



ST MARY'S

CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Understanding the New Religious Education Directory

HEAR • BELIEVE • CELEBRATE • LIVE

"Together we flourish"

At St Mary's, Religious Education helps children encounter Jesus, deepen their knowledge of the Catholic faith, celebrate through prayer and liturgy, and put faith into action in everyday life.

What is the RED?

The Religious Education Directory (RED) provides the framework for Catholic Religious Education. At St Mary's, it shapes a coherent journey from Nursery and Reception through to Year 6, so that children revisit key ideas with increasing depth.

The six branches of learning

1. Creation & Covenant	God as Creator; covenant, dignity, stewardship and our responsibility for creation.
2. Prophecy & Promise	God's promises, the prophets, Advent and the coming of Jesus.
3. Galilee to Jerusalem	Jesus' identity, ministry, teaching, miracles and call to discipleship.
4. Desert to Garden	Lent, Holy Week, the Passion, death and Resurrection of Jesus.
5. To the Ends of the Earth	The Risen Christ, Ascension, Pentecost, the Holy Spirit and the mission of the Church.
6. Dialogue & Encounter	Christian unity, other faiths and worldviews, and respectful dialogue with the wider world.

What will this look like at St Mary's?

Children will meet Scripture, Catholic belief, prayer and liturgy, and lived faith in a connected way. Learning will include discussion, reflection, art, music, prayer, visits, links with parish life, Catholic Social Teaching and opportunities to respond through action.

Four ways children encounter faith

Across the RED, learning is brought together through four complementary dimensions:

HEAR Scripture is at the heart of learning.

Children encounter carefully chosen biblical texts. The sequence moves from early encounters with the Nativity and Jesus welcoming children to deeper study of Creation, covenant, the Gospels, Passion narratives, Pentecost and the mission of the early Church.

BELIEVE Children deepen their knowledge of Catholic faith.

They explore what Catholics believe about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, Creation, the Church, sacraments, prayer, salvation and Christian life. Knowledge becomes increasingly theological as children move through school.

CELEBRATE Faith is expressed through prayer, liturgy and sacrament.

Children learn prayers, signs, symbols and seasons of the Church year. Their journey includes the Sign of the Cross, Advent and Lent, Mass, Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist, Confirmation, the Rosary, Stations of the Cross and other Catholic traditions.

LIVE Faith is put into action.

Children connect belief with daily choices: caring for creation, treating every person with dignity, welcoming others, helping people who are poor or hungry, building peace, serving the common good and engaging respectfully with people of different faiths and worldviews.

A journey from Nursery to Year 6

The RED is progressive: children revisit central themes and build richer knowledge, vocabulary and understanding each year.

Nursery & Reception — Wonder, belonging and encounter

God's beautiful world; Jesus' birth; Jesus welcomes and loves; simple prayers and signs; church as a community; caring for others.

Years 1–2 — Foundations of Catholic faith

Creation and stewardship; Mary and the Nativity; Jesus' mission and miracles; Lent and Easter; Baptism and Reconciliation; Pentecost; the parish; Jewish faith and life.

Years 3–4 — Growing theological understanding

Creation and human dignity; covenant; Kingdom of God; Eucharist and Mass; Holy Week; Trinity; works of mercy; Mary and the Church; Paul's mission; Judaism and Islam.

Years 5–6 — Deepening faith, dialogue and mission

Commandments and Beatitudes; prayer and virtues; Confirmation; women in Scripture and the Church; sacraments; Stations of the Cross; Resurrection; Christian witness; dialogue with faiths and worldviews.

Faith in action: Catholic Social Teaching

The 'Live' sequence makes clear links between faith and life. Children encounter themes including human dignity, care for creation, the option for the poor, rights and responsibilities, family and community, solidarity, peacebuilding and the common good.

What you may see when you visit St Mary's

- Scripture and sacred art used purposefully in lessons and worship.
- Children using increasingly precise religious vocabulary and making links between Scripture, belief, celebration and life.
- Prayer that includes traditional Catholic prayers as well as reflection, music, silence and child-led responses.
- Learning connected to the liturgical year, including Advent, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Marian devotion.
- Strong links with our parish and opportunities for children to understand the life and mission of the Church.
- Respectful learning about Judaism, Islam and other religious and non-religious worldviews as children grow older.
- Children explaining how faith shapes choices, relationships, service, care for creation and the common good.

How families can support at home

- Talk about what your child is learning in RE and ask them to explain a Scripture story or key word.
- Pray together, particularly prayers your child is learning in school.
- Notice the Church seasons and talk about how your family marks Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter.
- Encourage acts of kindness, service, stewardship and care for people in need.
- Share family, cultural and faith traditions that enrich children's understanding.

Our St Mary's commitment

Religious Education is central to our identity as a Catholic school. We want every child to grow in knowledge, curiosity, faith, compassion and confidence. Through the RED, children are invited not simply to learn about faith, but to hear God's Word, understand Catholic belief, celebrate prayerfully and live with love and hope.

FAITH • LOVE • OPPORTUNITIES • UNITY • RESILIENCE • INSPIRE • STEWARDSHIP • HOPE

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