

St. Peter's Catholic Primary School
RE Policy



Policy	Whole School RE Policy
Date	September 2024
Date of review	September 2025
Signed Chair of Governors	<i>Sarah Adeyemi/ Stephanie Sampson</i>
Signed Headteacher	Clare Scott

We, the family of St Peter's, united by our faith by God, love, learn and grow together.

Our School's Core Values

Perseverance

Respect

Integrity

Compassion

Enthusiasm

The primary purpose of Catholic Religious Education

The primary purpose of Religious Education is to come to know and understand God's revelation which is fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. The Catholic school is 'a clear educational project of which Christ is the foundation.' In the person of Christ, the deepest meaning of what it is to be human — that we are created by God and through the Holy Spirit united with Christ in his Incarnation — is discovered. This revelation is known through the scriptures and the tradition of the Church as taught by the Magisterium. Religious Education helps the pupil to know and experience the meaning of this revelation in his or her own life and the life of the community which is the Church. Hence 'the promotion of the human person is the goal of the Catholic school.'

BRES-Feb 2015

Religious Education is central to the curriculum of St Peter's

St Peter's Catholic Primary School acknowledges that Religious Education is a lifelong process and recognise that the primary years are significant in the lasting impression they make upon our children. Religious Education in our school is concerned with children understanding mankind's search for meaning, value and purpose in life. The religions of the world are classic expressions of this search and, for many people, provide the context within which the experience is to be understood. Through his or her understanding of this search, the child is helped towards a deeper awareness of their identity enabling him/her to grow and develop freely in a world of Divergent beliefs and values. Education is concerned with the development of understanding. Religious Education is concerned with the development of the understanding of religion as a significant area of human experience. "Understanding" is used in a wide sense, being concerned with feeling and empathetic insight as well as an intellectual grasp of certain information. The child is not simply learning about religion, they are learning from it.

The aims of Religious Education

- 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

The outcome of Religious Education

The outcome of Religious Education at St Peter's Catholic Primary school 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.

“The task of handing on the faith to future generations is both the privilege and responsibility of the local Church. Its primary purpose is to bring young people to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.” **Cardinal Basil Hume**

The Religious Educator

The Church recognises the fundamental contribution of those charged with the planning and delivery of Religious Education. In what may be called the 'hidden curriculum', the witness, integrity and sincerity of the teacher or staff member will influence the communication of Christian faith, especially as knowledge to be believed and lived.

As you know, the task of a teacher is not simply to impart information or to provide training in skills intended to deliver some economic benefit to society; education is not and must never be considered as purely utilitarian. It is about forming the human person, equipping him or her to live life to the full – in short it is about imparting wisdom. And true wisdom is inseparable from knowledge of the Creator, for 'both we and our words are in his hand, as are all understanding and skill in crafts' (Wis7:16) .Benedict XVI

Those responsible for Religious Education in St Peter's should:

- be prepared to give living witness to what they teach;
- recognise that they share in the teaching office of the Church exercised in the person of the local bishop and enshrined in the trust deed of the school;
- fulfil their professional responsibilities with regard to all that develops and enhances the life of the Catholic school;
- plan and teach schemes of work that are engaging and accessible so that all pupils may progress appropriately in their knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith;
- have high expectations of all their pupils;
- ensure that 10% of the curriculum is devoted to Religious Education;
- ensure that Religious Education contributes positively to the broad and balanced curriculum of a Catholic school through cooperation and dialogue with other subjects;
- take care continually to deepen their own knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith;
- take seriously the duty of every Catholic to form his or her conscience;
- be given opportunities for their own spiritual and professional development as Catholic educators.

Governors

Governors are responsible for the R.E. Curriculum: This is managed by the Headteacher on a day to day basis.

The role of RE Co-ordinator

The RE co-ordinator is a practising Catholic.

Our Religious Education Programme

As recommended by the Bishop's Conference, the RE Curriculum Time allocation per week is 10%: Nursery-1h, Reception and KS1-2h15, KS2-2h30. This does not include Collective Worship. The allocation of teaching time to Other Faiths-Islam and Judaism is 5 hours (2 weeks' R.E. time).

Process for delivery of R.E.

Children in EYFS and Key Stage 1 use the 'To Know You More Clearly' programme of study.

The Programme of Study for RE has a framework with four structural elements:

Knowledge Lenses

The content of the programme of study comprise of 6 knowledge lenses of HEAR, BELIEVE, CELEBRATE, LIVE AND DIALOGUE AND ENCOUNTER

Ways of Knowing

These are the skills that pupils will develop as they progress through the curriculum and are known as UNDERSTAND, DISCERN AND RESPOND

Expected Outcomes Each age phase has a prescribed set of expected outcomes that indicate what pupils are expected to know, remember and be able to do. Through this, we assess pupils both formatively and summatively

Curriculum Branches

These correspond to the six half-terms of the school year and are re-visited each year so that pupils deepen their understanding of CREATION AND COVENANT, PROPHECY AND PROMISE, GALILEE TO JERUSALEM, DESERT TO GARDEN, TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH, DIALOGUE AND ENCOUNTER

To fulfil our aims, Year 3- Year 6 use the '*Come and See*' programme of Religious Education as recommended by the Brentwood Diocese. Religious Education is taught through the process of *Explore, Reveal, Respond*. This takes account of "what to believe entails": the human **search** for meaning, God's initiative in **Revelation** and the individual's **response** in faith.

Teaching and Learning

Teaching and learning strategies from across the RE curriculum are adapted appropriately to inspire the learning needs of pupils.

Marking

Work should be marked in accordance with the school marking policy (*See school marking policy*). Work should be marked in relation to the learning intentions. Key words must be corrected. Comments should encourage children to reflect, analyse and should be interactive.

Inclusion

All pupils have the right to have access to a differentiated Religious Education.

Assessment

Assessment of standards is carried out according to Diocesan guidelines using the criteria set out in the standards of Attainment in RE agreed by Bishops' Conference. In each topic a minimum of four pieces of work should be recorded, this includes a topic assessment. At the end of each term the teacher populates the school based assessment record to measure standards of attainment and progress. Progress in RE is reported to parents at consultation evenings and in the pupil's annual report.

RE CPD

Catholic Teachers Certificate (CCRS): All Teachers are encouraged to secure this qualification in R.E. It is expected that the R.E. Co-ordinator and all aspiring to Senior Leadership at St Peter's will obtain this.

Annual CPD for all staff: It is recommended that one day's in-set is allocated to the Catholicity of this school.

Environment and Display

From the moment you enter St Peter's, the school environment reflects that we are a Catholic school. Our core values are clearly displayed, a reflection of our faith and values. As you approach the school office, there is a special area devoted to special feast days or holy months, a wall of 'Core Value Ambassador' certificates for the children who have demonstrated any of our values of Perseverance, Respect, Integrity, Compassion and Enthusiasm.

Each classroom has a prayer area with a special class candle in a prominent place of the classroom and a display dedicated to current learning in Religious Education. As you move around the school, there are a number of displays showing the children's Religious work, prayers, including a display dedicated to our Patron Saint Peter.

Resources

Each class has a prayer table and fabrics suitable for all seasons of the liturgical year.

Each class has a set of Bibles for Scripture use.

There are resources to support child led worship.

RE resources are stored safely in a dedicated cupboard.

Each class has 'Come and See' planning resources and access to the bank interactive resources.

Posters

CAFOD materials

Bibles and Bible storybooks

Jewish and Islamic ritual objects, books

Collection of RE reference books on a variety of topics in the library

Prayer focus in classroom

Each class has an area for prayer focus, which should be in an area where all children can see it when they pray. The theme of the prayer focus should relate to the season of the liturgical year.

The Holy area has a cloth reflecting the liturgical year or a feast day and some ritual objects. Drapes for the holy areas in each class reflecting the liturgical year are kept in each class.

Colours: purple for penance, red for Holy Spirit and martyrdom, white, gold for important feasts, green for the ordinary times of the year, blue is associated with Mary.

Other special focus times

Some months of the year have special foci.

October is the month of the Rosary – blue

November is the month when the Holy Souls (the deceased) are prayed for especially,

May is the month when Mary is especially remembered – blue

June is the month of the Sacred Heart when we remember especially the great love Jesus has for us.

Ritual objects may include pictures, icons, stones, Bibles, flowers, bark, holy water, rosary, seashells or candles. Cloths and ritual objects are stored in each classroom and are the responsibility of the class teacher.