



**ST ANNE'S CATHOLIC  
PRIMARY SCHOOL**



Archdiocese of Liverpool  
Education Department

# **New Religious Education Subject Leader Handbook 2025-2026**

## Subject Leader's prayer and liturgy

"Always set a good example for others.  
Be sincere and serious when you teach."  
Titus 2:7

### We gather together...

What image does that word 'servant' conjure up in your mind? Is it one of a person from a bygone era who purely by accident of birth has no other option in life than to wait on someone else hand and foot. Seen but not heard for little or no thanks. Or do you have an image of a person who willingly and humbly gives of themselves for others?



### We listen to God's Word...

Jesus rose from the table, took off his outer garment, and tied a towel around his waist. Then he poured some water into a washbasin and began to wash the disciples' feet and dry them with the towel around his waist.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Are you going to wash my feet, Lord?" Jesus answered him, "You do not understand now what I am doing, but you will understand later." Peter declared, "Never at any time will you wash my feet!"

"If I do not wash your feet," Jesus answered, "you will no longer be my disciple." Simon Peter answered, "Lord, do not wash only my feet, then! Wash my hands and head, too!"

After Jesus had washed their feet, he put his outer garment back on and returned to his place at the table.

"Do you understand what I have just done to you?" he asked. "You call me Teacher and Lord, and it is right that you do so, because that is what I am. I, your Lord and Teacher, have just washed your feet. You, then, should wash one another's feet. I have set an example for you, so that you will do just what I have done for you.

John 13: 4-15

### We make a personal response to God's Word...

How can I best serve my school community, share the Good News  
and follow the example of Christ?

In my new role, how can I enable others to have life to the full?

### Spring Reflection

Whose feet have I washed this week?  
How has my service to others bore fruit?

### Summer Reflection

Have I been an example to others?  
Where have I made a difference?

Loving Father,  
You have entrusted me with a vocation that will impact on the spiritual development of so many  
precious lives.  
Grant that I may be faithful to you and to those who I serve by handing on your truth.  
Inspire within me the strength, courage and wisdom to lead and to challenge for the good of all.  
Fill me with your Spirit so that I may be creative in my approach so that everyone may hear your  
Word and live out our mission here in our school.

*Amen*



### We go forth with the mission from God's Word...

The Mission of the Church which "goes forth" is a community of missionary servant disciples who take the first step, who are involved and supportive, who bear fruit and rejoice.

It gets involved by Word and deed in people's lives. It is supportive, standing by people at every step of the way, no matter how difficult or lengthy this may prove to be. It is patient and enduring and is filled with great joy; it knows how to rejoice always in the Lord. It celebrates every small victory confident in its outpouring of total self-giving.

Go forth with confidence then because we know the Lord has taken the initiative - He loved us first.

“To wash your feet, this is a symbol, a sign that I am at your service.

But it also means that we have to help each other.

This sign is a caress from Jesus, because Jesus came exactly for this, to serve and to help us.”

Pope Francis

## Specific responsibilities for Religious Education

- Know, and live the school’s mission daily. Contribute to and remind senior leaders of reviews and revisits to ensure it is current for the needs of the whole school community **at this time** in the life of the school.
- To have an **up-to-date knowledge** of your own **vision** (contained within the **mission** of the school) and **enthusiasm** for the subject.
- To lead the staff by **good example and practice**.
- **In consultation with Senior Management to ensure that the Mission Statement** and policies related to Religious Education Collective Worship, Spiritual and Moral Development, Sacramental Preparation, PSHE / Citizenship, RSHE and Pastoral Care are implemented, reviewed and dated at regular intervals. **All school policies** should reflect the school’s mission and be Catholic in consideration of Gospel values – e.g. Behaviour Policy – Reconciliation.
- Work closely with the RSHE/PSHE lead to ensure that all elements of **RSHE are compliant with Catholic Church teaching**.
- To be responsible to the Senior Management and colleagues for the **monitoring** and evaluation of timetables, teaching, learning, assessment and planning of Religious Education. This will involve scrutiny of planning, assessments and children’s work and observation of teaching and learning and display and prayers spaces around the school.
- To **manage resources** and facilities for Religious Education and ensure resources are up to date.
- To liaise with the Archdiocesan **Education Team** particularly through attendance at the Co-Ordinator’s’ meetings, and to **keep Senior Management and colleagues informed** of current standards and developments within Religious Education. Share any updates with all members of the school community including governors and your parish priest.

- To organise **regular school based in-service** activities and lead *To know You more clearly* sessions as appropriate.
- To **advise and support individual colleagues** and to induct new members of staff as required on the Religious Education programme, process and teaching methods and to promote CCRS. This will include keeping the Religious Education Handbook up to date.
- To set up and maintain a **portfolio of samples of work and assessments** (this may be electronically, QR Codes) in order to monitor standards, progression and continuity. This should reflect the appropriate Religious Education Standards.
- In **consultation with Senior Management to communicate with parents, governors and the parish community** regarding issues associated with Religious Education.
- To **liaise with other primary** and secondary colleagues across the Key Stages in matters concerning Religious Education and Catholic Life.
- **Be part of a cluster of local Catholic primary schools** in your area to hold regular meetings, pray together and set their own agenda reflective of the needs of the local group of schools. Send one representative of your cluster group to the main Education RE Cluster each term.
- Working with the Senior Management and colleagues, to **complete the annual School Evaluation Document** and undertake a regular audit/review of Religious Education in line with the school development plan.
- To ensure the **effective planning and delivery of Collective Worship** throughout the school that complies with Archdiocesan guidelines.

# Religious Education Handbook & Policy Guide

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### 1. The Mission Statement

#### "Loving God in All We Do"

St. Anne's is a Catholic Primary School in Ormskirk, serving the parishes of St. Mary's, Aughton and St. Anne's, Ormskirk. We work in partnership with parishes and parents to provide the best possible education for our young people aged between 3 and 11, building on the foundations laid in Pre – School and local nurseries and preparing for their future development at the Catholic High School (or other Secondary School establishments.) We believe that the ethos of the school must in all its spiritual, moral and cultural aspects reflect the teachings of Christ in the Gospels, in accordance with the rites, practices and teachings of the Catholic Church.

#### **Aim:**

Our aim is to provide a high quality Christian Education based upon the teachings of Christ in the gospels, recognising the uniqueness of each member of our school, enabling every one of them to develop his or her gifts and talents to the full. In order to achieve this, we will work in partnership with parents, carers, the parish and the wider community.

#### **Objectives:**

- Promote a welcoming, happy, lively and caring environment within which each individual can develop his or her own physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual potential to the full.
- Nurture and develop the special nature of our Catholic school.
- Foster a caring partnership between home and school.
- Develop each person as a unique individual, and to respect the dignity of each individual irrespective of circumstance, gender, race or creed.
- Provide opportunities for each individual to develop his/ her talents to their fullest potential, ensuring that success and achievement are promoted and all our children are supported to work hard and set high standards for themselves.
- Develop and maintain an active partnership with the parish, the home, the school governors, as well as offering support to organisations and groups in the wider community at large.

### 2. The Aims of Religious Education

The aims of Religious Education in St. Anne's Catholic Primary School:

- To present engagingly a comprehensive content which is the basis of knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith
- 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 so that pupils can make a critique of the underlying trends in contemporary culture and society;

- To raise pupils' awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities in order to respect and understand them;
- To develop the critical faculties of pupils so that they can relate their Catholic faith to daily life;
- 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;
- To bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture. (Religious Education Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools 2012)

### 3. Objectives

The objectives of Religious Education in St. Anne's Catholic Primary School:

- to develop knowledge and understanding of the mystery of God and of Jesus Christ, of the Church, and of the central beliefs which Catholics hold;
- to develop awareness and appreciation of Catholic belief, understanding of its impact on personal and social behaviour and of the vital relationship between faith and life, life and faith;
- to encourage study, investigation and reflection by the pupils;
- to develop appropriate skills: for example, ability to listen; to think critically, spiritually, ethically and theologically;
- to acquire knowledge and organise it effectively;
- to make informed judgements;
- to foster appropriate attitudes: for example, respect for truth; respect for the views of others; awareness of the spiritual, of moral responsibility, of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life and especially the challenge of living in a multicultural, multi-faith society.

### 4. The Religious Education Programme

To fulfil our aims and objectives we use the *Come and See* programme (Year 5-6) and *To Know You More Clearly* (Nursery- Year 4) of Religious Education recommended by the Archdiocese of Liverpool.

#### Overview of content

The model curriculum has six components that will be known as branches.

Each one has a core theme and 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.

#### Branch 1 Creation and covenant: 'The heavens are telling the glory of God' (Ps 19:1)

- In this branch, pupils will encounter the God who creates and calls a people.
- They will explore revelation of the Christian belief that all that is comes from God, the Creation accounts in Genesis, and scientific explanations of the process of Creation.
- They will explore the call of God and his covenantal relationship with his people first through Abraham and Moses, then through the narrative of the Old Testament.

**Branch 2 Prophecy and promise: ‘In many and various ways, God spoke to our ancestors by the prophets’ (Heb 1:1)**

- In this branch, pupils will learn that the prophets speak of God reaching to his people, calling them back into a relationship with him.
- In this branch, pupils will explore the Christian understanding of the teaching of the prophets as they point to the fulfilment of God’s promise in a messiah, Jesus Christ.
- They will explore the expectant waiting for the Messiah through the Advent season and how this speaks to Christians today as they wait for Christ.
- Pupils will encounter the story of the nativity of Jesus and the mystery of the incarnation.

**Branch 3 Galilee to Jerusalem: ‘God’s only Son, who is at the Father’s side, has made him known’ (Jn 1:18)**

- In this branch, pupils will experience the ministry of Jesus, the Word of God.
- They will learn about the life of Jesus and his revelation of the Kingdom of God through parables, encounters, miracles, and teachings.
- They will learn about the call of the disciples and the nature of being a follower of Jesus.

**Branch 4 Desert to garden: ‘Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day’ (1 Cor 15:3)**

- In this branch, pupils will study the season of Lent and its culmination in the events of Holy Week.
- They will learn about the Paschal Triduum at the heart of the Catholic Church’s Liturgy and life.
- The title of this branch points both to the liturgical journey from the desert of Lent to the garden of Resurrection, but also to the Paschal journey from darkness to light, barrenness to fruitfulness, death to life.

**Branch 5 To the ends of the Earth: ‘Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit’ (Mt 28:19)**

- In this branch, pupils will study the events that flowed from the Resurrection and Ascension in the coming of the Holy Spirit and the work of the apostles and early Church.
- They will also learn about the Catholic Church today as the apostolic Church and how its liturgy and structures flow from the early Church.

**Branch 6 Dialogue and encounter: ‘For “In him we live and move and have our being”’ (Acts 17:28)**

- In this branch, pupils will learn how Christians work together with people of different religious convictions and all people of goodwill towards the common good, respecting the dignity of all humanity.



- They will also encounter other pathways of belief drawing on the teaching of the Church about intercultural dialogue.

## 5. The Approach Chosen

**Knowledge Lenses** – set out the object of study for pupils, they indicate what should be known by the end of each age phase:

The study of the Catholic Religion

- Hear
- Believe
- Celebrate
- Live

The study of other Religions and Worldviews

- Dialogue
- Encounter

**The Sacraments** – these are taught within and across branches. Pupils encounter scripture and what the Church teaches about scripture and what this means for a life lived in Christ as part of the Catholic faith.

The approach taken should encompass a variety of teaching and learning styles, which enable the needs of individual pupils to be met through a broad and balanced, cross-curricular, creative lessons.

**Ways of Knowing** – set out the skills that pupils should be developing as they progress through their curriculum journey. The **three** ways of knowing are: understand, discern, and respond.

## Planning

The Planning of Religious Education at St Anne's follows recommendations from Liverpool Archdiocese.

Time Allocation Curriculum

In each class 10% of teaching time is specifically for Religious Education. Prayer and Liturgy and Assemblies are in addition to this throughout the week.

Long Term Planning

The themes and topics framework/ branches set out the programme for the year.

Medium and Short Term Planning

All members of staff use the Archdiocesan suggested planning format for their Come and See planning and the schools new RED planning template for To Know You More Clearly.

Differentiation

Staff provide differentiated opportunities and support for all children in their classes. The use of driver words in planning, and differentiated tasks has been developed.

SEND

**Please see the document 'Religious Education Curriculum Guidance for pupils with SEND with an EHC Plan'**

## 6. Expected Outcomes (Assessment)

Assessment is focused by the overall aims and objectives of Religious Education 'Come and See' / 'To Know You More Clearly' and 'The Religious Education Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools and Colleges' (P65-66)

Assessment is related to the concepts, skills and attitudes to be developed through the exploration of the themes/branches and the learning outcomes for each topic/branch. Assessment establishes what pupils know, understand and can do. It does not assess spirituality or the practice of faith.

Assessment emphasises a wide range of achievement.

In our school it involves:

Informal Assessment – The children are assessed during whole class and group activities, Prayer and Liturgy and meditation by the comments that they make and contributions to discussions. Marking reflects the Learning Objectives and uses driver words where possible.

Formal Assessment – St Anne's follows the guidelines provided by Liverpool Archdiocese for the Assessment, Recording and Reporting of Religious Education. For 'Come and See', formal assessment activities take place once per term and teachers level this piece of work according to standard indicators completing the Context sheet for each level and itrack for every child. For 'To Know You More Clearly' teachers assess children at the end of each branch on itrack. Following moderation, the outcomes are added to a class tracker that identifies each individual's progress over time.

## 7. Tracking Data

Religious Education evidence is recorded in the form of RE Books in Key Stage 1 and 2 and online floor books for EYFS. Supporting photographic and video evidence is also encouraged. All activities have a lesson objective and this is given in the form of a LO at the beginning of the lesson. Comments in marking reflect upon the achievement of this lesson objective and next steps are given when possible to help with progression towards it. We have a high expectation of presentation in all subject areas.

## 8. Reporting

Our reporting is in line with Liverpool Archdiocese recommendations, that Religious Education is reported first in the children's termly and end of year report.

## 9. Evaluation of Teaching

Monitoring and Evaluation contribute greatly to the development of Religious Education at St. Anne's. We have a yearly planner that indicates when areas are to be assessed and monitored. Evidence is subsequently gathered, analysed and acted upon.

#### **10. Evaluation of Learning**

Children take part in planning a celebration for each topic/branch by evaluating their learning. Children are continually encouraged to evaluate their own thinking and learning through the targeted questions asked by teachers.