Our Lady and St Edward's Catholic Primary School
RE Policy

Mission Statement

We are inspired by the teachings of Jesus Christ who is at the heart of all that we do.

Working in unity with our families, parish and community, we encourage and support the children to grow in faith and reach their full potential in a happy, caring and loving environment.

Introduction

"The main reason we have our own schools and colleges is so that the younger members of the Church can have the opportunity to learn about the faith of the Church, as part of a full education, within a Catholic environment."

Joint Pastoral Letter from the Bishops' of England & Wales, 27th Jan. 1991

The whole curriculum is religious

"The Curriculum, in all its aspects, must reflect the fact that Christ is the foundation of the whole educational enterprise in a Catholic School" (The Catholic School, Section 33, Rome 1977). Although the Education Reform Act speaks in terms of the 'secular' and 'religious' curriculum, as though these were separate and distinct, in reality "the curriculum as a whole, and every part of it, is religious, since there is nothing which does not ultimately relate to God."

Catechesis

The Church has stressed that parents are the first and best teachers of their children and that, without the active involvement of parents, the task is extremely difficult. What both parents and the wider local Church community can ideally offer the child is the process of nourishment by which faith is encouraged and developed, made deeper and more personal. This process the Church calls catechesis.

Evangelisation

Before catechesis proper can develop, the Christian faith must in some way begin to impinge on a person's life. The process by which our hearts are touched and turned to God by the power of the Holy Spirit is evangelisation. Most often it works through the example and guidance of others. For the Church, evangelisation is the process by which the Good news of

the Gospel is communicated to us. Evangelisation does not just engage with us as individuals but with the culture to which we belong. In the context of the Catholic School, the Church seeks to ensure that the Gospel is proclaimed and challenges the values of secularism and materialism which increasingly permeate our culture.

The call to evangelise requires those responsible for our school to witness to the Gospel so that, "they radiate in a simple and unaffected way their faith in values that go beyond current values .... Through this wordless witness these Christians stir up irresistible questions in the hearts of those who see how they live; Why are they like this? Why do they live in this way? What or who is it that inspires them? Why are they in our midst ? (Pope Paul VI, Evangelisation in the Modern World, 1975, Section 21).

Evangelisation, however, requires not just 'silent witness' but active and articulate explanation. In a Catholic school, such explanation takes place especially through the overlapping processes of Catechesis and Religious Education.

The Aims of Religious Education

- To promote knowledge and understanding of our Catholic Tradition and the different dimensions of that tradition.
- To help pupils become aware of and appreciate the religious dimension of life which leads to a knowledge and understanding of the beliefs and practices of religious traditions.
- To encourage pupils to examine their own religious attitudes, to reflect upon belief and practice and to respect the beliefs of others.

In the words of the *Religious Education Directory*, the outcome of Catholic RE is "religiously literate young people who have the knowledge and understanding and skills - appropriate to their age and capacity - to think spiritually, ethically and theologically and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life".

Withdrawal from Religious Education

The 1944 Education Act established the right of parents to ask that a pupil should be wholly or partly withdrawn from Religious Education and this continues today.

In the context of a Catholic School, it is very rare that a parent would wish to exercise this right. However, should they wish to do so, the school must comply. Given the central importance of R.E. in a Catholic School, it is in the interest of the school to ensure that parents or prospective parents of the school are made aware that R.E. in the broad sense can never be confined to 'timetabled slots' and that religious education may take place at any time, in a variety of circumstances, as is appropriate in the context of a church school.

Curriculum Organisation

Our RE Curriculum is informed by the Religious Education Directory 'To Know You more clearly'. It is a spiral curriculum where teaching and learning visit the same themes each year. We predominantly use Magister (a Diocesan approved scheme) however, staff are free to supplement this with other resources such as CAFOD and Mission Together. The main

scheme mirrors the liturgical year and follows the Church's cycle so that pupils are in tune with the Gospels/readings.

The timetable is organised for each year group so that RE occupies ten *per cent* of the curriculum time, which amounts to approximately two hours per week in KS1 and two and a half hours in KS2. This is scheduled in several sessions but includes at least one longer session of between 40 minutes and an hour. This session allows for consolidating children's learning through recording. The form of this should be varied to include drawing, art work, different narrative forms, posters, diagrams, drama, music and singing.

Throughout the year we have planned opportunities to work as a school to focus on themed studies. The themes are structured to respond to events in the liturgical year, Diocesan, National or International concerns.

During each term, each class organises a liturgical assembly to share work with parents and the rest of the school. It is an opportunity to consolidate learning as well as to reflect and to celebrate in prayer.

Other faiths are taught through the dialogue and encounter branch. The main faiths taught are Islam and Judaism.

Pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEND)

In line with our other school policies, we recognise that all children have needs. We continuously strive to ensure that we challenge all children to reach their true potential and develop their spirituality no matter what their educational need is. Teachers know their children and strive to move their learning on. Children who are on the Special Educational Needs (SEND) register will be working in line with their Individual Education Plan (IEP).

Assessment

Each term children's work is assessed against expected outcomes organised in year group standards. The assessment activity is generally completed as an integral part of the topic, rather than as a formal assessment-work produced throughout the unit of learning. The outcome of assessments is used to inform future planning.

Twice a year the assessments of a group of pupils from across the ability range in each year group are moderated by Key Stage staff. A selection of assessed work is taken to the Annual Diocesan Moderation Meeting for verification.

At the end of each year a final teacher assessment, based on assessment activities over the year, is recorded alongside other Core Subjects. In this way progress is tracked through the school, also enabling comparisons with performance in other Core Subjects.

A written report on progress in RE is given to the Governors Ethos, Curriculum and Standards each term.

Display
Each classroom has a designated RE display reflecting the thematic units studied for each term. Work is also displayed in the hall so that it can be celebrated as a school.

Resources
In addition to "Magister" teaching materials, each class has access to appropriate Bible texts, reference books, artefacts and web-sites. These are updated continuously. A list is appended.

Planning
Teachers are required to plan in half term blocks, based on the appropriate unit in the scheme of work and produce weekly lesson plans. These plans follow the same format as those for other subjects, including learning objectives and an outline of the work to be covered in each week.

Reviewed July 2026
K Woods

RE Resources

Books to supplement/complement our RE Scheme

Rec	My First Bible
Rec/Y1/Y2 –	Set of Bible Story Cards
Y2	God's Story – 1 copy
Y3/4	Children's Picture Bible – 12 copies (stored in KS2 Library)
Y3/4	God's Story 3 – 17 copies (stored in KS2 Library)
Y5/6	Experience Jesus Today - 15 copies (stored in KS2 Library)
Y3-6	Good News Bibles (hard back) – 36 copies (stored in KS2 Library)

Prayer resources
Nite-nite Jesus
My First Book of Prayers
Prayer is for Me

Story Book Examples
Every Child a Song
God's Very Good Idea
Be Kind
Woke-A Young Poets Call to Justice
Kind
Grandpa Christmas
Dear Earth
Knowing God
You are Special

12 Friends
Someone Very Special
Jesus Would You Like to Know
God is for Me
God's Quiet Things
The Song of Francis and the Animals

Craft Books
Bible Bookmarks and Cards
Bible Story Bags
Bible Models and Mobiles

Our KS2 Library has a section with reference books and story books to support learning about all faiths.
Useful website for bible stories: www.bibleforchildren.org