

St Walburga's Catholic Primary School, a Voluntary Academy
Religious Education Policy



Policy Date January 2025

Signed _____ **Chair of Governors**
Signed _____ **Head teacher**

Review Date January 2027

Our Mission

‘Putting Others First’

“Let no-one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbour” (1 Corinthians 10:24)

Our Vision

‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty’ (John 6:35)

[Jesus the ‘Bread of Life’ means He is essential for living life to the full [John 10:10]. A life not only satisfying my own needs and wants, or simply my life with others, but acknowledging God and growing in relationship with God, i.e. always trying to live by seeing things/people as God sees them]

Guided by the love of God, through abiding faith, St Walburga’s inspires a sense of togetherness.

This supports the development of each unique child to achieve their full potential in an ever-changing society.

They become a witness of Christ to positively influence their own life and the lives of those around them throughout their journey with us, and beyond.

Rationale of Religious Education:

- At the heart of Catholic education lies the Christian vision of the human person. This vision is expressed and explored in religious education. Therefore, we believe that religious education is never simply one subject among many, but the foundation of the entire educational process.¹
- We believe Religious Education is, then, the core subject in a Catholic school.
- Religious education contributes to evangelisation and catechesis but its specific contribution to the Catholic Life of the school is primarily educational.
- We understand Religious Education to be the systematic study of the mystery of God and of Jesus Christ, of the Church, and of the central beliefs which Catholics hold.²

¹ Religious Education in Catholic Schools, para. 4, Catholic Bishops’ Conference, 2000

² Religious Education Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools, p. 10, Catholic Bishops’ Conference, 1996

The Aims of Religious Education

Religious Education is very much a core subject in our school and we affirm it as central importance at the heart of everything we do:

- to promote knowledge and understanding of Catholic faith and life
- to promote knowledge and understanding of the response of faith to the ultimate questions about human life, its origin and purpose
- to promote the skills required to engage in examination of and reflection upon religious belief and practice

For some in the classroom, Religious Education may well be received as catechesis, deepening and enhancing their personal faith; for some it will be evangelisation, the first time they will have been presented, personally, with the truths of living faith. Nevertheless, its primary purpose is the step by step study of the mystery of Christ, the teaching of the Church and its application in daily life. The criteria by which it is to be judged are educational.

Religious Education is planned, taught, assessed and monitored with the same rigour as other core curriculum subjects.

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.

At St Walburga's, Religious Education aims to:

- present a comprehensive content which engages pupils and 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;
- bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture.

Statutory Requirements:

In line with Bishops' Conference recommendations, 10% of curriculum time is allocated to Religious Education which does **not** include Prayer and Liturgy.

<u>KS1</u>	2 x RE lessons + Other Faiths Class Saints teaching & Saint's feast day Catholic Social Teaching (fundraising)	1hr 40 (50 mins each) 1h 40 x 3 (1 per term) 1h 40 x 2 (across year) 1h 40
<u>KS2</u>	2 x RE lessons + Other Faiths Class Saints teaching & Saint's feast day Catholic Social Teaching (fundraising)	2hr (1hr each) 2h x 3 (1 per term) 2h x 2 (across year) 2h

Curriculum Provision:

To fulfil the above aims and to address the 4 areas of study outlined in the Curriculum Directory – Revelation, Church, Celebration and Life in Christ - '*The Way, The Truth and The Life*' and '*Lighting the Path*' programmes are used as recommended by the Diocese for Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 1/EYFS respectively.

This programme will be diversified and supplemented, where relevant with other appropriate resources for example RE Today. Where possible, planning will demonstrate key vocabulary, challenges to pupils working at depth within the expected standard and assessment opportunities. They will use these programmes to adhere to the Curriculum Directory as agreed by the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales.

Our starting point in Religious Education is **Revelation**. God is always the initiator in the history of our creation and redemption; it is his revealing of himself that makes classroom religious education possible. To begin with, revelation ensures that we respect the revealed nature of Christian faith.

From revelation we move onto **Church**; in other words, we consider how revelation gives life to the Church. The Church is the bearer of God's revelation and the means by which human beings live out their response to revelation, enlivened by the Holy Spirit.

From here we focus on two aspects of the Church's response to God's revelation; **Celebration** – the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church and **Life in Christ** – the moral life and the pursuit of holiness.

However, attempts to make clear connections between the truths of faith and the pupils' experience of life are essential.

Teaching in Religious Education should help people be attentive to the meaning of

their experiences, illuminated by the light of the Gospel, so that they may respond to God more fully. Experience can also make the Christian message more intelligible. It serves in the examination and acceptance of the truths which are contained in the deposit of Revelation.

Methodology

A variety of teaching and learning strategies will be used from across the curriculum adapted appropriately to the needs and learning styles of pupils. Including use of both art, drama and music as a way into thinking more deeply about theological concepts.

The spiritual dimension of our lives should permeate the whole life of the school, the environment, relationships, the curriculum, liturgies and assemblies.

Use of computers and drama and art:

The above will be used to support the delivery of Religious Education wherever appropriate and should add to a diverse and richly creative R.E. curriculum. Children are at all times encouraged to use appropriate internet sites, such as CAFOD as a source of information that will support their learning.

Our Religious teaching will relate to the lives and experiences of our children.

Appropriate religious language will be developed where children will understand the meaning of symbols and ritual in the practices of the Catholic Faith.

We will support and deliver the catechetical programme alongside the parish and so contribute to the development of community and partnership between home, school and parish.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting:

- The Department of Education and Formation of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales sets general guidelines for the manner in which religious education is assessed
- Each teacher tracks the pupils' progress and uses this to inform a teacher assessment judgement.
- Moderation meetings are held regularly.
- Assessment of a child's understanding in Religious Education must consider what they can convey orally and not just what they can record through writing. Teacher annotations are vital when assessing children's discussion of religious ideas.

Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to parents/carers in a written report at the end of each academic year. They will be given a grade for effort and a grade for their knowledge and understanding as well as how they engage with beliefs and values.

Inclusion:

- The religious and educational needs of all children will be addressed, whether they are from homes where the Faith is strong, or alternatively where there is little or no faith.
- Teaching will help all children grow spiritually and help them develop self-esteem.
- Children will be taught in class groups.
- Teachers will be responsible for planning and delivery of the Religious Education programme taking into account additional educational needs in accordance with the school SEND policy.
- Wherever possible, those children who are working at depth within the expected standard in RE will be encouraged to develop their knowledge and understanding to a higher level.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

- Monitoring of teaching and learning will take place through lesson observations, work scrutiny, learning walks, pupil voice and monitoring of displays/prayer space.
- Assessment data will be collected termly and analysed by the RE Leader before being shared with the SLT and Governors.
- Assessment data will also be shared within the Blessed Christopher Wharton Academy Trust.

Roles and Responsibilities:

The RE Subject Leader will be responsible for support and guidance in Religious Education including:

- Monitoring teaching and learning, planning and standards through lesson observations and work scrutinies according to school practice.
- Monitoring standards within the curriculum area.
- Self-evaluating to identify strengths and areas for development.
- Ensuring the curriculum offered is appropriate, suitable and relevant to pupils' needs and interests.
- Attending appropriate training and keeping up to date with current thinking, policy and developments and feeding back to staff.
- Organising and leading staff training and development.
- Identifying training needs of staff to ensure their suitability to teach effective Religious Education.
- Supporting and advising colleagues in the delivery of Religious Education.
- Liaising with the Headteacher, Governors, parents, Diocese and the *Office for Education & Schools* on matters relating to Religious Education.
- Audit, manage and develop resources inline with budgets.

The Role of Governors:

- The Governors will be asked to approve new Religious Education policies
- To ensure the teaching of Religious Education as recommended by the Diocese of Leeds.
- The subject leader will liaise with the link governor about Religious Education developments.

Other Faiths

Throughout the year, Other Faiths will be taught in one week using termly modules. During Other Faith weeks, the study of another World Faith is delivered in addition to usual RE time. Each class will follow the same faith and teachers will work on the pre-planned learning objectives given to them. Islam and Judaism are taught annually and Hinduism and Sikhism are on a rolling programme. These can also be taught in a cross curricular approach including other subjects such as art, Literacy and PSHE.

Withdrawal:

Parents have a statutory right to withdraw children from Religious Education lessons and from Collective Worship. It is assumed that parents who send their children to St Walburga's Catholic Primary will be aware of the particular nature of the school and will have chosen it because of our religious ethos and positive Christian values. Parents who wish their children to be withdrawn from Collective Worship will need to make their own arrangements for supervision at these times.

Note:

Additional Enrichment opportunities (in conjunction with Catholic Life and Worship)

Class Saint Feast Days

Faith Leaders

Mini-Vinnies

Termly Children's Mass at St. Walburga's Church

Voluntary Advent and Lenten prayers

Lenten Fundraising (Y4-6)

Non-Eucharistic Services and Class Masses

Assemblies

FS & KS1 Nativities

LKS2 Easter Liturgy Performance

KS2 Carol Service

Liturgical events (e.g. blessing of wreaths)

RSE, circle time and PSHE are taught through RE which is statutory.

Other documentation/ Appendices:

Please also refer to:

- Curriculum Directory for teaching RE in Catholic Schools
- Diocesan guidelines for Assessment.
- The Way, The Truth and The Life Rationale and Teacher Booklets
- Assessment Policy
- Marking and Presentation Policy
- Special Educational Needs Policy
- Curriculum Policy
- School's Curriculum Plan
- Safeguarding Policy
- Prayer and Liturgy policy
- RE Subject Handbook