

St Peter and St Paul Catholic Primary School

Religious Education Policy

2024 - 2025

‘The Love of Christ impels us’

To be

Ready, Respectful and Safe



**‘To love one another as I have loved
you’**

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

At St Peter & St Paul Catholic Primary School, we work to ensure we provide an education that is Christ centred. Our education is based on the belief that we are all made in God's image and that we have a duty as Catholic's to 'walk the talk', we do this by following our school mission, to '**love one another**' as Jesus taught us in John 13:34. Our children are encouraged to develop and achieve their academic potential by showcasing their individual talents and to follow our school values. Everyone is made to feel welcome and each and everyone's worth is recognised and celebrated as we 'love one another'.

VALUES

In being living vines, we follow our school values:

- Love
- Truth
- Forgiveness
- Giving
- Understanding

INTRODUCTION

St. Peter & St Paul Catholic Primary School is a voluntary-aided Roman Catholic School, in the trusteeship of the Diocese of Westminster. The children are encouraged to take Jesus as their model by all. This includes the staff and governors, but foremost parents who are our children's first teachers. As recognised at the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, 2000.

St. Peter & St Paul Catholic Primary School achieves this by teaching the children to know and love God and His creation. This teaching permeates all aspects of the curriculum and the daily life of the school. This teaching is celebrated in worship and liturgies, rites and rituals of the Catholic Church. Parents are encouraged to uphold and reinforce the fundamentals of the Catholic faith taught in the school. Without acknowledgement of God as the source and destiny of human life, efforts at education will always fail to reach beyond the pragmatic. Archbishop of Westminster Vincent Nicholas (2005). Parents are informed of RE topics studied each term and invited to attend assemblies and School masses.

St. Peter & St Paul Catholic Primary School demonstrates openness to all baptised Catholic children especially the poor and the troubled. It endeavours to see that all children present in the school may learn happily with others, and are given the opportunity to develop their full potential. To this end, St. Peter & St Paul Catholic Primary School encourages the children to develop self-esteem, self-respect and self-discipline as well as a tolerance of, and respect for others. St. Peter & St Paul Catholic Primary School provides a warm and welcoming environment to all as we put into practice our school mission; to love one another.

OUR AIMS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

- To deliver a rich curriculum which is Christ centred and based on the Catholic faith.

- To support our children in developing their relationship with God.
- To support our children in understanding their Catholic faith and life.
- To help the children to have a sense of responsibility to themselves and for one another and the world that God lovingly created.
- To support the children to recognise moments of wonder and awe.
- To support the children in developing the skills needed to understand and have the knowledge of the response of faith to questions about human life, its origin and our purpose.
- To support children in developing the skills needed to reflect upon our religious beliefs and practices.
- To provide the children the opportunity to build their personal relationship with God.

We believe that in order to achieve our aims at St Peter & St Paul Catholic Primary School, we must:

- Recognise that all children are unique and are made in God's image.
- Provide a Religious Education Curriculum that is broad and balanced and is adapted to meet the needs of each child.
- Recognise that Religious Education is a core subject, it is given the same amount of time as other core subjects (10% of overall teaching time) and is resourced well.
- Use The Way, The Truth and The Life as our teaching and assessment source across the school.
- Take part in weekly Pupil Led Worship sessions, as planned for by the children.
- Give all children the opportunity for prayer and reflection, both as a class and independently in spontaneous prayer.

THE PLACE OF R.E IN THE SCHOOL

St. Peter & St Paul Catholic Primary School fully believes that Religious Education is the foundation of all our teaching and the entire educational process. The Christian Catholic beliefs and values inspire and unify every aspect of our school life. They are the basis and essential influence on our school curriculum.

Religious Education is linked to all our teaching and the key areas of the children's learning. This is because we see education as being God's work, and so education is religious, in that it concerns discovering the breadth and depth of God's creation and His creatures. Hence, whatever area of the curriculum children are studying they are actively learning about:

- the mysteries and wonders of God's creation
- the challenges and discoveries that are presented to them
- the uniqueness and dignity of individual people
- how they can enjoy God's world.

The planning of our faith teaching, which is at the centre of our curriculum, becomes the foundation for the National Curriculum, with its aims to promote

“the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils . . . and prepare such pupils for the responsibilities and experiences of adult life.” (Education Reform Act 1988)

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Our Religious Education is taught in line with our Teaching and Learning Policy. The teachers plan the lessons using The Way, The Truth and The Life and ensure that they are planned according to the ability of their pupils, making adaptations when needed. Within their planning the teachers will ensure that there are opportunities for the pupils to make progress through:

- Investigation
- Interpretation
- Communication
- Critical Thinking
- Empathy
- Evaluation
- Reflection

The Way, The Truth and The Life syllabus is based on the Religious Education Curriculum Directory for Catholic schools.

The primary content of this is the teachings and practices of the Catholic Church and their implications for the lives of people today, particularly for the lives of the pupils.

The Way, The Truth and The Life always present the three key elements of the Christian faith:

That every human event is marked by the creative activity of God which communicates goodness to all beings;

That the reality and power of sin limit and numb every person;

That the life, death and resurrection of Christ, communicated by the Holy Spirit, give believers the hope of a definitive ‘fulfilment’.

Our teaching is based on the four major Constitutions of Vatican II; these are related to the Church's teaching on Revelation, the Church, Celebration and Life in Christ. These themes are treated and developed each year, though children are introduced to the theme through a variety of different "Life Topics" related to it. [The Bishops' Conference Curriculum Directory for R.E. (January, 1997) follows the same structure of the major Vatican II Constitutions, relating them to study of the Trinity, Creation, the Scriptures, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.]

THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Year Group	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Reception	God's World	God's Family	Getting to Know Jesus	Sorrow and Joy	New Life	Church
Year 1	God's Great Plan	Mary, Mother of God	Families and Celebration	Following Jesus	Resurrection	Miracles

Year 2	Chosen People	Mysteries	The Good News	The Mass	Easteride	Birth of the Church
Year 3	The Christian Family	Mary Our Mother	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Celebrating the Mass	Celebrating Easter and Pentecost	Being a Christian
Year 4	The Bible	Trust in God	Jesus the Teacher	Jesus the Saviour	The Early Christians	The Church
Year 5	Creation	God's Covenants	Inspirational People	Reconciliation	Life in the Risen Jesus	Other Faiths
Year 6	The Kingdom of God	Justice	Jesus the Bread of Life	Jesus the Son of God	The Work of the Apostles	Called to Serve

WORLD FAITHS

The study of other world religions can help our children appreciate their religion, questions are universal, addressed not only by Catholics and other Christians, but also by people of their other faiths. Learning about other faiths helps the children to have an awareness of other people's beliefs and promotes an understanding of our differences. Children have the opportunity to study other faiths each term. We also arrange visits for Year 4, 5 and 6 to see other places of Worship. Children who attend St Peter & St Paul are encouraged to talk about their beliefs and faith giving the children and staff an opportunity to learn from each other.

WORLD FAITHS CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Year Group	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Reception	Hinduism Diwali			Judaism Passover Islam Ramadan		
Year 1	Judaism Celebrations in Judaism		Islam How and why do we celebrate special and sacred times?	Islam , Judaism What makes some places sacred?		
Year 2	Judaism Symbols of Judaism			Islam Christianity Judaism What can we learn from sacred books?		Christianity , Hinduism , Islam What does it mean to belong to a faith community?
Year 3	Judaism Passover	Christianity Islam Hinduism What does it mean to be a Christian/Muslim/Hindu in				Hinduism Islam Judaism What do different people believe about God?

		Britain today?				
Year 4	Judaism Hanukkah	Christianity Islam Judaism Why is the Bible important to Christians? Why is the Koran important to Muslims?	Islam Hinduism Why do people pray?			
Year 5	Judaism Shabbat	Buddhism Judaism Islam What do religions say to us when life gets hard?	Islam Hinduism Christianity Does religion help people to be good?			
Year 6	Judaism Holocaust Memorial				Christianity Islam What matters most to Christians and Muslims?	Islam Judaism Should religious buildings be sold to feed the starving?

Religious Education is the responsibility of the R.E. Subject Lead and the Head Teacher. Their role is to monitor and assess the R.E. curriculum throughout the school to ensure continuity and progression. They also ensure that the aims and learning outcomes in the Curriculum Directory are identified and fulfilled. A school governor (Father Ivano) has specific responsibility for R.E. and liaises closely with the staff of the school to fulfil their monitoring duties.

MONITORING

- Teaching and learning in RE will be monitored through:
- Book looks;
- Monitoring of title pages;
- Learning walks
- Assessment analysis
- Work moderation
- Pupil questionnaires
- **THE R.E SUBJECT LEAD IS RESPONSIBLE FOR:**
- Monitoring the standards of the children's work and the quality of the teaching in Religious Education;
- Supporting colleagues in the teaching of Religious Education;
- Being informed about current developments in the subject;

- Ensuring parents, as first teachers of the faith, are kept fully informed about Religious Education e.g. notices about Mass, Reconciliation, other special events.
- Updating the Religious Education action plan and policy;
- Consulting with staff at all levels and ensuring that information is communicated to them;
- Leading staff in INSET;
- Maintaining and updating resources;
- Liaising with our parish priest
- Promoting the use of outside resources and opportunities; and
- Presenting the Head teacher with an annual R.E. development report, which evaluates the strengths and weaknesses in the subject and indicates areas for development

CHILDREN'S RECORDINGS

Children have special, individual books in all key stages except for EYFS who have a floor book. The children are encouraged to look after their RE books in the same way as they do the other core subjects, emphasising the importance of the subject. Work is marked in line with our marking policy.

RHE (Ten Ten)

Each class shows a record of the lessons being taught in their PSHE floor book. More information can be found in our RHE Policy.

PUPIL LED WORSHIP

Each class has a floor book that shows each Pupil Led Worship and its outcomes with the children's thoughts after each session.

DISPLAY AND PRAYER FOCUS

Each class has a display area within the class which should reflect the current The Way the Truth the Life topic.

TEACHING STAFF

All teachers at St Peter & St Paul are either Roman Catholics or are sympathetic to the teaching of the Catholic faith which permeates all aspects of our school life. Through example, commitment and teaching, the children are encouraged to develop a loving and trusting relationship with God, an experience which it is hoped will influence their attitudes to life and their relationship with other people. All teaching staff have the responsibility of teaching Religious Education to the children in their class, praying throughout the day and conducting Pupil Led Worship.

All staff are encouraged to regularly attend relevant courses. The RE Lead provides information on courses and teachers give feedback to staff at staff meetings. Our diocesan advisor is invited to contribute to our staff development and her help and advice sought about policy and practice.

ASSESSMENT

The Way, The Truth and The Life incorporates attainment targets: learning about the Catholic faith (AT1) and learning from the Catholic faith (AT2). These are set out in the form of specific key learning objectives for each module and provide assessment tools for the teachers to be able to assess the children's levels of attainment, in line with our assessment statements: Working Towards Expected Standard, Expected Standard and Greater Depth within Expected Standard.

HOME LINKS

The school recognises it cannot teach our children without the cooperation of the parents. The parents/guardians are the first educators and they are in partnership with the teachers who have the professional skills to help parents in teaching Catholic faith.

At the beginning of the school year, we hold a welcome ceremony for new members of our community. At the end of the year we hold a goodbye ceremony to say farewell to anyone leaving us and to thank them for their contribution and commitment to the life of our school. Every Wednesday, each family is given access to a copy of the Wednesday Word, which encourages children to explore the upcoming Gospels with their families.

Children celebrate the feast day of their house saint by being invited to wear their own clothes. All children are invited to wear something yellow and blue on the feast day of St Peter & St Paul.

Parents are always invited and welcomed to all our school and class celebrations which include school and class masses throughout the year and class assemblies which each class holds once per term.

EYFS and Year 1 celebrate the Nativity, Years 2 and 3 perform a separate Nativity and KS2 host a Carol Service and Liturgy at St Peter's Italian Catholic Church, all of which parents and families are encouraged to attend.

PARISH LINKS

Our school is situated a short walk to the parish of St Peter & St Paul and we attend Mass on days of obligation. Father Ivano is a governor and visits school regularly. Father Chris from the parish of St Joseph's, Bunhill Road attends school regularly too, both of whom do class masses, whole school masses and prayers with the children. During the seasons of Lent and Advent, Father Ivano, Father Chris and Father Bill attend school so the children and staff can receive reconciliation.

Father Ivano is responsible for pastoral care of the school community and promotes the spiritual life of the 'school church'.

PRAYER

An essential part of the Catholic ethos of the school is the prayer life. The most important aspect of prayer for children is that they realise it is their way of communicating with God. Children are encouraged to pray in different ways according to their age and personal development. Children are introduced to a variety of different ways of praying:

- quiet reflection / meditation
- praying together
- writing own prayers
- prayers through music
- learning traditional Christian / Catholic prayers

Staff are encouraged to pray with children, and to be an example for them. Through prayer, we endeavour to develop our relationship with God.

All classes have a prayer area which has displays of children's work. This area changes with the liturgical year. Class prayers are established throughout the school and each teacher uses prayers appropriate to age and ability of the class. Candles, pictures and objects are also used as a focus for prayer. Children take part in whole school assemblies where children and staff join together to pray. Children are encouraged to pray their own spontaneous prayers.

Each class also has a prayer table, which changes regularly to reflect the liturgical year. Children are expected to know a range of traditional prayers

PROGRESSION OF PRAYER

Nursery & EYFS	KS1	Lower KS2	Upper KS2
-The sign of the cross -The Lord's Prayer -Hail Mary -Spontaneous prayer	-The sign of the cross -The Lord's Prayer -Hail Mary -Glory Be -School Prayer -Morning Prayer -Grace before meals -Home time prayer -Spontaneous prayer	-The sign of the cross -The Lord's Prayer -Hail Mary -Glory Be -School Prayer -Morning Prayer -Grace before meals -Home time prayer -The Apostles Creed -An act of Contrition -Angel of God -Come Holy Spirit -Spontaneous prayer	-The sign of the cross -The Lord's Prayer -Hail Mary -Glory Be -School Prayer -Morning Prayer -Grace before meals -Home time prayer -The Apostles Creed -An act of Contrition -Angel of God -Come Holy Spirit -The Rosary -The Magnificat -Act of Faith -Act of Hope -Act of Love -Spontaneous prayer

SACRAMENTAL PREPERATION

Through our R.E. scheme, knowledge of all the sacraments is established, with special emphasis upon Baptism, Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation. Years 5 & 6 also learn about the Sacrament of the Sick and Holy Orders. The children are prepared through the parish for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion

from Year 3. The course of preparation is carried out in the parish and the school works in close consultation and partnership with the priests and catechists. In this way we hope to achieve true partnership between school, family and parish, with the children celebrating their First Communion in their local churches.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is also led in the parish. Like the Sacrament of Communion, the preparation for Reconciliation starts at the beginning of the child's school life. It begins with the child's first experiences; teachers and helpers work towards a loving, caring and forgiving atmosphere in school. Pupils in Years 4-6 have the opportunity to participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation in school during Lent and Advent.

CHARITY

Throughout the year, St Peter & St Paul support various charities which include; Cafod, The Catholic Children's Society, The Passage, The Salvation Army, Food Bank Trussell Trust, The Royal British Legion and Young Minds, the Shoebox Appeal, the Christmas Gift Appeal and any others that are relevant at that time. We also hold different fundraising events for humanitarian appeals. For example, the floods in Pakistan, the war in Ukraine, the earthquakes in Turkey and Afghanistan and the war in the Middle East.

PUPIL CHAPLAINCY TEAM

A group of pupil volunteers work with the Head Teacher and the RE Subject Lead to prepare for, plan and celebrate separate KS1 and KS2 weekly lunch-time reflection sessions each Monday. This Pupil Chaplaincy Team is designed to give the children more ownership and understanding of this central aspect of their faith. The Pupil Chaplaincy Team attend prayer services with Father Chris, hold prayer time in the Chapel at lunch time with children from KS1 and teach other children how to pray the Rosary. They also provide talk topics for the school to discuss over lunch, making this a meaningful time for the children to be social in a prayerful way.

CARITAS AMBASSADORS

Each year, the Year 4 class participate in the Caritas Ambassadors program where they look at their local community to identify various needs. They work with their teacher to create a project to help one of those groups of people.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS

All children should have the opportunity to participate in, and benefit from, the full range of experiences offered in the Religious Education Curriculum. A religious education, which is faith forming, can be achieved by careful planning and the provision of different activities.

REVIEWED AND AMENDED: September 2024

TO BE REVIEWED: September 2025