



Religious Education Policy - Prep School

School Mission Statement:

To educate young people to meet the challenges of life courageously, to use their talents to the full and to live the values of Christ's Gospel.

Religious education is integrated into the daily life of the children. We seek to create an atmosphere which reflects Catholic values and which gives a sense of belonging to a wider family – God's family.

Regulatory Context

Education Act 2005

Under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 a Bishop has the right to inspect any Catholic school or college within his Diocese to evaluate the quality of Religious Education and the Catholic nature of the school.

Code of Canon Law

Formation and education in a catholic school must be based on the principles of catholic doctrine and the teachers must be outstanding in true doctrine and uprightness of life. (Canon 803)

No school, even if it is in fact catholic may bear the title 'catholic school' except by the consent of the competent ecclesiastical authority. The diocesan Bishop has the right to watch over and inspect the catholic schools situated in his territory, even those established or directed by members of religious institutes. He also has the right to issue directives concerning the general regulation of catholic schools; these directives apply also to schools conducted by members of a religious institute, although they retain their autonomy in the internal management of their schools. Those who are in charge of catholic schools are to ensure, under the supervision of the local Ordinary, that the formation given in them is, in its academic standards, at least as outstanding as that in other schools in the area. (Canon 806)

Religious Education Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools and Colleges in England and Wales (2023)

The contents of the RE Curriculum must reflect the contents of the *Religious Education Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools and Colleges in England and Wales* compiled by the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales. We are currently planning to review our schemes of work within the Prep School to ensure they are compliant with the new REDC by September 2025.

The Aim of Religious Education in this school is:

To help young people to grow in knowledge, understanding and skills appropriate to their age and thus enable them to speak about religion and faith, aware that the values of Christ's Gospel can be lived out in their own everyday life within the school community and at home.

For all children Religious Education is a proper subject in the school's curriculum. It is an academic discipline and as such is to be taught, developed and resourced with the same commitment as any other subject.

For those already engaged in the journey of faith, Religious Education will be familiar and for some children it will be the first opportunity to hear the good news of the Gospel. Our teaching will be all embracing.

For all children there will be the opportunity of participating in worship in the classroom as well as in the assemblies and whole school gatherings for liturgy.

Curriculum:

Religious Education is a core subject in this school. It is planned, assessed and monitored accordingly.

We aim to promote:

AT1

- knowledge and understanding of Catholic / Christian faith and life
- knowledge and understanding of ways faith is practised in the other major religions

AT2

- a response through faith to the ultimate questions of human life, its origin and purpose acquisition of the skills required to examine and reflect upon religious belief and practice

The Objectives of our Curriculum in Religious Education are to foster:

- development of knowledge and understanding of the mystery of God and of Jesus Christ, the Church and the central beliefs which Catholics and Christians hold
- development of awareness and appreciation of Catholic belief
- understanding of faith's impact on personal and social behaviour and of its relationship with everyday life
- study, prayer and reflection.
- familiarity and appreciation of scripture in order to foster a deeper personal relationship with Our Lord
- ability to listen, to think critically and spiritually, to acquire and organise new concepts effectively, to make informed judgements
- respect for truth, respect for the views of others
- awareness of spiritual and moral responsibility, including towards those who are in most need
- awareness of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life
- awareness of the challenges as well as enrichment of living in a multicultural, multi-faith society
- on-going development of each student's potential as a person made in the image and likeness of God
- development of each one's well-being and freedom

We aim at excellence in our delivery of Religious Education by clarity of learning objectives and of key contents, as well as by appropriate methodologies, richness of resources, achievement of identified outcomes and accurate methods of assessment