



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Religious Education

September 2026

This policy should be read in light of our Mission Statement as follows:

At St. Joseph's, we live, love and learn by the example of Jesus.

Our curriculum intent

'Catholics believe that Religious Education is not one subject among many, but the foundation of the entire educational process. The beliefs and values it communicates should inspire and unify every aspect of school life.'

(Bishops' Conference of England and Wales)

The National Curriculum for RE

Aims

Our values and aims are rooted in the school mission statement: "we live, love and learn by the example of Jesus". RE in St Joseph's is not solely taught as a curriculum area but as a way of life, promoting the gospel values, giving praise and reverence to God. With this in mind, we aim to:

- present engagingly a comprehensive content which is the basis of knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith;
- enable pupils continually to deepen their religious and theological understanding and be able to communicate this effectively;
- 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;
- raise pupils' awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities in order to respect and understand them;
- develop the critical faculties of pupils so that they can relate their Catholic faith to daily life;
- stimulate pupils' imagination and provoke a desire for personal meaning as revealed in the truth of the Catholic faith;
- 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.

By fulfilling these aims we endeavor to comply with the following statement from the 'Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools':

'The outcome of excellent Religious Education 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.'

(RECD – 2012)

*At St. Joseph's we live, love and learn by the example of Jesus.
Aspiring for excellence for all, together as a Catholic community.*



At St. Joseph's we aim to help all children deepen their faith and love and serve God. In order to achieve this we aim:

- To nurture our children and staff in the Catholic faith in an environment of mutual care and love for each other
- To develop the children's understanding and knowledge of the Gospel message
- To celebrate our Catholic faith and beliefs through assemblies, prayer services, class and school Masses which mark special events throughout the liturgical and school year
- To develop an understanding of our own and others' religious traditions and to appreciate the cultural differences in Britain today
- To provide an example of Gospel values through our relationships with one another
- To enable children to be able to reflect on their own experiences and to develop a personal response to the fundamental questions of life in an environment where the potential and contribution of every child is appreciated
- To encourage a deeper understanding of, respect for and participation in the sacraments
- To foster an environment where each individual can recognise their place and importance within the school, home and parish community

Implementation

Our school curriculum for religious education meets the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act (ERA). The ERA stipulates that religious education is compulsory for all children, including those in the reception class who are less than five years old. The ERA allows parents to withdraw their child from religious education classes if they so wish, although this should only be done once the parents have given written notice to the school governors. The ERA also allows teachers to refuse to teach religious education, but only after they have given due notice of their intention to the school governors. The religious education curriculum forms an important part of our school's spiritual, moral and social teaching. It also promotes education for citizenship. Our school RE curriculum is based on the Westminster Diocese Syllabus and it meets all the requirements set out in that document. The ERA states that the RE syllabus should reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian and that it should, at the same time, take account of the teachings and practices of other major religions.

Classroom Religious Education has its own content, methodology, assessment and culture. The broad areas it covers are God's self revelation, Church, Celebration and Life in Christ. It should be accorded the same status and taught with the same rigour as the core subjects of the National Curriculum. It is an important contributory factor to the passing on of the community's faith from one generation to the next. It will be taught, developed and resourced with the same commitment as any other subject and requires 10% of the length of the taught week throughout Key Stages 1 and 2.

(Diocesan Policy on Religious Education 2012)

This does not include collective worship such as assemblies and hymn practices.



Programme of Study

It is a statutory requirement of the Hertfordshire Agreed Syllabus that from reception classes to sixth form all pupils in Hertfordshire schools must:

- follow a coherent and systematic study of the principal religion of Christianity across each key stage and
- be introduced to the other five principal religions represented in Great Britain by the end of key stage 2

(Hertfordshire Agreed Syllabus)

St Joseph's School complies with this and uses the diocesan recommended scheme of Come And See.

Come and See "is based on the theological foundations of the Second Vatican Council, the Catholic Catechism and the revised RE Curriculum Directory and includes the Catholic attainment levels.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church addresses the search for meaning in life, God's initiative in Revelation who comes to meet us and our response of faith. (cf. CCC26) This pattern guides the structure of the programme and informs the process of each topic, opened up through; Explore, Reveal and Respond."

(Come and See)

Within each year group, Topic One is related to the Domestic Church, Topic Five is related to the Eucharist and the final topic of the year links to CAFOD, encouraging children to think more deeply about the Universal Church.

The RSE curriculum will be as following

RSE is undertaken in summer term following Diocese guidance and Jigsaw PSHE .

- Nursery & Years 1, 3 and 5 with 'Module 2'
- Reception & Years 2, 4, and 6 with 'Module 1'
- All Years to undertake sessions from 'Module 3'

The Gospel story sessions in Module One and the Trinity story sessions in Module Three are run every year as they are foundational to the Religious Understanding taught in the programme. Please see our full RSE policy and overview for Curriculum content

Our Curriculum

The topics covered in each year group are as follows:

Autumn Term 1	Branch 1: Creation and Covenant
Autumn Term 2	Branch 2: Prophecy and Promise



Spring Term 1	Branch 3: Galilee to Jerusalem
Spring Term 2	Branch 4: Desert to garden
Summer Term 1	Branch 5: To the ends of the Earth
Summer term 2	Branch 6: Dialogue and encounter Including world religions

World Religions

As part of RE and awareness, understanding, respect and tolerance of other faiths we explore many world religions and events during the academic year. During some assembly times where religions are higher profile or have a prominent feast then we will explore the religions at these times as they are again relevant to life at that time and children are inquisitive. Eg, at times like Diwali or Ramadan.

Assessment, Recording and Monitoring

We assess children's work in religious education in a variety of ways. Firstly, using the 'Agreed Understandings and the Levels of Attainment in Religious Education in Catholic Schools and Colleges' (RECD – Appendix 1/Appendix 2) teachers regularly assess/level work on a formal basis. Each term, various samples of levelled work are then moderated at Staff Meetings to verify the judgements made. Further moderation is also conducted by the SLT and the school's Diocesan advisor.

Children's work in RE is responded to in line with the school's Fast Feedback policy. Children are given guidance as they work and respond to this in green pen. Children use the success criteria for the lesson to reflect on their work and write a reflection on every lesson. Teachers look at all pieces of work and conference as necessary but at least twice in each topic.

Impact

The impact of RE at St Joseph's School is that it is not merely a curriculum subject but is embedded in all areas of school life so that the school is demonstrably Catholic to all who enter the school.

Inclusion

All children are entitled to access the RE curriculum, regardless of their age, ability, race or gender. Teachers differentiate the work and give support as necessary and children are encouraged to challenge themselves in the piece of work they choose to undertake.



Resources

Bibles, books and other resources are stored centrally in the Resources room in the cupboard marked Religious Education. Within each classroom, there is also a class bible and each class has a box of resources enabling the teacher to ensure that the reflection table is the correct colour at each part of the liturgical year and is relevant and thought provoking for the children.

Review

This policy should be viewed as a working document for the benefit of all concerned in the education of the children at St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School.

Review Date: September 2027