



St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

St Cross Catholic Primary School
a part of
St Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy Trust

Religious Education Policy

Ratified by:	The Local Governing Body of St Cross Catholic Primary School
Date:	November 2024
Signature:	W Bolivar
Review Date:	November 2025
Circulation:	Governors All staff (on shared network) Volunteers (part of induction pack if appropriate) Parents on request School Website

Mission Statement

St. Cross Catholic Primary School exists to serve its Parish and Community by promoting excellence in academic, creative and spiritual learning. Based on the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church, the school seeks to provide a happy, safe and inspiring environment where children, staff, parents, governors and visitors feel secure loved and respected.

St. Cross is a caring, Catholic school community, where everyone is made in the image and likeness of God. Here individuals are helped to achieve their full potential, through a child centered curriculum, which develops independent learning.

Through WORK, to develop their full potential as part of the community and as a unique person made in the image and likeness of God.

Through WORSHIP, to learn to know and love God and to recognise and respond to the person of Christ in others.

Through WITNESS, to celebrate Gospel messages of justice and peace.

Rationale of Religious Education:

- Religious Education is central to the educative mission of the Church.
*'At the heart of Catholic education lies the Christian vision of the human person. This vision is expressed and explored in Religious Education.'*¹
- In a Catholic school, at the core of the core, is Religious Education, for the sake of which Catholic schools exist in the first place.²

The Aims of Religious Education:

- At St. Cross Catholic Primary School, we understand Religious Education to be the systematic study of the mystery of God, of the life and teachings 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 Religious Education in Catholic Schools, Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, 2000, para 4

² Religious Education Directory 2023, p13
[Together we grow in God's love](#)

Outcome of Religious Education:

The outcome of 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.³

Religious Education at the heart of the curriculum:

- Religious education is the core of the core curriculum and is to be the source and summit of the whole curriculum.
- Religious education is an academic discipline with the same systematic demands and rigour as other disciplines.
- Religious education is to be delivered within a broad and balanced curriculum, where it informs every aspect of the curriculum. Every other subject is to be informed by religious education and have a strong relationship with it.
- In each year of compulsory schooling, religious education is to be taught for at least 10% curriculum time within each repeating cycle of the regular school timetable.

Programme of Study:

As a Catholic school St Cross Catholic Primary School is required to comply with the Religious Education Curriculum Directory (2012) / Religious Education Directory (2023). St Cross Catholic Primary School does this by teaching in Key Stage 2 The Way the Truth and The Life. The RED 2023 provides a model curriculum which this school follows in Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and Key Stage 1.

Curriculum Structure:

The model curriculum has six components known as branches which map helpfully onto the six half-terms of the school year. Five of these have a core theme which invites pupils to learn about an aspect of Revelation, Scripture, life in Christ, and life in the Church, and to discern what their learning means academically and experientially enabling them to see, judge, and act through a deeper knowledge of the Christian faith. The Encounter & Dialogue branch involves the study of other religions, encountering other pathways of belief drawing on the teaching of the Church about intercultural dialogue.

Detail of the curriculum can be found here: [Religious Education Directory 2023](#)

Assessment, Monitoring, Recording and Reporting:

- Assessment of standards is carried out against the Age-Related Standards in Religious Education (3-19) interim document / Expected Outcomes in RED 2023 for EYFS and Key Stage 1
- Assessment moderation / standardisation takes place in school amongst colleagues, with schools in St Francis of Assisi Academy, and at diocesan meetings.
- Monitoring of teaching and learning in Religious Education takes place in line with our school policy
- Progress and achievement is recorded and tracked in line with our school policy
- Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to Governors at least termly in line with other core subjects. [Feedback Marking Policy](#)

³ Religious Education Directory 2023, p6
[Together we grow in God's love](#)

- Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to parents/carers each year in line with other core subjects.

Leadership of the subject:

Graziella Norton and Caroline Panter are the RE Leads in conjunction with Joanne Walsh Executive Headteacher. They have responsibility for leading, managing and supporting the delivery of Religious Education and the continuous professional development of teachers in Religious Education

Fr. Julian Davies is the link governor with responsibility for Religious Education.

Policy Review:

This policy will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed by Joanne Walsh Headteacher, SLT, line manager, REC, Link Governor) and updated every two years.