

# 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>	



'have life and have it to the full'

## **Intent**

Catholic schools put into practice the educational mission of the Church to make “Christ known to all people” (Christ at the Centre, 2012, p.7). In partnership with parents, Catholic schools form children as disciples of Christ, who calls all people to “life in all its fullness” (John 10:10), as reaffirmed in the Religious Education Directory (2023), Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales.

At Our Lady’s School, Religious Education is the core of the curriculum and is central to the life and mission of the school. Through Religious Education, we seek to be a witness to the values, teachings and beliefs of the Roman Catholic Church, ensuring that faith informs every aspect of school life.

Our intent is to promote achievement for all pupils, holding high expectations for every individual, so that all children, regardless of background or ability, can flourish academically, spiritually and morally. Religious Education at Our Lady’s School aims to inspire learning by fostering curiosity, reflection and deep engagement with Scripture, theology and lived experience.

Through Religious Education, we seek to collaborate with parents, the parish and the wider community, recognising that the formation of children in faith is a shared responsibility. Pupils are encouraged to understand how Catholic teaching promotes human dignity, care for creation, and a healthy and balanced way of life, rooted in Gospel values.

Religious Education also supports our commitment to creating a sustainable and effective school, where pupils are formed as religiously literate young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills appropriate to their age and capacity to reflect spiritually, think ethically and theologically, and respond to the call to live as disciples of Christ in the modern world.

## How Our School Aims Are Realised Through Religious Education

At Our Lady's School, Religious Education plays a central role in realising the aims of the school. Through clear intent, effective implementation and demonstrable impact, Religious Education contributes directly to pupils' spiritual, moral and academic formation. The table below illustrates how each school aim is explicitly embedded within the Religious Education curriculum and the resulting impact on pupils.

School Aim	Implementation through Religious Education	Impact on Pupils
<b>Be a witness to the values, teaching and beliefs of the Roman Catholic Church</b>	Delivery of a RED-compliant curriculum ( <i>In God's Name</i> ); accurate teaching of Catholic doctrine; curriculum shaped by the Liturgical Year; strong links between learning, prayer and worship	Pupils demonstrate secure knowledge of Catholic beliefs and practices and understand how faith informs daily life
<b>Promote achievement for all</b>	Allocation of at least 10% curriculum time to RE; assessment aligned to RED End of Phase Outcomes; regular monitoring and pupil progress meetings	All pupils make progress appropriate to their age and capacity and achieve well in Religious Education
<b>Expect the best for individuals</b>	High expectations in teaching and learning; differentiated support and challenge; inclusive provision for SEND pupils	Pupils are confident, reflective learners who are challenged to think deeply and articulate their understanding
<b>Inspire learning</b>	Use of enquiry-based learning, Scripture, theological discussion, reflection and prayer; strong emphasis on vocabulary and key questions	Pupils show enthusiasm and curiosity for Religious Education and engage meaningfully with faith and belief
<b>Collaborate with the community</b>	Partnership with parents, parish and governors; involvement of parish priest in sacramental preparation; regular communication with families	Pupils understand the Church as a living community and experience faith as shared and relational
<b>Promote a healthy lifestyle</b>	Teaching of Catholic Social Teaching and moral theology; reflection on dignity, relationships and wellbeing	Pupils recognise the link between faith, wellbeing and personal responsibility and show respect for self and others
<b>Create a sustainable school</b>	Explicit teaching of Care for Creation; links between faith, stewardship and social justice; prayer and action for the common good	Pupils develop a sense of responsibility for God's creation and act as thoughtful stewards of the world
<b>Continually strive to be effective</b>	Monitoring, CSED review, CPD	Consistently strong provision

## Objectives of the Religious Education Curriculum

At Our Lady's School, Catholic Religious Education permeates the whole life of the school and is reflected in its values, attitudes, and curriculum. Religious Education aims to form pupils who are religiously literate, spiritually aware, ethically reflective, and able to live as disciples of Christ.

### *Narrative RED-aligned Objectives*

Through the Four Knowledge Lenses, pupils will:

- **Hear:** develop knowledge and understanding of God, Jesus Christ, the Church and Catholic beliefs
- **Believe:** deepen theological understanding and Catholic identity
- **Celebrate:** understand prayer, worship, sacraments and the Liturgical Year
- **Live:** reflect on moral teaching and apply it to personal and social life in a diverse society

Through the Ways of Knowing, pupils will:

- **Understand:** acquire accurate religious knowledge
- **Discern:** reflect spiritually and ethically on faith and experience
- **Respond:** recognise the demands of discipleship in everyday life

### *Original Objectives (cross-referenced with RED Lenses and Ways of Knowing)*

Original Objective	RED Alignment (Four Lenses & Ways of Knowing)
Develop knowledge and understanding of the mystery of God, of Jesus Christ, of the Church, and of the central beliefs which Catholics hold	<b>Hear &amp; Believe:</b> Pupils acquire doctrinal knowledge and deepen theological understanding; use <b>Understand</b> to learn core teachings of the Church
Develop awareness and appreciation of Catholic belief, understanding its impact on personal and social behaviour, and the relationship between faith and life	<b>Live &amp; Respond:</b> Pupils reflect spiritually and ethically on how faith shapes behaviour and decision-making; consider how faith informs everyday life
Encourage study, investigation, and reflection by the pupils	<b>All Lenses &amp; Discern:</b> Pupils explore, question, and engage in enquiry-based learning; develop critical thinking and theological reflection
Develop appropriate skills (ability to listen, think critically, spiritually, ethically, theologically; acquire knowledge and organise it effectively; make informed judgements)	<b>Ways of Knowing – Understand, Discern, Respond:</b> Pupils develop skills in reasoning, reflection, enquiry, and informed decision-making
Foster appropriate attitudes (respect for truth, respect for others' views, awareness of the spiritual, moral responsibility, religious commitment in daily life, living in a multicultural, multi-faith society)	<b>Live &amp; Respond:</b> Pupils demonstrate respect, empathy, and moral responsibility; respond to challenges of a diverse society and religious commitment
Teach the Archdiocesan Religious Education Programme through <i>In God's Name</i> resource	<b>Implementation – Hear &amp; Believe:</b> Pupils are taught the RED content faithfully through a structured, RED-compliant programme
Promote mutual respect within the school community where everybody feels valued, regardless of race or culture	<b>Live &amp; Respond:</b> Pupils learn to respect diversity, collaborate, and value the dignity of every individual in line with Gospel values

## Implementation

### The Religious Education Programme

From the second part of the Autumn Term 2023, Our Lady's School transitioned from the Come and See programme to the RED-compliant resource *In God's Name* (Dr Margaret Carswell). This programme fully meets the requirements of the Religious Education Directory (2023) for Catholic schools in England and Wales.

*In God's Name* is implemented across all year groups from Reception to Year 6. Staff received appropriate training through INSET days and staff meetings to ensure confident and accurate delivery of the programme. The curriculum content is structured around the mandated knowledge and skills outlined in the RED and is expressed through End of Phase Outcomes for pupils aged 5–7, 7–9 and 9–11.

The programme integrates the Four Knowledge Lenses (Hear, Believe, Celebrate, Live) and the Ways of Knowing (Understand, Discern, Respond), ensuring that pupils develop secure doctrinal knowledge, theological understanding, and the ability to reflect on faith and life.

*In God's Name* follows the Liturgical Year closely, enabling pupils to make meaningful connections between classroom learning, worship, and the life of the Church. Teachers benefit from the programme's strong emphasis on professional training, supported by comprehensive *Key Information for Teachers* materials, ensuring that religious content is taught authentically and accurately.

Teachers plan collaboratively within phase teams (Years 1–2, 3–4, 5–6), promoting consistency, shared expertise, and high-quality provision across the school. The programme operates on a three-year rolling cycle.

### Other Religions

The teaching of Judaism and other world religions follows the model curriculum outlined in the Religious Education Directory (2023). This ensures that pupils develop accurate knowledge and respectful understanding of other faith traditions, in line with the Church's teaching on interreligious dialogue and respect.

### Planning and Assessment

Teachers meet on a half-termly basis to review completed units of work and to plan forthcoming learning. The RE Leader introduces each new unit, highlighting key theological content and expectations using materials from *In God's Name*. Staff engage with the *Key Information for Teachers* (KIT) and *Key Information for Pupils* (KIP) to ensure clarity and consistency in delivery.

Planning is completed collaboratively in key stage teams using *In God's Name* resources and a bespoke school planning template. This template incorporates:



'have life and have it to the full'

- Key theological questions
- Core vocabulary
- Scripture references
- Opportunities for formative assessment

Catholic staff provide guidance and support to colleagues who are non-Catholic, ensuring the faithful transmission of Church teaching.

Assessment in Religious Education is both formative and summative and is aligned to the End of Phase Outcomes of the RED (2023). The RE Leader provides assessment sheets for each key phase, which are used throughout each unit to track pupils' progress.

Pupils are assessed using the terms Emerging, Working Towards, Secure, and Greater Depth. Teachers make judgements based on pupils' demonstrated knowledge, understanding, and ability to reflect spiritually and think ethically and theologically. Summative judgements are recorded termly on whole-school tracking grids and reviewed during pupil progress meetings.

Assessment information is used to inform teaching, identify pupils requiring support or challenge, and ensure that all pupils make progress appropriate to their age and capacity.

## Monitoring

The quality of Religious Education is monitored regularly to ensure high standards of teaching and learning. Monitoring activities include:

- Annual lesson observations
- Half-termly scrutiny of pupils' work
- Review of classroom displays and prayer focus areas

Feedback from monitoring activities is shared with staff to support professional development and continuous improvement.

Parents are informed about pupils' progress and achievement in Religious Education through written reports and parents' evenings.

In accordance with the *Religious Education Directory* (2023), at least 10% of curriculum teaching time is allocated to Religious Education. This does not include time for Collective Worship or hymn practice. The RE Leader monitors timetables to ensure statutory curriculum time requirements are met.

The RE Leader reports termly to the Governing Body on the quality and effectiveness of Religious Education. The Catholic School Evaluation Document (CSED) is reviewed termly by the RE Leader, senior leaders, and RE and Spirituality Governors.



'have life and have it to the full'

An annual review of the CSED identifies strengths and priorities for development. The resulting action plan informs the School Development Plan and supports ongoing improvement in Religious Education.

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

At Our Lady's School, we are committed to ensuring that all pupils have full access to Religious Education, in accordance with the *Religious Education Directory (2023)*, which affirms that Religious Education is for all pupils in Catholic schools.

We recognise that every child is unique and created in the image of God. Religious Education is planned and delivered in a way that enables pupils of all abilities, including those with special educational needs and disabilities, to participate fully and make progress appropriate to their age and capacity.

Teaching is adapted through:

- differentiated tasks and questioning
- use of multi-sensory resources and visual supports
- flexible grouping and targeted adult support
- careful consideration of pupils' individual education plans (IEPs)

Assessment in Religious Education recognises individual starting points and values pupils' spiritual reflection, understanding and response, as well as written outcomes.

Through inclusive practice, all pupils are enabled to encounter the Catholic faith, engage meaningfully with learning, and experience success within Religious Education.

### **Classroom Display and Spirituality Books**

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. Displays are interactive and reflective, encouraging pupils to use them during times of prayer and reflection.

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.



*'have life and have it to the full'*

## **Cross-Phase Readiness and Transition to Secondary School**

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

- 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.

## **Objectives of the Religious Education Curriculum**



'have life and have it to the full'

At Our Lady's School, Religious Education permeates the whole life of the school and is reflected in its ethos, values, relationships, and curriculum.

The objectives of Religious Education are to ensure that pupils:

*Through the Four Knowledge Lenses:*

- *Hear* - develop knowledge and understanding of the mystery of God, of Jesus Christ, of the Church, and of the central beliefs held by Catholics.
- *Believe* - deepen their understanding of Catholic doctrine and theology and how belief shapes Christian identity.
- *Celebrate* - understand the sacramental life of the Church and the significance of prayer, worship, and the Liturgical Year.
- *Live* - reflect on the moral teachings of the Church and apply them to personal and social life, especially in a diverse, multi-faith society.

*Through the Ways of Knowing:*

- *Understand* - acquire accurate religious knowledge and theological understanding.
- *Discern* - reflect spiritually and ethically on faith, Scripture, and lived experience.
- *Respond* - recognise the demands of religious commitment and respond thoughtfully to the call to live as disciples of Christ.

## **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.

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



'have life and have it to the full'

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.

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

1. RE is the core of the core curriculum
2. RE is an academic discipline
3. RE informs every aspect of the curriculum
4. RE is taught for at least 10% of curriculum time

#### **Governor Inspection 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.



'have life and have it to the full'

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



'have life and have it to the full'

This is the updated RE Policy body using Lato font.