St John Evangelist Catholic Primary School

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Mission Statement: To love, to learn with God in our hearts

Policy revised: September 2026 Review Date: September 2027

To love, to learn with God in our hearts

Rationale of Religious Education.

- Religious Education is central to the educative mission of the Church.
  'At the heart of Catholic education lies the Christian vision of the human person. This vision is expressed and explored in Religious Education.'[1]
- In a Catholic school, at the core of the core, is Religious Education, for the sake of which Catholic schools exist in the first place.[2]

The Aims of Religious Education

- 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[3]

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[1] Religious Education in Catholic Schools, Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, 2000, para 4

[2] Religious Education Directory 2023, p13

[3] Religious Education Directory 2022 p6

Outcome of Religious Education

The outcome of 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.[4]

Religious Education at the heart of the curriculum

- Religious education is the core of the core curriculum and is to be the source and summit of the whole curriculum.
- Religious education is an academic discipline with the same systematic demands and rigour as other disciplines.
- Religious education is to be delivered within a broad and balanced curriculum, where it informs every aspect of the curriculum. Every other subject is to be informed by religious education and have a strong relationship with it.
- In each year of compulsory schooling, religious education is to be taught for at least 10% curriculum time within each repeating cycle of the regular school timetable.
- In each year of sixth form schooling, religious education is to be taught for at least 5% curriculum time within each repeating cycle of the regular school timetable.

Programme of Study:

As a Catholic school St John Evangelist is required to comply with the Religious Education Directory (2023). The RED 2023 provides a model curriculum which we follow in and attend diocesan training to ensure teachers and REC is supported to plan the curriculum effectively.

Curriculum Structure

The model curriculum has six components known as branches which map helpfully onto the six half-terms of the school year. Five of these have a core theme which invites pupils to learn about an aspect of Revelation, Scripture, life in Christ, and life in the Church, and to discern what their learning means academically and experientially enabling them to see, judge, and act through a deeper knowledge of the Christian faith. The Encounter & Dialogue branch involves the study of other religions, encountering other pathways of belief drawing on the teaching of the Church about intercultural dialogue.

Detail of the curriculum can be found here: Religious Education Directory 2023

Assessment, Monitoring, Recording and Reporting

- Assessment of standards is carried out against Expected Outcomes in RED 2023.
- Assessment moderation takes place in school amongst colleagues, with schools in Islington at deanery meetings and at diocesan meetings.

[4] Religious Education Directory 2023, p6

- Monitoring of teaching and learning in Religious Education takes place in line with our school policy.
- Progress and achievement is recorded and tracked in line with our school policy
- Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to Governors at least termly in line with other core subjects.
- Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to parents/carers each year in line with other core subjects.

Home/School/Parish Communication

The vital partnership of home, school and parish provides the context for the life long process of religious formation. “The first and primary educators of children are their parents” (Religious Dimension of Education in a Catholic School p.24) Our school co-operates by bringing its own distinctive contribution to this parental privilege and responsibility. We aim to work in partnership with them and seek ways of involving parents in the religious life of their children. The school has close links with the parish. Children take part in liturgies and involve themselves in events organised by the parish e.g. Christmas nativity services, an annual food harvest appeal and a Christmas present collection for the homeless of the parish. Parents and guardians are invited to all school masses. The Headteacher places dates of weekday and Sunday masses on the school newsletter for parents. Parent Consultations allow parents an opportunity to discuss their child’s RE work and their spiritual and moral development. The school supports the First Holy Communion programme in the parish. Fr. Rajiv Michael work with children preparing for their Communion. This involves regular involvement with liturgical celebrations.

Other Faiths

At St John Evangelist, we teach other religions in Summer 2 as part of Unit 6 – Dialogue and encounter. We recognise the importance of respectful communication between Catholicism and other faiths or beliefs. Children study other Christian denominations, Judaism, Islam and Dharmic religions like Hinduism and Buddhism. See overview to see which year groups study which religion.

Leadership of the subject:

Katie Daniels, the RE Lead has responsibility for leading, managing and supporting the delivery of Religious Education and the continuous professional development of teachers in Religious Education

Daniel Beazer & Sara Caselunghe is the link governor with responsibility for Religious Education.

Policy Review:

This policy will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed by REC & head teacher and updated yearly. This is shared with governors.