



St Ignatius Catholic Primary School

“Achieving our best by learning together and serving one another with Christ by our side”

Religious Education Policy

“Go set the world on fire.”

Governor Link	Carole Jones
Staff member	Hanorah Murphy
Review period	Biennially
Date policy accepted by Governing Body	October 2025
Date for review	October 2027

Mission Statement

“Achieving our best by learning together and serving one another with Christ by our side.”

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

- 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^[3]

Outcome of Religious Education

^[1]Religious Education in Catholic Schools, Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales, 2000, para 4

^[2] Religious Education Directory 2023, p13

^[3] Religious Education Directory 2022 p6

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.^[4]

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 Ignatius Catholic Primary is required to comply with the Religious Education Curriculum Directory (2012) / Religious Education Directory (2023). St Ignatius Catholic Primary does this by teaching the day-by-day resources to deliver the RED. The RED 2023 provides a model curriculum which this school follows in all year groups.

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](#)

Religious Education - Curriculum Time Allocation

10% of curriculum time is allocated to Religious Education. This does not include Worship.

Learning and Teaching of RE

St Ignatius has very high standards for teaching and learning of RE as we know from research that this is a key driver in pupil outcomes.

Staff have a [handbook](#) that outlines the expectations of all aspects of RE. The handbook also gives detailed information about the pedagogical aspects required for outstanding teaching.

RE displays and areas

⁴ Religious Education Directory 2023, p6

This is an area that is made special in the following ways:

- A cloth that reflects the liturgical year
- Clear title of the branch we are currently working on
- Not too cluttered as we believe in low sensory classrooms
- Key vocabulary that is relevant at the point of learning
- Working walls that reflect 'learning at the time'
- KS1 Classes will have an enlarged KO to use and complete as a class.
- There will be consistency
- RE books under the prayer tables.

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 however we are awaiting more information about the new standards
- Assessment moderation / standardisation takes place in school amongst colleagues, with schools in Ascension Catholic Academy Trust (ACAT) at deanery meetings and at diocesan meetings
- Monitoring of teaching and learning in Religious Education takes place in line with our school PD plan. It is set out for the year and comprises of lesson observations with the RE lead as well as the Diocesan advisor, Book looks and pupil voice
- Progress and achievement is recorded and tracked in line with our school policy of a system called Sonar
- Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to Governors at least termly in line with other core subjects
- Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to parents/carers each year in line with other core subjects

Leadership of RE

Hanorah Murphy, the RE Lead, has responsibility for leading, managing and supporting the delivery of Religious Education and the continuous professional development of teachers in Religious Education

Carole Jones is the link governor with responsibility for Religious Education. This comprises of meetings with the RE lead and Catholic life walks.

Policy Review

This policy will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed by Hanorah Murphy (Headteacher RE Lead and Governors) and updated every two years.