



The Cathedral School of St Peter and St John RC Primary

Growing together within God's loving family, we support, challenge and inspire each other to become the best that we can be.'

Religious Education

This policy will be regularly reviewed and updated to ensure it remains fully aligned with the ongoing implementation of the newly published Religious Education Directory (2023).

OVERVIEW

At The Cathedral School of St Peter and St John RC Primary, a voluntary aided Catholic primary school, the teaching of Religious Education fulfils the guidance as outlined in the *Religious Education Curriculum Directory for Catholic schools, colleges and academies in England and Wales 2023*, "To know You more clearly." We currently a number of resources – but mainly The Vine and The Branches and more recently Lighting the Path in EYFS and Key Stage 1 'Caritas in Action' and 'Ten:Ten' as schemes of work, amongst external providers E.G CAFOD in order to deliver a high-quality Religious Education curriculum.

We aim to support every pupil in developing their full potential in Religious Education. We recognise that children come to school with a wide range of backgrounds, experiences, and levels of understanding. Each child begins their faith journey at a different point, and we are committed to guiding and nurturing them as they grow in knowledge, belief, and spiritual awareness.

It is our intention to support each child grow in knowledge and understanding, discover and develop their gifts and talents, build positive relationships, deepen their thinking and emotional literacy, nurture a love of learning, and grow in their ability to pray, reflect, make wise choices, and move towards the fullness of life as a human being.

In line with our school's Mission Statement, Religious Education holds a central place within our curriculum, and we seek opportunities across all subject areas to reinforce the values and teachings of our faith.

MISSION STATEMENT

Growing together in God's loving family, we support, challenge and inspire to be the best that we can be
Curiosity – Aspiration – Resilience driving to success

STATEMENT OF AIMS

At The Cathedral School of St Peter and St John RC Primary, we are committed to nurturing the growth and wholeness of all members of our community — a wholeness that comes from a free and loving response to God.

The aims of Religious Education at At The Cathedral School of St Peter and St John RC Primary are:

- to engage in a systematic study of the mystery of God, of the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, the teachings of the Church, the central beliefs that Catholics hold, the basis for them and the relationship between faith and life;
- 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 to provide pupils with a sure guide for living and the tools to critically engage with contemporary culture and society;
- to give pupils an understanding of the religions and worldviews present in the world today and the skills to engage in respectful and fruitful dialogue with those whose worldviews differ from their own;
- to develop the critical faculties of pupils so to bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture;
- 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.¹

¹ 'To know You more clearly', The Religious Education Directory for Catholic Schools, Academies and Colleges in England and Wales, 2023, pg. 6

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

In line with Bishops' Conference recommendations, 10% of curriculum time is allocated to Religious Education. This does **not** include Prayer and Liturgy. Please see the separate Prayer and Liturgy Policy for details.

Religious Education is taught in 6-week blocks, to ensure all objectives are covered in the designated weekly teaching time (see Appendix 1.)

EYFS/KS1

Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are in the process of using Lighting The Path Resources

Year 3 – 6 Are Using The Vine and The Branches

Teaching and Learning

We, at The Cathedral School of St Peter and St John RC Primary, are currently in a transition period as we are move to the new 'Lighting the Path' scheme. This change follows the publication of the new Religious Education Directory by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, which sets out updated expectations for Religious Education teaching. 'Lighting the Path' has been designed to align with this new framework, offering a fresh, engaging approach that deepens pupils' understanding of the Catholic faith while supporting their spiritual growth. During this period, we are gradually introducing the new scheme to ensure a smooth and thoughtful transition for both staff and pupils.

Teachers plan using new Religious Education Directory by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, To Know You More Clearly. This is to ensure progression is shown throughout the school. The learning points may include discussion, exploration of scripture, hermeneutics, written work, art, drama and prayer and reflection.

Once all key learning points have been covered, children will complete an assessment in the form of a Religious Knowledge Review (RKR). The RKR is assessed using a marking ladder, which draws upon objectives from both the unit overview and the *AgeRelated Standards (3–19) in Religious Education (2018)*.

WORLD RELIGIONS

The importance of studying world religions is recognised The Cathedral School of St Peter and St John RC Primary. We believe that teaching about world religions promotes understanding, respect, and appreciation of the diverse faith traditions within our school, local and global community. Children learn about the beliefs, practices, and values of a range of world religions, fostering empathy and a spirit of inclusion.

World religions will be explored over a 2-year cycle:

Cycle A: Islam and Sikhism

Cycle B: Judaism and Hinduism

Assessment, Monitoring, Recording and Reporting:

- Assessment of standards is carried out using the Age-Related Standards in Religious Education (3-19) interim document agreed by Bishops' Conference.
- Each teacher keeps a class record of assessed work and records of pupils' progress.
- An in-house moderation of pupils' books is held every term
- Monitoring of teaching and learning ... The religious lead seeks opportunities to monitor class worship – carry out a questionnaire for parents pupils and staff and monitor religious teachings throughout the year

SOCIAL JUSTICE

The principles of Catholic Social Teaching are explored through the 'Caritas in Action' framework, helping children to understand and live out the call to social justice by recognising the dignity of the human person and their responsibility to care for others and the world around them.

Although the themes of Social Justice will be explored and discreetly introduced in blocks the teachings will also be explored throughout the curriculum – every day every subject so that this becomes the essence and thread rather than a bolt on. Please see the curriculum overviews for examples.

DISPLAY

Each classroom has a dedicated prayer focus, thoughtfully designed to reflect the seasons of the liturgical year and topics being studied. This helps children to engage with prayer and deepen their understanding of the Church's celebrations and traditions. Throughout the school, prayer stations are available to provide quiet spaces for reflection, allowing children the opportunity to pause, pray, and connect with God during their school day.

RESOURCES

The school benefits from a rich and well-maintained collection of resources to support Religious Education, prayer and liturgy, and the teaching of World Religions. These resources are shared within each year group providing both staff and children with easy access to materials that enhance learning and spiritual development. The resources are regularly reviewed, audited, and updated to ensure they remain current, engaging, and reflective of our curriculum and faith journey.

ROLE OF THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

The Religious Education Coordinator will:

- Ensure the Religious Education curriculum is taught in line with diocesan and national guidelines.
- Lead the transition to new schemes and implementation of the RED.
- Work alongside SLT to ensure that Religious Education remains a core focus of the school's vision and development, contributing to strategic planning, monitoring, and the spiritual life of the whole school community.
- Support staff with planning, resourcing, and delivery of high-quality Religious Education lessons.
- Provide guidance, training, and resources to teachers and support staff.
- Organise and lead staff meetings focused on Religious Education.
- Support new or non-Catholic staff in understanding and delivering Religious Education effectively.
- Attend diocesan meetings and training sessions and share key updates with SLT and staff.
- Oversee Prayer and Liturgy throughout the school.
- Promote the Catholic ethos throughout the school.
- Help to embed Gospel values and Servite charism across all areas of school life.
- Establish and foster links between the parish and wider school community.
- Support children in preparing for liturgical celebrations, including special feast days and seasons and the Sacramental Programme.
- Monitor the quality of Religious Education teaching and learning.
- Oversee the assessment and recording of pupils' progress in Religious Education.
- Prepare for and support Section 48 (Catholic School) Inspections.
- Foster strong links between home, school, and parish.
- Communicate with parents about Religious Education curriculum and events.
- Encourage family involvement in faith life and school worship.
- Update and maintain the Religious Education policy.
- Ensure school documentation reflects the Catholic identity and curriculum requirements.
- Be responsible for the budget allocated to the subject area and prioritise resource needs.

Please click [here](#) for The Curriculum Overview

