

Saint Peter's  
Catholic Primary School  
Religious Education Policy



Member of staff responsible: Mrs J Hazeldine

Date policy updated: September 2023

Date approved by the Full Governing body: October 2023

Date to be reviewed: September 2025

### **Mission Statement**

*Christ is at the heart of our school community: through loving, living and learning together, we all grow as the person God calls us to be.*

#### **Introduction**

The purpose of Religious Education at St Peter's is to nurture the Catholic Faith, and its teachings, in our children. By helping them to live this faith, we hope to encourage our children to develop their relationship with God and others around them.

Central to our ethos are the opportunities for prayer and liturgy which lie at the heart of our faith. We endeavour to promote and encourage these at every level, together with the skills and attitudes necessary to live out the Christian message in the modern world.

(Religious Education Curriculum Directory)

We recognise that everyone at St Peter's, staff, children and parents are on their own faith journey.

#### **Our aims and objectives**

At St Peter's we aim to nurture every aspect of Catholic life and to provide individuals with opportunities to develop a personal relationship with God by creating:

- An environment that uses Jesus as a role model, thus demonstrating the Christian values of respect, trust, honesty and co-operation.
- A celebrating community, which uses prayer, worship, festivals, liturgies to join together.
- A sense of belonging to and participating in a community.
- A real understanding and practice of the Catholic Faith.
- Opportunities to develop understanding, respect and appreciation of other faiths.
- Familiarity with religious language, symbols signs and gestures of prayer and liturgy.
- A curriculum that develops the whole child, integrating physical and intellectual growth alongside moral, spiritual, emotional and physiological growth.

#### **The Religious Education Curriculum**

##### Curriculum

At Saint Peter's we use a range of resources to fulfil the above aims and to address the four areas of study outlined in the current Curriculum Directory – Revelation, Church, Celebration and Life in Christ. In Years 2,4,5,and 6. In EYFS, Year 1 and Year 3 we are, with the support of Lancaster Diocese, using Roots and Branches to guide us as we

embrace the new Religious Education Curriculum Directory; To Know You More Clearly. As a school we actively seek training and guidance throughout this transition phase to continue providing a meaningful Religious Education curriculum for the children in our care.

#### Resources used to help deliver our curriculum:

- Caritas in Action
- The Way, the Truth and the Life Series
- We Believe Scheme
- Come and See Scheme
- CAFOD resources

#### Religious Education Lessons

At Saint Peter's, Religious Education supports us developing our children's relationship with God. We do this by 'Learning about' the faith 'Learning from' the faith. We focus on providing high quality teaching across all our curriculum and Religious Education is no different. We have a focus on vocabulary, deepening children's understanding through a knowledge rich curriculum. Religious Education lessons are planned to engage the children, scaffold their learning and prepare them to work independently for parts of the lesson and have the confidence to talk about their learning to develop theirs and others understanding.

At Saint Peter's Religious Education is a core subject based on the expectations of religious education given in the Religious Education Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools. "Its primary purpose is the step by step study of the mystery of Christ, the teaching of the Church and its application in daily life." (- Statement from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, May 2000)

#### Pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN)

At Saint Peter's we recognise that all children have needs. We continuously strive to support all our children, 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 (SEN) register will be working in line with their Individual Education Plan (IEP).

### Assessment, Monitoring, Recording and Reporting

- Assessment of standards is carried out according to Diocesan guidelines using Age-Related Standards (3-19) in Religious Education. These standards have been approved for us in Catholic Schools by the department of Catholic Education and formation of The Catholic Bishop/ Conference in England and Wales.
- Each teacher keeps a record of pupils' progress. This record is passed on at the end of each year.
- Assessment in RE is discussed at Pupil Progress Meetings with the Senior Leadership team and assessments are recorded on our whole school assessment tracker. This data is then shared with Governors, who challenge it with the same rigour as other core subjects.
- The school portfolio of pupils' work is made up of the work of tracked children from each cohort who are of differing abilities.
- An in - house moderation meeting is held every term as part of our staff meeting cycle. Each year all staff from our school meet as a cluster (5 other primary schools) to moderate within individual year groups.
- Assessed samples of work are presented for Diocesan Moderation throughout the year.
- Children in The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) complete a baseline assessment as soon as they start school and at the end of their time in EYFS.
- Monitoring of teaching and learning is carried out formally through book looks and lesson observations and through informal discussions with the staff and pupils.
- Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to parents/carers in a written report at the end of each term and during parents evening.
- A segment of each weekly staff meeting is put aside for RE, giving staff a regular opportunity to raise any issues and discuss development.
- Religious Education is discussed during our Governor meetings and our RE Governor has regular contact with the RE subject lead.

### Prayer

An essential part of the Catholic ethos of Saint Peter's is the prayer life. (Please see Prayer and Liturgy Policy). We encourage and support our children as they develop a deeper relationship with God through a very personal dialogue. Children are encouraged to pray in different ways according to their age and personal development. Children are introduced to a variety of different ways of praying:

- quiet reflection/meditation
- praying together
- writing own prayers
- prayers through music
- learning traditional Catholic prayers

Staff pray with and alongside our children, and to be an example for them. Through prayer, we endeavour to develop our relationship with God. All classes have a prayer table this area changes and reflects the liturgical year. Each class pray at least four times a day. It is expected that all classes will say a prayer at:

- The beginning of the day
- Before lunch
- After lunch
- At home time

### Sacramental Programmes

Sacramental preparation for Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation are undertaken by catechists from Saint Peter's and Saint Joseph's Catholic Churches. During this time Father Peter, Parish Priest across both parishes, delivers parental sessions to provide parents with the opportunity to question and reflect on their own faith journey.

### Mass and Services with the Parish

Growing to love and understand the Mass is an essential part of our teaching. We attend Mass as a whole school each half-term, all children attend Mass on holy days, and we have a weekly class mass in school, in addition to visits to Church as part of the curriculum. We have Sunday Parish Family masses twice monthly, one at each parish. Children from across the school are chosen for the readings and prayers, as well as contributing to the music and singing. During the school year different classes also take the lead for liturgical events.

- Year 3,4,5 and 6 - Advent
- EYFS & KS1 – Christmas
- Year 3 – Holy Week

Children have the opportunity for confession throughout Lent and Advent as well as services of reconciliation. We are also very lucky to be joined each week in school by our Parish Priest who celebrates mass with a different class and their parents/grandparents each week. Father Peter also records a weekly reflection on Sunday's Gospel for us to share on Monday in school.

### Communication with our school community

We value the role of parents as the first educators of their child and encourage a partnership between home, parish and school. Over the past two years we have endeavoured to find ways to further strengthen this relationship and developed new avenues of communication. Each class has their own page on the school website as well as a Seesaw where we celebrate all the wonderful events, celebrations and achievements linked to our faith with the school community.

### Visits and Visitors

During their time at Saint Peter's Catholic Primary School, each child can expect to:

- Visit a Cathedral
- Visit places of worship/sacred space for different faith communities
- Lead on prayer within their class and the Parish community
- Meet and interact with members of our Parish
- Understand their connection to our Parish community

### HRSE – Human, Relationships and Sex Education

We have developed our HRSE scheme of work, with each year group having access to their own age-appropriate curriculum. Evidence is recorded in each class HRSE book as well as being referenced across the curriculum in other subject areas. (Please see additional HRSE policy)

### The Impact of our Religious Education Curriculum

The RE curriculum challenges our children academically and teaches them how to express opinion and belief with deep levels of analysis both in their writing and oracy. Speech and language is developed through intelligent debate, where pupils discuss some of life's big questions and self-esteem grows through the requirements of class presentations and group work. Evidence of impact in Religious Education is not just collated through books.

Our children show an initiative and desire to contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the school and to society more widely. Through groups such as Mini Vinnies and Laudato Si Crew, our children actively pursue fundraising opportunities and the families of the school wholeheartedly support us in this mission.

Children at Saint Peter's build respectful relationships regardless of faith, gender and race – recognising that everyone has the right to be treated with respect and dignity. They uphold and understand the importance of our British Values and Gospel Virtues, knowing the difference between right and wrong and the children's exemplary behaviour reflects this.

Through the delivery of our RE curriculum and the Catholic Life of our school, by the time they are ready to move on from Saint Peter's, our children have been consistently taught that they are unique and important and have developed their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence. Our children are happy, well-rounded individuals who have developed a deep-rooted relationship with God and understanding of their Catholic faith.

