



Saint Peter's Catholic Primary School

'Christ at the centre, excellence at the heart'

Mission Statement

To provide a	Catholic Education, embracing world faiths,
Nurturing	Happy and motivated children
Who want to	Reach to achieve high expectations
	In partnership with parents
	Supported by a committed staff and Governing Body
Who help children	To feel self-worth and know success

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Adopted Date: Autumn 2025

Meeting Minutes of LGB

Signed:

(Chair of approving/adopting committee)

Next Review Date: Autumn 2028

Intent

'The core of the core curriculum' Pope John Paul II

Our Religious Education curriculum places RE at the core of the curriculum. We are able to fulfil our mission to deepen and enrich children's knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Faith by educating the whole person which has been created lovingly by God. Religious Education at St. Peter's aims to bring pupils' closer to God, to appreciate the significance of beliefs and practices in their everyday life and to ensure that the Gospel values become a part of themselves.

The life of the school is underpinned by the school's Mission Statement, "Christ at the centre, excellence at the heart." which is celebrated in every classroom and is the basis of spiritual development for our children.

An effective approach to Religious Education in St. Peter's School should:

- ♦ Recognise that we are acting as an instrument of the Catholic Church helping children to **deepen their religious and theological understanding** and communicate this effectively.
- ♦ Engage pupils 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**.
- ♦ **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.
- ♦ 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**.
- ♦ Develop the critical faculties of pupils so that they can **relate their Catholic faith to daily life**;
- ♦ Enable pupils to relate the knowledge gained through Religious Education to their understanding of **other subjects in the curriculum**;
- ♦ Involve a three-way partnership between **home, school and parish** to support each child's unique journey to faith.
- ♦ Be **child centred** and accessible to all children, taking account of their family backgrounds.
- ♦ Take **Christ as our model** and ensuring, as He did, that in practice our daily lives **reflect the Gospel values** for our pupils.
- ♦ Involve adults **living and sharing** their faith experiences with the children.

CURRICULUM AIMS

- ♦ To ensure that Religious Education has a high status in school, in line with other core subjects, and to ensure that it contains the same academic demands and challenges
- ♦ To deliver a broad and balanced curriculum, where RE informs every aspect of the curriculum. Every subject is informed by Religious Education and have a strong relationship with it.

- ◆ To be both interactive and relevant to the child's interests and experiences.
- ◆ To provide opportunities for the children to reflect on, express and evaluate their religious and spiritual experiences.
- ◆ To give understanding of our own and others' cultures in our multi-cultural society
- ◆ To ensure that Religious Education permeates through the life of the school

Curriculum Guidelines

The R.E Curriculum follows the Religious Education Directory 'To Know You More Clearly' and the Diocesan Scheme of work which has been built from this. This programme of study is centred around deepening pupils' spiritual growth by nurturing a rich understanding of Christian beliefs and values. There are opportunities to explore faith with curiosity, reflection and personal engagement.

There are 6 branches which invite the children to learn about Revelation, Scripture, life in Christ and the life of the Church, gaining a deeper knowledge of the Catholic Faith. Each theme is revisited through different topics and across year groups. The sixth branch involves a study of other religions, drawing on the teaching of the Church about intercultural dialogue. Lessons create an immersive environment where children are encouraged to encounter faith in a meaningful way, helping children to foster a lasting relationship with God.

The curriculum takes into account the religious and educational needs of all children:

- ◆ Those from supportive Catholic homes
- ◆ Those for whom the school may be their first and perhaps only experience of Church
- ◆ Those from other Christian traditions
- ◆ Those from other World Faiths

The Catechism of the Catholic Church addresses the search for meaning in life, God's initiative in Revelation who comes to meet us and our response of faith. With Christ at the Centre, pupils are given the opportunity to truly get to know God and become Missionary Disciples.

A minimum of 10% curriculum time is allocated each week to the teaching of Religious Education as stated by the Religious Education Directory and the Nottingham Diocese. This is separate from times of prayer and collective worship which happen in addition to the taught curriculum.

Religious Education and the Catholic Life of the School

The School will have:

- ◆ An area dedicated to prayer and reflection in each classroom.
- ◆ Teachers as role models showing the way in which we deal with one another to be a concrete example of Christ's love at work.
- ◆ Specific explanations of feasts and liturgical services including Holy Days of Obligation.
- ◆ Opportunities for Year 6 pupils to participate in the Chaplaincy Team including: Worship, Charity, Witness, Communication and Service.
- ◆ Opportunities for other year groups to be a part of other faith linked groups e.g. Mini-Vinnies, Eco team, Anti-bullying ambassadors etc

- ♦ Sacramental preparation for Reconciliation and the Eucharist through the Parish. The RE curriculum supports children to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist through the parish in Year 4, and continues to reflect on the Sacraments beyond Year 4.
- ♦ Development of a moral code based on respect for God and each other
- ♦ Participation in class, school and parish endeavours e.g. Church plays, Choir concerts, dancing at Church fetes
- ♦ Participation in festivals, liturgies and masses
- ♦ Visits to school by the clergy of the parish and the school Lay Chaplain.
- ♦ Opportunities for children of the school to join parish organisations: Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Don Bosco, Children's Liturgy Group etc.
- ♦ Celebration of the Word (Assemblies) based on religious themes. Usually this will be linked to the topic being studied in the curriculum, in order to extend every child's knowledge and give deeper appreciation and experience, or with the 'statements to live by', or the previous Sunday's Gospel.
- ♦ Assemblies celebrating the children's achievements.
- ♦ Working for others beyond our immediate circle i.e. the Universal Church through projects such as CAFOD, Save the Children, Children Society, the local Homeless shelters, and other deserving causes.

Assessment

The purpose of assessment, recording and reporting in RE is to ensure reflective learning, to celebrate growth and achievement and enable further progress.

We recognise that assessment, recording and reporting are a natural part of teaching and integral to the learning process. They are continuous processes requiring a close partnership between teachers and pupils, and the involvement of others as appropriate.

We believe that assessment is at the heart of good teaching and that our approach to the assessment recording and reporting of Religious Education will be broad in character and will recognise the innate dignity and worth of each individual.

Assessment is used to help inform future planning. Teachers use ongoing assessment and reflections at the end of each 'Branch' to make a judgement on a pupils understanding.

Assessment can be made via strategies such as:

- Pupils' recorded work and marking
- Feedback forms completed for each lesson
- Class Teacher observations of children during role play, carpet time etc
- Pupils' own speaking and listening contributions
- Questioning

No formal assessment framework has been currently developed by the Diocese. Teachers will ensure that judgements for termly data inputs is made up of teacher judgement whilst referring to the expected end of age-phase outcomes for each branch.

Termly moderation meetings within school and analysis of the data by the RE Co-ordinator will ensure that assessment is consistent. Data also informs pupil progress discussions each term. Moderation at Trust and Diocesan level ensures standards are maintained.

Monitoring

The Headteacher, RE co-ordinator and RE governor monitor RE in school through:

- learning walks including class drop ins,
- pupil interviews,
- Book scrutinies
- Collective Worship evaluation books for both class and whole school collective worship.

The Chaplaincy Team's Witness Group are also involved in monitoring of RE and Collective Worship around the school.

Other aspects of RE in a Catholic School are monitored through the LGB's policies on Collective Worship and SMSC (Social Moral Spiritual and Cultural), parents' questionnaires, staff discussions with children and links with the community.