Christ the King

Catholic Primary School

Religious Education Policy

'To Live together in harmony
To Grow and develop in Christ
To Reflect God's Love in all we do'

Rationale of Religious Education:

Religious Education is central to the educative mission of the Catholic Church and lies at the very heart of Catholic schooling. It enables pupils to encounter the person and teachings of Jesus Christ, deepen their understanding of the Catholic faith, and recognise the relationship between faith and everyday life.

As stated by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales:

"At the heart of Catholic education lies the Christian vision of the human person. This vision is expressed and explored in Religious Education." (Religious Education in Catholic Schools, 2000, para. 4)

The Religious Education Directory further emphasises that:

"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." (RED, 2023, p.13)

At Christ the King Catholic Primary School, Religious Education is therefore recognised as the foundation of our curriculum and a vital means through which pupils are formed spiritually, morally, intellectually, socially and culturally.

The Aims of Religious Education:

Religious Education at Christ the King aims to:

- engage pupils in a systematic study of the mystery of God, the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, the teachings of the Church, and the central beliefs of the Catholic faith;
- enable pupils to deepen their religious and theological understanding and communicate this confidently and effectively;
- present an authentic understanding of the Church's moral and social teaching, equipping pupils with a secure foundation for living and engaging critically with contemporary society;
- foster knowledge and understanding of other religions and worldviews, enabling respectful and meaningful dialogue with those whose beliefs differ from their own;
- develop pupils' critical thinking skills so they can explore the relationship between faith and life, faith and culture, and faith and society;
- stimulate curiosity, imagination and a search for personal meaning through engagement with the truths of the Catholic faith;
- enable pupils to draw connections between Religious Education and other areas of learning across the curriculum;
- nurture pupils' spiritual development and encourage them to become active disciples who contribute positively to their communities and the wider world.

(Adapted from Religious Education Directory, 2023)

Outcome of Religious Education:

The outcome of Religious Education is the development of religiously literate and engaged young people who possess the knowledge, understanding and skills appropriate to their age and stage of development to:

- reflect spiritually;

- think ethically and theologically;
- engage respectfully with people of other faiths and worldviews;
- appreciate the demands and responsibilities of religious commitment;
- apply their learning to everyday life and contemporary issues.

As stated in the Religious Education Directory (RED, 2023, p.6)

Religious Education at the Heart of the Curriculum:

At Christ the King Catholic Primary School, Religious Education is the "core of the core curriculum" and is regarded as both the source and summit of the school's educational mission.

We recognise that:

- Religious Education is a rigorous academic discipline deserving the same high standards, expectations and accountability as all other core curriculum subjects.
- Religious Education forms the foundation upon which the wider curriculum is built and informs all aspects of school life.
- Opportunities are provided across the curriculum for pupils to make meaningful links between their learning and the values of the Gospel.
- Religious Education occupies a minimum of 10% of curriculum time in accordance with the requirements of the Religious Education Directory and the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.

Programme of Study

As a Catholic school within the Diocese of Westminster, Christ the King Catholic Primary School is required to follow the Religious Education Directory (RED) 2023.

The school has previously delivered Religious Education through the *In God's Name* programme. Since September 2025, the RED 2023 Model Curriculum now provides the basis for Religious Education teaching and learning from Nursery to Year 6. It ensures continuity and progression in pupils' knowledge, understanding and application of the Catholic faith.

Teachers planning is supported by the “Westminster Way” resources provided by the Diocese of Westminster.

Curriculum Structure

The curriculum is planned progressively to ensure that all pupils, including those with SEND and other vulnerable groups, can access and engage with increasingly challenging theological concepts through appropriately adapted teaching and learning experiences.

The Religious Education Directory Model Curriculum is organised into six curriculum branches which correspond closely to the six half-terms of the academic year.

Five branches focus on a central theme that enables pupils to develop their understanding of:

- Revelation;
- Sacred Scripture;

- Life in Christ;
- The Mission of the Church;
- Catholic beliefs and practices.

Through these branches, pupils are encouraged to engage with theological concepts and to reflect upon how faith informs action, enabling them to "see, judge and act" in the light of the Gospel.

The sixth branch, **Encounter and Dialogue**, provides opportunities for pupils to learn about other religions and worldviews. This branch promotes mutual respect, understanding and authentic dialogue while drawing upon the Church's teachings on intercultural and interreligious engagement.

Further details of the curriculum content and progression can be found within the Religious Education Directory (2023).

Teaching and Learning

At Christ the King, Religious Education is planned and delivered through engaging, inclusive and challenging lessons that:

- promote high expectations and academic rigour;
- encourage enquiry, reflection and discussion;
- support pupils in developing theological literacy;
- recognise and respond to pupils' individual needs;
- enable pupils to make connections between faith, learning and lived experience;
- use a variety of teaching approaches and resources to support effective learning.

Teachers provide opportunities for pupils to develop religious knowledge, understanding and skills whilst fostering a deeper appreciation of their personal relationship with God.

Inclusion and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

At Christ the King Catholic Primary School, we believe that every child is created in the image and likeness of God and possesses unique gifts and talents. We are committed to ensuring that all pupils, regardless of ability, background or need, have full access to a rich, ambitious and inclusive Religious Education curriculum.

Religious Education is a subject for all learners. Through high-quality teaching and appropriate adaptations, every pupil is supported to participate, achieve and flourish within the RE curriculum.

Teachers ensure that learning is accessible and meaningful for all pupils by:

- maintaining high expectations for every learner;
- providing appropriate scaffolding and support to enable pupils to access theological concepts and religious vocabulary;
- adapting teaching approaches, resources and learning activities to meet individual needs;
- using a range of visual, practical, oral and written strategies to support learning;
- providing opportunities for collaborative learning, discussion and reflection;
- ensuring that assessment approaches allow pupils to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding in a variety of ways;
- working closely with the SENDCo, support staff and families to identify and remove barriers to learning.

Where appropriate, reasonable adjustments are made to ensure that pupils with special educational needs and disabilities can access the full curriculum and make progress from their individual starting points.

Pupils with SEND are encouraged and supported to participate fully in all aspects of Religious Education, including classroom learning, prayer and liturgy, retreats, sacramental preparation (where appropriate), and wider opportunities that contribute to the Catholic life and mission of the school.

The school recognises that Religious Education can make a significant contribution to pupils' personal development, self-esteem, wellbeing and sense of belonging. As such, we strive to create an environment where every child feels valued, respected and able to encounter God's love through the life of the school community.

Assessment, Monitoring, Recording and Reporting

Assessment in Religious Education is an integral part of teaching and learning and is used to inform future planning and support pupil progress. Assessment arrangements are adapted where necessary to ensure that pupils with SEND can demonstrate their learning and achievement appropriately while maintaining high expectations.

Assessment

- Assessment is carried out against the Expected Outcomes identified within the RED 2023 Model Curriculum.
- Teachers use a range of formative and summative assessment strategies to evaluate pupil progress and attainment.

Moderation and Standardisation

- Regular moderation and standardisation activities take place within school.
- Staff participate in collaborative moderation with Sacred Heart RC Primary School, local deanery schools and diocesan networks to ensure consistency and accuracy in assessment judgements.

Monitoring

The quality of Religious Education is monitored through:

- lesson observations;
- learning walks;
- work scrutiny;
- pupil voice activities;
- planning reviews;
- assessment analysis.

Monitoring is carried out in accordance with the school's monitoring and evaluation schedule.

Recording and Reporting

- Pupil progress and attainment are recorded and tracked in line with the school's assessment policy.
- Religious Education outcomes are reported to governors at least termly.
- Parents and carers receive an annual report detailing their child's progress and attainment in Religious Education.

- Religious Education is reported and monitored with the same rigour and priority as other core curriculum subjects.

Leadership and Management

The Religious Education Lead, **Dee Abbott**, is responsible for:

- leading and developing Religious Education throughout the school;
- supporting colleagues in the planning, teaching and assessment of Religious Education;
- monitoring standards and pupil outcomes;
- coordinating professional development and training;
- ensuring compliance with diocesan and national requirements;
- supporting the Catholic life and mission of the school.

The Religious Education Lead works closely with the Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team, parish clergy and governors to promote excellence in Religious Education.

Father Moses Enehizena, as Link Governor for Religious Education, provides challenge and support and monitors the effectiveness of Religious Education across the school.

Policy Review

This policy will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed by the Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team, Religious Education Lead and Link Governor.

The policy will be reviewed biennially, or sooner in response to diocesan or national developments.