



St John Fisher RC Primary

RE POLICY

Love Jesus, love learning,
Inspiring each other to be the best that we can be.

Nature and Purpose of Religious Education

‘Only a strong and united action by the church in the field of education in an increasingly fragmented and conflict-ridden world can contribute both to the evangelising mission entrusted to her by Jesus and the construction of a world in which human persons feel they are brothers and sisters...’

(Pope Francis 2022)

Curriculum time allocation

At St John Fisher RC Primary School, Religious Education is the core of the core curriculum and is the source and summit of the whole curriculum.

In line with Bishops’ Conference recommendations, 10% of curriculum time is allocated to Religious Education. This does not include Collective Worship.

The aims of Religious Education

We adhere to the following aims of Religious Education as outlined in the Religious Education Directory: ‘To know You more clearly’ (RED 2023):

1. 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;
2. To enable pupils continually to deepen their religious and theological understanding and be able to communicate this effectively;
3. 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;
4. 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;
5. To develop the critical faculties of pupils so to bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture;
6. To stimulate pupils’ imagination and provoke a desire for personal meaning as revealed in the truth of the Catholic faith;
7. To enable pupils to relate the knowledge gained through religious education to their understanding of other subjects in the curriculum.

Scheme of Learning

At St John Fisher RC Primary School, the ‘Lighting the Path’ resource will start to be used from September 2025 to support the teaching of the Religious Education Directory (RED) from Reception to Year 6. The resource closely follows the model curriculum within the RED and covers all the mandatory learning outcomes of the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales.



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The title of the resource is taken from Psalm 129:

‘Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path’.

The resource helps children to learn the story of the revelation of God in Sacred Scriptures, the teaching and traditions of the Catholic Church and the beliefs and practices of Catholics around the world today. Children develop creative and critical skills, as they explore religious beliefs and form personal responses. They are taken on a journey through Sacred Scripture and the liturgical year of the Catholic Church which helps them to develop skills to engage in conversations about their different beliefs and worldviews.

Lighting the Path provides lesson plans, PowerPoint presentations, activity sheets and classroom resources linked to the six RED branches (core themes) that follow the liturgical cycle of the Church's year and map onto the six half terms of the school year as follows:

- Autumn One - Creation and Covenant
- Autumn Two - Prophecy and Promise
- Spring One - From Galilee to Jerusalem
- Spring Two - From Desert to Garden
- Summer One - To the Ends of the Earth
- Summer Two - Dialogue and Encounter

Each branch is taught through the process of four lenses Hear, Believe, Celebrate, Live. The names of these four lenses reflect the language of the Catechism itself which states that the mystery of faith which we hear and receive requires us to 'believe in it', to 'celebrate it' and to 'live from it' (CCC 2558).

At the end of each branch and knowledge lense the children will:

Understand - Understand deeply the meaning of sacred texts, religious beliefs, sacred rites, and the lives of individuals and communities who are shaped by these texts, beliefs and rites.

Discern – Pupils will be able to judge wisely in response to different interpretations of the meaning, significance and implications of texts, beliefs, rites, and ways of life so that they can arrive at justified conclusions about what is true, what is good and what is beautiful.

Respond – Pupils will reflect personally and with integrity on what they have learnt and consider the implications for action these may have their own lives and the world in which they live.

Lighting the Path will be used by all year groups when each branch/unit of work becomes available as follows:

Release date	Content
Jun 25	Years R, 1, 2 Branches 1 & 2
Nov 25	Years R, 1, 2 Branches 3 & 4
Feb 26	Years R, 1, 2 Branches 5 & 6
Jun 26	Years 3, 4, 5, 6 Branches 1 & 2
Nov 26	Years 3, 4, 5, 6 Branches 3 & 4
Feb 27	Years 3, 4, 5, 6 Branches 5 & 6

Until the units of work become available we will use the Diocesan Working Party schemes of work.



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Marking and Feedback

The marking of children's work is approached positively and constructively so that it affirms and celebrates success and encourages future learning. We give consistent, frequent, helpful and encouraging feedback to our pupils about aspects of their progress.

Teachers create knowledge organisers to outline the subject coverage each half term. These are posted on the school website to inform parents of their child's learning. They are also displayed in every classroom and in the children's books for their reference.

Other Religions:

At St John Fisher, we teach pupils to have a mutual respect and an understanding of the various faiths and beliefs. Aspects of other faiths are taught in all classes during Inter Faith week and in Summer Term 2 in line with Branch 6 of the model curriculum within the Religious Education Directory.

Additional Learning Opportunities to Support Religious Education

Sacramental Programme

The programme is organised by the Year Three teacher and actively supported by The RE Subject Leader, Head teacher, staff and catechists.

SMSC Education

SMSC stands for **spiritual, moral, social** and **cultural** development. At St John Fisher SMSC education is taught through RE and throughout the wider curriculum. ***(Please refer to the separate SMSC policy.)***

RSE

'Life to the Full' scheme of work is delivered in all classes throughout the year. This is a primary school relationship and sex education programme which supports teachers and parents in Catholic schools to enable the holistic growth of children. ***(Please refer to the separate RSE policy.)***

TEN TEN Assemblies: Supporting the RE Curriculum

Each Monday the children listen to/take part in engaging (Ten Ten) assemblies that are designed to bring the Sunday Gospel readings alive for children. The assemblies include short films, music tracks, activities, differentiated questions, teaching input, re-enactments of the Gospels, pupil-involvement and a wide range of reflection and prayer resources. The assemblies have differentiated content and a clear journey leading to prayer and reflection. At the end of the assembly, each class is provided with a 'Statement of Belief' linked to the theme of the assembly and linking to scripture. The 'Statement' is displayed in each classroom to reflect upon throughout the week.

Liturgical Calendar



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Major liturgical feasts and other celebrations (Easter, Christmas, and Harvest) are marked with particular events such as assemblies, drama and liturgical presentation to maximise the learning potential. ***(Please refer to the Prayer and Liturgy policy.)***

Inclusion and Equality:

The governing body have wider responsibilities under the Equalities Act 2010 and will ensure that our school strives to do the best for all of the pupils, irrespective of disability, educational needs, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, sex, gender identity, religion or sexual orientation or whether they are looked after children. All pupils in our school, irrespective of ability, faith and background will have appropriate adaptive teaching where necessary to enable them to access to the Religious Education programme.

Assessment, Monitoring, Recording and Reporting:

- Teacher assessment will be carried out each half term by scrutinising children's work against the expected outcomes outlined in the RED.
- A standards booklet provides a summary of half-termly attainment and progress of all children, including those in key groups (EAL, PP and SEND).
- An in - house moderation meeting is held every term when examples of assessed work are available for inspection.
- Monitoring of teaching and learning takes places each term through book scrutiny, learning walks, or pupil meetings.
- The Head teacher and Subject leader carry out lesson observations/learning walks – one per year.
- Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to parents/carers in a written report at the end of each academic year.
- A termly report to governors provides details about the teaching and learning in Religious Education.

Virtual Learning

In the event of a school closure work will be set for this subject as per class timetable on Microsoft Teams. Microsoft Teams is used as Learning Platform as a means to set online learning for pupils. Teachers use Microsoft Teams to set tasks for children to complete tasks at home.

Policy review

This policy will be updated in the next academic year to reflect the expectations of the new Religious Education Directory.

Management of the subject

The RE Subject Leader will:

- Review the policy regularly in light of new developments
- Monitor children's work, observe lessons and question children to ensure that progress is being made
- Monitor assessment across the school and track progress



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- Report to staff and governors

Please refer to the Prayer and Liturgy policy, RSE, SMSC policies that link with this policy.

Date	Amendments
May 2015	Original documents
May 2016	Update to reflect the change of RE Scheme 'Come and See'
September 2017	Reviewed Updated to include: Equality and Inclusion, changes to teaching other World Faiths and updated Assessment section.
September 2019	Updated to include: Ten Ten Assemblies and with reference to Interim Assessment Framework (Appendix 1) and Target Tracker Assessment
May 2021	Updated to include Life to the Full RSE Scheme Updated to include information about Knowledge Organisers Updated with reference to Intent, Implementation and Impact Updated with reference to Virtual Learning
September 2023	Updated – RSE - more detailed information included within the PSHE policy. SMSC brief mention - separate policy written for approval. Removed the wording: Word, Welfare, Witness, Worship, Welcome – in line with the new Inspection Framework.
September 2024	Reviewed Reference to 'adaptive teaching' added
July 2025	Reviewed New Scheme of Learning (Lighting the Path) to be introduced from September 2025 to fulfil the requirements of the Religious Education Directory (2023): To love You more clearly