



Sacred Heart School

RE Policy

At Sacred Heart School we all aspire to provide a happy, safe and secure environment in which every child is encouraged to achieve their full potential.

This policy is applicable to all pupils, including those in EYFS.

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Approved by:	The Senior Leadership Team and by Julie Gabriel on behalf of the Governing Body.
Last reviewed on:	September 2025
Review date:	September 2026
Review Cycle:	Annually

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Sacred Heart School aspires to provide an environment in which every child can achieve their potential, in a community which is inclusive, based on Christ's teachings and shared Gospel values ...

We acknowledge the unique gifts of each child and instil a strong sense of self-worth by celebrating personal achievements and strengths. Leading by example, we teach children to respect themselves and each other as part of God's wonderful creation.

We offer a balanced, broad curriculum that promotes the spiritual, moral, emotional and physical development of each child.

We engage in partnership with parents and parish for the good of every member of the community.

Aims

To instruct, engage and inspire.

We believe that Religious Education (RE) is not one subject amongst many, but the foundation of the entire education process. The beliefs and values it communicates should inspire and unify every aspect of school life. At Sacred Heart School, we dedicate 10% of curriculum time to RE. All pupils have the right to an education that enables them, in the light of the faith of the Church, to engage with the deepest questions of life and find reasons for the hope which is within them (1 Peter 3:15). We recognise that our children come to us with differing backgrounds and experiences. We should therefore, be sensitive to each child's life experiences and value each child's contribution to school life. Our teaching of Religious Education will reflect this.

In accordance with the Religious Education Directory (RED, 2023) "To Know You More Clearly", our RE curriculum is structured around six fundamental Branches: Creation and Covenant, Prophecy and Promise, Galilee to Jerusalem, Desert to Garden, To the Ends of the Earth and Dialogue and Encounter. These Branches invite pupils to come to know God's self-revelation in Christ through Scripture and Tradition and to explore how this revelation shapes their lives today.

Through the Catholic life of the school, our teaching and acts of prayer and worship, we aim to form children as religiously literate young people who have the knowledge, understanding, and skills to think spiritually, ethically, and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.

We aim to inspire in the children moments of awe and wonder, to find the ability to be still and experience moments of quiet reflection.

Through the teaching of RE we aim to plant the seeds of lifelong spirituality, for a life rooted in Gospel values.

We aim to offer a climate where Christ can reveal himself to each and every one of us.

Equal opportunities and Inclusion

A central message of the Catholic faith is that, although we are all different, God loves each one of us equally, regardless of background, gender or ability. At Sacred Heart School, all children are valued and entitled to experiences that enable them to fulfil their God-given potential. We ensure equal access to the curriculum and that no child is disadvantaged by ability, class, gender, race, age, background or faith. We are committed to reducing barriers to learning for all pupils, including those with additional needs, ensuring that each child is seen as a unique and loved creation of God.

Strategies

Religious Education permeates the whole life of the school. It is visible not only in lessons but in liturgies, assemblies (which include the Maundy Thursday Liturgical Dance, Stations of the Cross, Nativities and Carol Service), Masses and charitable action. It is also visible in the interactions with staff and each other.

We follow the “To Know you More Clearly” ‘Religious Education Directory (3-19) and use the Day-by-Day resources as recommended by the Bishop. In the Foundation Stage, RE is delivered through key areas of learning such as Personal, social and emotional development, Communication, language and literacy, Knowledge and understanding of the world, Creative development, and through Continuous Provision.

Our programme for prayer and liturgy is linked to the liturgical calendar and provides opportunities to make connections with RE learning objectives. Pupils also study other world faiths and traditions in each year group, fostering respect, tolerance and dialogue in accordance with Catholic Social Teaching.

Recording and Reporting

Oral work, involving instruction and exploration of themes through questioning, discussion, role-play and drama will form an important part of lessons for each year group.

Pupils are given opportunities to write in different styles and voices and encouraged to achieve high standards in the presentation of their work.

Lesson headers are used from Y1 upwards to record learning objectives and associated tasks. Each class compiles a class book which celebrates learning and experiences, linking the strands of RE, Catholic Life and Prayer and Worship.

Parents receive a written report at the end of the Autumn and Summer terms and parent consultations are offered during the Autumn, Spring and Summer terms.

The Role of the RE Coordinator

The RE Coordinator is responsible for the monitoring of RE throughout the school. Responsibilities include oversight of planning, assessment, teaching and learning, children's work, pupil voice, focal areas, display and resources. The coordinator works closely with Governors on the sub-committees for the Catholic Life of the school and the Curriculum and Ethos and with the diocesan advisors to ensure high standards and consistency with diocesan guidance.

The RE Coordinator should:

- Have a deep interest in religious and moral education.
- Demonstrate expertise in Catholic theology and other world religions.
- Support colleagues with subject knowledge and planning.
- Coordinate and review the RE curriculum in line with diocesan expectations.
- Attend diocesan training and lead in-service sessions.
- Build and maintain high-quality resources for classroom use.
- Oversee displays and ensure they reflect the liturgical year.
- Organise and lead Celebration of the Word Assemblies, Liturgies and Mass timetables.

Assessment

In line with the RED (2023), assessment focuses on pupils' growing knowledge, understanding, and application of key theological concepts across the six Branches. Teachers assess children's oral and written work against the Expected Outcomes for each Branch, using a balance of formative and summative strategies. Teacher judgements are supported by pupil discussions and moderation within school, Deanery and Diocese.

Attainment is tracked using the school's RE assessment system, which monitors progress over time and informs planning. Evidence of learning includes written work, pupil voice, displays and photographic records.

Display

Displays in classrooms and communal areas reflect the liturgical season and current RE topics. They include key vocabulary, scripture, prayers and artwork that encourage reflection. Displays are used as teaching tools, to celebrate pupils' engagement with the faith and to foster enlightenment and stimulation.

Resources

RED Day-by-Day resources

Children's Bibles and prayer books

"Worldly Play" and small world play resources

Religious statues/pictures/icons and images

Picture books/story books, videos and music

Big books and floor books, pupil books

Artefacts relating to other faiths (stored centrally in the Resources room).