

# OUR LADY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



We ASPIRE that through the love of Jesus everyone should  
"have life and have it to the full".

John 10:10

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Reviewed by: <i>Headteacher</i>	Approved by: <i>Governing Body</i>
Policy Date: <i>January 2026</i>	Next Review Date: <i>Autumn 2028</i>
Review Frequency: <i>Every 2 Years</i>	



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## **Archdiocesan Compliance Statement**

*This Religious Education Policy has been written in full accordance with the Religious Education Directory (2023) of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales and reflects the guidance and expectations of the Archdiocese of Cardiff and Menevia. It affirms Religious Education as the core of the core curriculum and ensures that provision is theologically accurate and educationally rigorous. The policy supports the Catholic mission of the school and meets the requirements of the Catholic Schools Inspectorate (CSI).*

## **Governor Summary**

*Religious Education at Our Lady's School is a strength of the school and is clearly at the heart of its Catholic mission. Governors are assured that the curriculum is fully compliant with the Religious Education Directory (2023) and is delivered through a coherent, well-sequenced programme. Pupils achieve well, make progress appropriate to their age and capacity, and demonstrate growing religious literacy and engagement with faith. Leaders monitor Religious Education effectively, use assessment information to drive improvement, and ensure that staff are well supported in their delivery of the curriculum. As a result, Religious Education has a positive and visible impact on pupils' faith development, behaviour and understanding of their role within the Church and wider society.*

## **Intent**

Catholic schools participate in the Church's mission of evangelisation, forming pupils to know, love, and serve God. As stated in *Christ at the Centre* (2012), Catholic education exists to "make Christ known to all people" (p.7). This mission is reaffirmed in the *Religious Education Directory* (RED 2023), which identifies Religious Education as the heart of the curriculum and central to the life and identity of every Catholic school.

At Our Lady's School, Religious Education is the core of the core curriculum. It is the source and summit from which the whole curriculum draws meaning and purpose. Working in partnership with parents, carers, and the parish, we aim to form children as disciples of Jesus Christ, guiding them to live lives of faith, hope, and love, and respond to his call to "life in all its fullness" (John 10:10).

## **Our Intent for Religious Education**

We intend that all pupils at Our Lady's School become religiously literate, spiritually aware, and morally responsible young people, equipped with the knowledge, understanding, and skills appropriate to their age and capacity to:

- think spiritually, ethically, and theologically
- engage critically and reflectively with Catholic belief and practice
- recognise the relationship between faith and life, and between life and faith



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Religious Education at Our Lady's School is designed in accordance with the RED (2023) and the expectations of the Archdiocese of Cardiff–Menevia, ensuring full coverage of the mandated curriculum and fidelity to the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church.

**Through Religious Education, we aim to:**

- be a clear witness to the beliefs, values, and teachings of the Roman Catholic Church
- place Christ and the Gospel at the centre of school life
- promote high expectations and achievement for all pupils
- inspire a lifelong love of learning and reflection on faith
- support pupils in developing a well-formed conscience and a sense of moral responsibility
- foster respectful dialogue within a multicultural and multi-faith society
- collaborate closely with parents, the parish, governors, and the wider community
- promote human flourishing, wellbeing, and care for creation in the light of Catholic Social Teaching
- continually evaluate and improve the quality and impact of Religious Education

**Objectives of Religious Education**

Religious Education at Our Lady's School permeates the whole life of the school and is reflected in its values, ethos, and curriculum. It is designed to form pupils who are religiously literate, spiritually reflective, morally responsible, and socially aware.

The objectives of Religious Education are to enable pupils to:

- develop a secure knowledge and understanding of the mystery of God, the person of Jesus Christ, the life and mission of the Church, and the central beliefs of the Catholic faith
- understand how Catholic belief shapes personal identity, moral decision-making, and social responsibility
- explore the relationship between faith and life, recognising how belief is lived out in practice
- engage in study, enquiry, and reflection, using age-appropriate theological language
- develop skills of listening, reasoning, interpretation, and evaluation
- make informed judgements and articulate their understanding with confidence and respect



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- cultivate attitudes of openness, respect for truth, reverence, compassion, and responsibility
- appreciate the beliefs and practices of other faith traditions while remaining rooted in Catholic teaching

Religious Education is taught for a minimum of 10% of curriculum time, exclusive of collective worship, and is delivered using the RED-compliant programme *In God's Name*, as directed by the Archdiocese of Cardiff–Menevia.

## Implementation

Religious Education at Our Lady's School is implemented with fidelity to the RED (2023) and in accordance with Archdiocesan expectations. It is delivered as a rigorous academic discipline and as a formative experience that shapes the spiritual and moral life of the school.

### Curriculum Design and Delivery

From Autumn Term 2023, the school adopted the RED-compliant programme *In God's Name* (Dr Margaret Carswell). This programme fully delivers the mandated curriculum content for Catholic schools in England and Wales and is structured around:

- the four lenses of knowledge (Scriptural, Theological, Liturgical, Moral)
- the Ways of Knowing (Understanding, Discernment, Participation, Encounter)
- clearly defined End of Phase Outcomes for pupils aged 5–7, 7–9, and 9–11

The curriculum follows the Liturgical Year, enabling pupils to make meaningful connections between classroom learning, prayer, worship, and the sacramental life of the Church. The programme operates on a three-year rolling cycle, ensuring continuity, progression, and depth of learning.

### Teaching and Learning

Religious Education is taught for a minimum of 10% of curriculum time, protected and monitored by the RE Lead. Teachers plan collaboratively in phase teams (Years 1–2, 3–4, 5–6), ensuring:

- consistency of approach
- shared professional dialogue
- high expectations of subject knowledge and pedagogy

*In God's Name* provides Key Information for Teachers (KIT) and Key Information for Pupils (KIP) to ensure lessons are theologically accurate and age-appropriate. Catholic teachers guide non-Catholic colleagues to maintain fidelity to Church teaching.

Lessons are structured to promote:



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- theological enquiry and reflection
- engagement with Scripture and Church teaching
- acquisition of appropriate religious vocabulary
- opportunities for personal response and application

### **Other Religions**

The teaching of Judaism and other world religions follows the model curriculum framework outlined in the RED (2023). Pupils develop respectful understanding of other faith traditions while remaining securely rooted in Catholic belief.

### **Monitoring**

The quality of Religious Education is monitored **systematically and evidence-based**, in line with CSI expectations. Monitoring includes:

- Annual **lesson observations**, focusing on subject knowledge, pedagogy, and pupil engagement
- Half-termly **book scrutiny**, evaluating progression, depth, accuracy, and pupil response
- **Classroom environment monitoring**, including displays, prayer foci, and Spirituality Books
- Review of **planning and assessment** for alignment with RED outcomes

The **RE Lead reports termly to governors** and oversees the **Catholic School Evaluation Document (CSED)**. Strengths and areas for development are identified, with priorities informing the School Development Plan.

Feedback is clear, developmental, and used to support staff improvement.

### **Assessment and Progress**

Pupils are assessed against End of Phase Outcomes using descriptors:

- Below
- Working Towards
- Expected Standards
- Greater Depth

Termly summative assessments are recorded on whole-school tracking grids and reviewed in pupil progress meetings. Assessment informs adaptive teaching, interventions, and professional development priorities.



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Parents are informed of pupils' progress through reports and parents' evenings, ensuring partnership and transparency.

### **Leadership and Governance**

The RE Lead reports termly to the Governing Body. RE and Spirituality governors meet regularly with leaders to review evidence and challenge practice. The Catholic School Effectiveness Document (CSED) is reviewed termly and updated annually, informing the School Development Plan.

### **Special Educational Needs and Inclusion**

Religious Education at Our Lady's School is fully inclusive, in accordance with RED (2023). Every child is recognised as unique and created in the image of God. Teaching is adapted through:

- Differentiated tasks and questioning
- Use of multi-sensory resources and visual supports
- Flexible grouping and targeted adult support
- Consideration of pupils' IEPs and individual needs

Assessment recognises spiritual reflection, understanding, and personal response, ensuring that all pupils can engage meaningfully with the Catholic faith.

### **Learning Environment and Display**

Every classroom has a dedicated Religious Education display board and focus table. These feature pupils' work, liturgical items, and objects linked to the current unit or Church seasons.

High-quality displays serve multiple purposes:

- Valuing pupils' work and celebrating achievement
- Providing stimuli for learning and reflection
- Reinforcing links between the curriculum, liturgy, and school life

Each class maintains a Spirituality Book, documenting the pupils' religious and spiritual journey throughout the year. These books provide evidence of progress, reflection, and engagement with faith across all year groups.

### **Cross-Phase Readiness and Transition**

We recognise the importance of a smooth transition for Year 6 pupils. Our Lady's School supports pupils moving on to secondary education through:



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- Visits to local secondary schools, including St Mary's Catholic High School, with opportunities to meet staff and pupils, explore the environment, and participate in lessons
- Transition visits from secondary staff, who meet pupils and Year 6 teachers to ensure continuity of learning and pastoral support
- Collaborative activities with neighbouring schools, such as joint visits with St Francis Xavier's Primary School, to foster confidence and community

To celebrate achievement and mark the transition, pupils participate in a Leavers' Mass at Our Lady's Church and a Year 6 Leavers' Assembly, with families invited to celebrate their success. These events acknowledge pupils' growth in faith, learning, and personal development.

### **Sacramental Preparation**

Pupils receive Reconciliation and First Holy Communion in Year 3. Preparation is led in school by Religious Education leaders in close partnership with the Parish Priest, ensuring:

- Faithful teaching of Church doctrine
- Engagement of parents and carers in preparation
- Opportunities for spiritual reflection and prayer

Sacramental preparation is embedded in the curriculum and liturgical life of the school, supporting pupils' understanding of the sacraments as part of a lifelong faith journey.

### **Equal Opportunities**

Religious Education at Our Lady's School is inclusive of all pupils, regardless of gender, race, or cultural background. Pupils are encouraged to:

- Listen respectfully to others' beliefs and viewpoints
- Engage with a range of faiths and cultures, fostering understanding and tolerance
- Develop a strong sense of moral responsibility, empathy, and community

The curriculum promotes mutual respect and social cohesion, ensuring that all pupils can participate fully and feel valued within the school community.

### **Impact**

The impact of Religious Education at Our Lady's School is that pupils become religiously literate, confident and reflective young people who are consciously engaged with the Catholic faith and respectful of the beliefs of others.



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Pupils demonstrate secure and developing knowledge of Catholic beliefs, practices and traditions, and can make meaningful connections between Scripture, Church teaching and everyday life. They are able to reflect spiritually, and to think ethically and theologically in ways that are appropriate to their age and capacity, in line with the expectations of the *Religious Education Directory (2023)*.

As a result of high-quality teaching, effective assessment and clear curriculum sequencing, pupils make good progress over time, including those with additional needs. They show curiosity, enjoyment and confidence in Religious Education lessons and engage thoughtfully in discussion, prayer and reflection.

Religious Education has a positive impact on pupils' personal development, shaping attitudes, behaviour and relationships across the school. Pupils demonstrate respect for others, an understanding of moral responsibility, and an awareness of the call to live as disciples of Christ in a diverse, modern society.

This impact is evident in pupils' work, discussions, participation in worship, and their lived expression of Gospel values within the school community.

#### **Religious Education as the Heart of the Curriculum (RED 2023 – Article 4)**

- Religious Education is the core of the core curriculum
- Religious Education is an academic discipline
- Religious Education informs every aspect of the curriculum
- Religious Education is taught for at least 10% of curriculum time

Through this provision, pupils are prepared to participate fully in Church and society, responding generously to God's call.

This policy is available on the school website:

[Our Lady's Catholic Primary School and Nursery](#)

Paper copies are available on request from the School Office