



## **St William of York RC Primary School**

### **Religious Education Policy 2025-2026**

*Together, as God's family we are learning through love, forgiveness, respect and compassion to use our unique gifts, challenging and transforming our world.*

#### **Aims**

At St William of York, we are committed to helping every child to grow and develop in the love of God and others, recognising the unique nature of each individual's needs. We emphasise the Catholic ethos and distinctiveness of our school by making the whole school a place where children and adults feel confident, secure and valued. Religious Education provision at St William's, is to promote an enriching R.E. programme with clear objectives which consider and take into account the religious and educational needs of our children. These include but are not limited to -

- those from supportive Catholic homes.
- those for whom school may be their first experience of church.
- those from other Christian traditions.
- those from other faith backgrounds.

We aim to provide conditions in which all children will develop a greater love and knowledge of God, which grows from their experience of the love and kindness they receive from others. We lead pupils towards a deeper understanding of the teachings of the Catholic Church through studying the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, whilst also celebrating the similarities between Catholicism and other faiths. This allows our children to live, grow and contribute as citizens in a way which fosters care and responsibility towards others and their environment, and helps them to recognise the value and worth of all people. We aim to develop a strong awareness of the spiritual dimensions of life amongst our pupils and to equip them with Christian and most importantly Catholic values which will guide them throughout their lives. Our Mission Statement complemented by our pupil motto reflects this. Our motto guides us in, '*Shining as we learn in faith, family and friendship*'.

We want our children leave St. William's School, with both rich and varied RE experiences, formed through interesting and exciting experiences which are driven through our engaging and comprehensive curriculum; the basis of knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith, enabling them to develop a living and personal faith in Jesus Christ, whilst allowing them to know and to love God.

Through our Religious Education provision, we aim to:

- Teach the Catholic Faith authentically and present the Catholic faith increasingly through Scripture, tradition, liturgy and Catholic Social Teaching.
- Develop Religious Literacy, ensuring pupils can *know*, *understand* and *respond* to the Catholic faith and relate it to life today.
- Foster Spiritual, Moral & Theological growth, using Religious Education to support pupils in exploring faith questions, discerning meaning, and applying learning to life.
- Respect Other Faiths & Worldviews, through the RED branch *Dialogue and Encounter* to teach pupils respectful understanding of other religions and worldviews.
- Place Faith at the Heart of School Life, where Religious Education should permeate worship, collective acts of worship, pastoral life and school ethos, not just classroom teaching.
- Help pupils develop a personal relationship with Jesus, and to experience the good news of the Gospel.
- enable the pupils to grow in their awareness of what it means to be a member of the church family.
- encourage our pupils to reflect on their lives and on society in the light of the Gospel.
- Support the parents and the parish in creating a Christian Catholic community built on the experience of liturgy and prayer.
- Develop in our pupils a sense of social justice.
- to increase pupils' knowledge, awareness and respect of other religious traditions and cultures.
- Create a warm and welcoming atmosphere where love, politeness and respect are shown to all.
- Develop in children through study of Scripture, an understanding of Gospel values as taught by Jesus.

This policy is informed by and complies with:

- *To Know You More Clearly: The Religious Education Directory for Catholic Schools and Colleges in England* (Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, 2023)
- Canon Law (Can. 804)
- Guidance from the Diocese of Salford Department for Education

Religious Education is a statutory subject in Catholic schools. As such, it is taught in accordance with the Religious Education Directory (RED) and diocesan guidance, rather than the locally agreed syllabus.

### **Teaching and Learning of Religious Education**

RE is a core subject of the curriculum and is taught for at least 10% of curriculum time each week (2 hours for EYFS and KS1, 2.5 hours for KS2). Our curriculum time is non-negotiable and is followed by all staff in school. Teachers deploy a variety of techniques to enable children to learn and to assess their progress. Whole class

teaching, group work and when necessary individual teaching takes place. Teachers also communicate religious teaching by their everyday witness, based on their own faith commitment.

At St William's, we follow the direction of the Diocese of Salford in relation to curriculum planning, assessment and implementation of the RED. The school is committed to the full implementation of the RED across all year groups by September 2026, in line with diocesan expectations. The new Religious Education curriculum is structured according to the six curriculum branches set out in the RED. Each branch is studied sequentially each year and revisited with increasing depth and challenge.

### **The Six Branches**

1. Creation and Covenant
2. Prophecy and Promise
3. Galilee to Jerusalem
4. Desert to Garden
5. To the Ends of the Earth
6. Dialogue and Encounter

### **Knowledge Lenses**

Teaching and learning within each branch is framed through the following lenses:

- **Hear** – encountering Scripture and Church teaching
- **Believe** – understanding what the Church teaches and believes
- **Celebrate** – exploring prayer, liturgy and sacramental life
- **Live** – applying faith to everyday life

### **Ways of Knowing**

Pupils are supported to:

- **Understand** – develop secure knowledge and meaning
- **Discern** – think critically and reflectively
- **Respond** – make informed, personal and moral responses

### **Phased Implementation of the RED**

In line with guidance from the Diocese of Salford, the school is implementing the Religious Education Directory through a phased approach to ensure high-quality delivery and staff confidence.

- **Phase 1:** Initial implementation in selected year groups using Lighting the Path and Salford Diocesan trial planning, with staff training and curriculum familiarisation

- **Phase 2:** Expansion of RED planning across additional year groups, refinement of assessment practices and moderation of pupil outcomes
- **Phase 3:** Full implementation across all year groups, with consistent assessment, monitoring and evaluation

This phased approach ensures that Religious Education remains rigorous, coherent and faithful to the intent of the RED, with full compliance achieved by September 2026. Our planning is supported by a collaboration of the 'Lighting the Path' programme and Salford Diocesan trial resources. These support coverage of each branch and RED outcomes. Teaching and learning experiences are planned and delivered in as many different ways as possible. Children have the opportunity to work individually and as well as cooperatively and collaboratively, developing their own knowledge and expertise as well as sharing experiences with others. All Year Groups will be taught additionally elements of the CARITAS programme which aims to embed and bring to the forefront the Social Teachings of the Church. Each social teaching of the Church is linked and taught within Class assemblies.

Progression is planned and assessed using the age-related outcomes set out in the RED. We recognise the fact that all classes in our school have children of widely differing abilities and faiths. The *Dialogue and Encounter* branch and wider curriculum activities enable pupils to reflect respectfully on different faiths and worldviews. Adaptation is mainly through outcome though pupils who show the ability to discuss aspects of RE at a deeper level are encouraged through discussion with the class teacher in a small group. Provision for children with Special Educational Needs is made where appropriate through adapted work to accommodate the wide range of abilities within each class. It is also recognised that Religious Education has a unique role to play in the building of individual pupils' self-esteem, that through role-play, drama and art work and discussion groups it is the aim of the school that all pupils find a means to relate to the subject.

### **Assessment**

Teachers are responsible for their own record keeping and assessment. We assess children's work in Religious Education by making informal judgments as we observe them during lessons and through oral and written tasks. Teachers attempt to elicit a personal response from children, so that knowledge of God will help them to understand themselves and the consequences of their actions. We mark a piece of work once it has been completed and provide feedback as outlined in the school's Marking and Feedback Policy. Children's progress informs future planning.

Children's progress is reported to parents three times a year at Parents' Evenings and in an end of year report. Teachers record formal RE assessment once a term via our own assessment tracker. The RE team, along with SLT are responsible for analysis and next steps. The purpose of assessment, recording and reporting in RE is to ensure reflective learning, to celebrate growth and achievement and enable further progress. We recognise that assessment recording and reporting are a natural part of teaching and integral to the learning process. They are continuous processes requiring a close partnership between teachers and pupils, and the involvement of others as appropriate. They are the responsibility of all teachers.

Assessment is carried out in a variety of styles by the class teacher, through discussion, questioning, observation, marking written work and providing feedback, testing and achieving targets throughout both key stages and the foundation stage. Assessment is used to help inform future planning.

### **Recording and Evidencing**

All Key Stages to ensure that a minimum 10% of curriculum time is evidenced and that progression is demonstrated in their written work and through working walls and pupil/ teacher discussion. EYFS will share their learning experiences through memory books and photographs. Reception will record some of their discussions, ideas and activities in individual books throughout the year.

### **Monitoring and Feedback**

Led by the RE Leader and Senior Leadership Team will consist of:

- Annual review of the RE Curriculum Policy/ Prayer and Liturgy policy
- Work Scrutiny and learning walks (focus on RE lessons and Prayer and Liturgy sessions) to take place termly (in line with the school monitoring policy)
- Monitoring and modelling of classroom and communal curriculum displays
- Parents, staff and pupil voice to be carried out on a regular basis
- Scrutiny will be carried out alongside English and Writing books to ensure the standard of work in Religion is of the same high standard as in every other subject.

For pupils, feedback is received in line with the Marking and Feedback Policy. For Parents, it is discussed at Parent/Teacher meetings, and is evident through reports, school displays, assemblies, photographs and musical presentations, books, newsletters.

### **The Role of the RE Team**

The coordination and planning of the RE curriculum are the responsibility of the RE team, who also:

- Formulate a policy and scheme of work and to ensure that this is followed by all teachers.
- Advise and encourage the staff in planning and revising and to keep them abreast of new developments through INSET activities, both in-house and Diocesan run courses.
- Keep personally up to date with current issues through INSET opportunities.
- Monitor and maintain resources.
- Liaise with the Headteacher, Leadership Team. Governing body and Local Parish and Community
- Advise the Head Teacher on developments needed to improve the attainments of the pupils in Religious Education.
- Support staff in their delivery of the Diocese syllabus by modelling good practice, book looks, learning walks, pupil and staff voice, support and organise ongoing CPD.

### **Prayer Focal Points**

These are set up in each classroom and are changed regularly to reflect changing topics and the liturgical calendar. The children may be involved in the arrangement and content of the class focal area and are encouraged to make use of it throughout the day. Prayer Bags are in every class and are visible to all children to come and use. The school mission statement and prayers are clearly displayed in all classrooms. Children are given regular opportunities to take home prayer packs and to share this with their class, teachers and community.

Useful items for an attractive display include:

- Coloured fabric in accordance with the Church colours for the Liturgical year
- Pictures
- Statues
- Photographs
- Scripture
- Candles
- Book Stands
- Bibles/Stories about God & Jesus
- Class prayer books/boxes for intentions etc.
- Altar cloths
- Faith Journeys are on the altar

### **Other Faiths**

In line with St William's curriculum, all children have access to a broad and enriched curriculum, which explores other faiths and cultures. This will formally be taught within all year groups using the Come and See curriculum over a period of two weeks within the year, and during our whole school Multi-Faith week. Our school community consists of a wide range of faiths, and we aim to embrace every opportunity to promote an understanding and mutual respect for all other world faiths.

**Prayer and Liturgy** – separate policy

### **Sacramental Preparation**

- Our links with St William of York are strengthened by our close relationship with our Parish priest, Father Samson Ojekunle. School supports the Sacramental Programme ran by the parish of Christ the Redeemer.
- The children in Year Three receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion currently.