for parents to attend with their children to help them prepare for the sacraments. These sessions encourage the involvement of children alongside their parents through reflective and interesting activities and periods of reflection. In addition we provide lunchtime groups to further support children's preparation for the sacraments.

Resources

Resources for RE are kept in the classrooms and the RE resource area and are accessible to all staff. Resources (including artefacts, icons, books etc.) are constantly reviewed and updated and include multi-cultural materials. Artefacts, icons, statues, candles etc. are also displayed throughout around the school. Each class is resourced with Bibles suitable to each age group, artefacts, prayer books, Celebration of the Word resource box, as well as personal resources.

Other Faiths

We aim to develop the children's knowledge and understanding of other religions and worldviews and promote a willingness to listen respectfully to people whose beliefs may be different from their own. Through the Dialogue and Encounter branch of Vine & Branches, pupils learn about and from different religious traditions and worldviews, alongside relevant learning across other curriculum areas, including PSHE. Appropriate opportunities throughout the year deepen children's understanding of the beliefs, traditions and practices of others.

Management of Religious Education

The Religious Education Team is led by Rosy Lyon and Kim Finnigan under the guidance of the Headteacher, Maria Hollis and Acting Deputy Headteacher Katie Walker

APPENDIX 1

Religious Education Coordination Team

The Religious Education Team will be responsible for:

- Promoting, developing and evaluating the Catholic Life of the school.
- Promoting and developing strong links with the school, home and parish Community.
- Promoting and developing links with other Catholic Schools to promote joint working and the sharing and development of good practice in Religious Education.
- Promoting links with other faith schools in the local area to extend opportunities for joint working.
- Self-evaluation of all aspects of Religious Education to identify strengths and areas for development.
- Setting School Improvement Priorities for Religious Education ensuring progress is monitored and evaluated at least termly.
- Reporting to the school Governing Body on Religious Education, Collective Worship and the Catholic Life of the school
- Monitoring and evaluating the provision for Religious Education through lesson observations, planning and work scrutinies and pupil focus groups.
- Developing robust and effective systems for assessing progress and attainment in Religious Education.
- Organising in-house moderation of standards meetings.

- Ensuring the curriculum offered is appropriate, suitable and relevant to pupils' needs and interests.
- Attending appropriate training and keeping up to date with current thinking, policy and developments and feeding back to staff.
- Organising and leading in-house staff training and development.
- Identifying training needs of staff to ensure their suitability to teach effective Religious Education.
- Supporting and advising colleagues in the delivery of Religious Education.
- Liaising with the Headteacher, Governors, parents, the *Office for Education & Schools* on matters relating to Religious Education.
- Auditing, managing and developing resources within a given budget.