

# Religious Education Policy



St. Anne's Catholic Primary School.  
Chertsey

<b><u>Person Responsible:</u></b>	<b><u>RE Lead /HT/DHT</u></b>
<b><u>Date policy reviewed:</u></b>	<b><u>October 2025</u></b>
<b><u>Reviewed by:</u></b>	<b><u>Teaching staff, Head Teacher, Governors</u></b>
<b><u>Date of next Review:</u></b>	<b><u>September 2027</u></b>

## St. Anne's Mission Statement:

With Christ at the centre of our lives, we live out our call to serve the young;

**"It is not enough to love children,**

**They must know that they are loved." St. John Bosco**

## Introduction

The policy has been arrived at through close consultation with governors, staff at all levels and by seeking advice and guidance from outside agencies. It has been developed with the following aims and philosophies very much in mind.

## Our Mission Statement

### Christ at the Centre

Our mission statement is rooted in the Gospel message of love and service and reflects the principles of Catholic Social Teaching (CST). These principles—human dignity, solidarity, the common good, the option for the poor, participation, stewardship of creation, and subsidiarity—guide every aspect of school life. We believe that education is not only about academic achievement but also about forming compassionate, faith-filled individuals who understand their responsibility to others and to the world.

### Living the Mission

The mission statement is central to school life. It is displayed in every classroom, in each RE book, and woven into the fabric of our daily routines. Children are encouraged to reflect on practical ways they can live out the mission: through kindness, respect, and service, so that others truly experience love in action. In doing so, they learn to uphold the dignity of every person and work for justice and peace in their relationships.

### Celebrating the Mission

Our school song is inspired by the mission statement and is sung during Mass and other celebrations, reinforcing its message in a way that unites our community. Every Celebration of the Word concludes with pupils reflecting on how they will live out the mission in the coming days, ensuring that faith is translated into action. These reflections often draw on CST principles, helping children to see how Gospel values shape their choices and responsibilities.

### A Community of Love and Service

We call every member of our school: children, staff, and families, to make the mission statement a reality each day. It shapes our relationships, our curriculum, and our approach to behaviour and learning. Through this shared commitment, we strive to ensure that every child knows they are valued and cherished.

## The Importance of the Role of Parents in Religious Education

St. Anne's Catholic Primary School recognises the central role parents and guardians have in the religious education of their children. The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us that **"Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. They bear witness to this responsibility first by creating a home where tenderness, forgiving, respect, fidelity and disinterested service are the rule."** (CCC 2223)

As the Statement of the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales on Religious Education in Catholic Schools '2000' states, **"The first educators in the faith are parents. It is they, above all others, who establish in their children the first sensitivity and responsiveness to the presence of God, to the practice of prayer and to the patterns of life in the community of faith, the parish. By foundations of a life-long faith and discipleship in their children are laid down."**

## Our Catholic School

It is in the spirit of the above statement that our school works. In partnership with our Parish and Parents, St Anne's Catholic Primary School is committed to providing a high-quality Catholic education. Rooted in the love of God, we nurture each child's spiritual, social, cultural, and academic development, encouraging them to strive for personal excellence while recognising their role in the wider community.

Through outstanding Religious Education, we aim to form religiously literate and engaged young people who, according to their age and ability, can reflect spiritually, think ethically and theologically, and respond to the call of faith in their daily lives.

As the General Directory for Catechesis affirms,

**“This partnership between home and parish is enhanced by the role of the Catholic school in which the educational mission of the church finds a particular and important expression.”**

This 'educational mission' is our central role.

## The Aims of Religious Education at our School

Religious Education lies at the heart of the curriculum and school life.

At St. Anne's we aim to ensure that Religious Education attends to the needs of every pupil who has been admitted to the school and that it will:

- Enable all members of the school community to understand and to live out our Mission Statement.
- To enable each child to deepen their relationship with God and to further their understanding of the Faith through R.E. teaching, prayer, reflection and celebration.
- Help pupils recognise and appreciate the religious and spiritual dimensions of life.
- To help each child to feel valued and respected for their contribution to school life, where success is celebrated and difficulties and problems talked through and prayed through.
- Lead to a deeper knowledge and understanding of the Catholic and other religious traditions and the ways in which they seek to express the value and significance of human life.
- To help the children understand and value people whose customs and beliefs differ from their own
- To support parents in the faith development of their children
- Allow space for searching, wondering and questioning.
- Challenge pupils to examine their own life stance, to deepen their personal faith commitment and to respect that of others.
- To see their learning as a journey.
- That it has the high priority that other core subjects have but is also distinctive – the core of the core.
- Develop an understanding of Catholic Social Teaching and its principles - human dignity, solidarity, the common good, care for creation and encourage pupils to apply these values in their daily lives and in service to others.
- For staff and pupils to know Religious Education is the golden thread woven through each area of our daily lives.

## **Our Approach to Religious Education at St. Anne's School**

We aim to provide a loving environment where every child feels secure. We teach the children how to respect and value each other as individuals and how to care for one another so they help to foster a calm, happy and caring community.

We discuss our attitudes and behaviour and how they affect the well-being of other members of our school community.

We aim to teach children and each other, by example, in the daily life of the school.

We pray together, teaching both specific school prayers and how to pray spontaneously and peacefully.

We gather for Worship, Liturgies, Hymn singing and Mass throughout the week and on other special occasions each week / term.

We teach concepts, knowledge of the scriptures, the Church and moral attitudes in line with the Catholic Church.

We follow the Religious Education Programme – ‘To Know you more clearly’

We encourage home, school and parish links, actively encouraging the involvement of the Parish Priest and School Chaplin (including preparations for Reconciliation)

We welcome and encourage the visits of the Parish Priest of St Anne's and Salesian school and their involvement in the life of the school.

We welcome our school Chaplin weekly to, lead liturgies, and nurture the spiritual life of our community, helping pupils grow in faith and understand the Sacraments and Catholic Social Teaching.

We work collaboratively with the parishes to prepare children in Year 3 for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

We promote the children's awareness of the local and wider communities by encouraging them to participate in charitable activities and fund-raising and by visiting regularly the local residential home for the elderly.

We acknowledge that everyone is equal in the sight of God and follow a policy of equal opportunities.

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We promote the Catholic identity of the school through the Governor's Admission Policy.

## **The Religious Education Programme at our School**

At St Anne's Catholic Primary School, religious education is primarily based on the Religious Education Directory (RED) "To Know You More Clearly". In line with the Bishop's mandate, the RE curriculum is taught through the Diocesan Day by Day resources. In recognition of the importance of religious education in our school, we devote 10% of the teaching week to religious education lessons. In Key Stage 1 this is 2 hours 40 minutes and in Key Stage 2 this is 2 hours and 40 minutes, not including Collective Worship. In the Early Years, the timetable and learning style is more flexible, but teaching of Religious Education is prioritised to give children the opportunity to engage fully with the curriculum. The Religious Education Curriculum Directory has a clear framework for learning: Four Knowledge Lenses: Hear, Believe, Live and Celebrate indicate what should be known by the end of each age phase. Ways of Knowing: Understand, Discern and Respond are the skills through which children progress and develop

their thinking during the curriculum journey. Expected Outcomes set out for each year group what pupils should be able to know, remember and do. Curriculum Branches divide the model curriculum into half-term units of study which repeat annually, giving a spiral curriculum which allows children to build progressively on prior knowledge and develop their understanding year by year. The curriculum branches are: Autumn 1 Creation and Covenant Autumn 2 Prophecy and Promise Spring 1 Galilee to Jerusalem Spring 2 Desert to Garden Summer 1 To the Ends of the Earth Summer 2 Dialogue and Encounter The curriculum is firmly founded on building children's knowledge and understanding of Scripture, while providing opportunities to make connections to other faiths and cultures, as well as to their daily lives.

### **RE in the classroom and beyond**

At St Anne's Catholic Primary School, the teaching of Religious Education is designed to be as varied and creative as possible, to help children to engage fully with the ideas explored, to ask wondering questions and to lead their own learning in discerning their response. Learning within the classroom may include:

Whole class discussion and teaching

Group discussion and feedback

Drama and role play

Independent research

Exploration through music and art

Godly Play

External speakers / workshops

Learning in Religious Education cannot always be recorded and does not begin or end in the classroom. Learning from Religious Education will also flow into other curriculum areas as pupils make links between their learning – the golden thread. We aim to give children the opportunity to connect their formal learning with their wider understanding through regular opportunities to reflect and respond. Learning beyond the classroom may include: Following the example of a role model in daily life at home or in school, Participation in charitable activity and fundraising, Inspiration through reflection in prayer and liturgy, Conversations with clergy or parishioners in school, Response to catechesis in the parish e.g for Reconciliation or First Holy Communion, Engagement with programmes based on Catholic social teaching e.g; Oscar Romero Award or the CAFOD Club. We work closely with parents and with the parish to support children's progress in understanding and developing on their curriculum and faith journey.

### **Other World Views**

Catholic education seeks to form pupils who are well prepared to play a positive role in society and to follow Jesus' teaching to "love your neighbour". We therefore embrace learning about other world views with "a willingness... to try to understand better the religion of one's neighbours, and to experience something of their religious life and culture." (Catholic Bishops; Conference of England and Wales) The Religious Education Directory includes a branch called 'Dialogue and Encounter' which focuses specifically on exploring other world views and recognizing the connections with the Catholic faith. Opportunities for dialogue

and encounter are sought throughout the academic year and especially focus on broadening pupils' experiences and on real-life encounters with those of other faiths or none, to enable connections and develop understanding. Examples may include: Opportunities for families in our community to share their faith and experience, Conversations with invited visitors about their beliefs and experiences, Independent reading or research and discussion

### **Feedback, Assessment, Recording and Reporting**

Developmental feedback is given in Religious Education to support children's progress and to challenge their thinking. This follows the school's Feedback Policy and may be given verbally. Assessment follows diocesan and national guidelines, assessing against the expected outcomes for each branch in the Religious Education Directory. After each lesson, teachers record progress using:

M (Met the objective)

M+ (Exceeded the objective)

A (Almost meeting the objective)

When objectives are not met clearly, timely intervention is provided before the next lesson to ensure misconceptions are addressed and children are confident with their learning. Pupil attainment is recorded half-termly on the school's assessment recording system and progress is tracked regularly by the RE Lead and SLT in line with the school's Assessment Policy.

The RE Lead moderates outcomes in Religious Education both internally and with local Catholic schools, to ensure consistency of expectations with other schools in the diocese. Outcomes for Religious Education are shared in line with other core curriculum subjects, both during parent consultation meetings and in end-of-year reports. The children's work is record both in their individual RE books as well as their Prayer Journals. Each class teacher is responsible for marking RE books. Marking is in accordance with the school marking policy. Class teachers may set RE homework where appropriate. Equal opportunities are provided for all children to be able to access knowledge, skills and understanding at a level appropriate to their needs and abilities. Adaptations and scaffolding is used to as required to support children with SEND needs.

### **Adaptive Teaching, Special Educational Needs and groups of pupils.**

Pupils will be at different levels of maturity, will have different life experiences and different attitudes and feelings. Lessons are planned to allow children the opportunity to articulate their views with all contributions being valued and respected. All children are encouraged to participate and be respectful.

Formative assessment is utilised and helps from the end of each term result. This is analysed by the coordinator and staff will meet with the coordinator to review pupils or groups of pupils who may require additional support to fully grasp understanding.

Each half-term the coordinator collects data on all pupils and groups such as EAL, SEN, B20% and Pupil Premium.

### **Scaffolding for EAL and SEND**

To ensure full access to Religious Education, we provide tailored support, including:

- **Visual supports and widgets** (symbols, images, and word banks) to aid understanding of key vocabulary and concepts.
- **Sentence starters and structured writing frames** to support oral and written responses.
- **Pre-teaching of key vocabulary** and use of bilingual resources where appropriate.

- **Chunked instructions and step-by-step guidance** for complex tasks.
- **Adult or peer support** during discussions and activities.

### **Variety of Recording Methods**

Children are given different ways to demonstrate learning, such as:

- Writing in their RE Book
- Drawing or creating diagrams.
- Using digital tools or voice recordings.
- Collaborative posters or mind maps.

### **Displays**

All classrooms have a prominent Religious Education display relating to the current branch. Key religious vocabulary and an extract of scripture from the topic is clearly visible along with Christian art and images to generate awe and wonder.

Classrooms have the school mission statement displayed on the wall.

A crucifix and mission statement is displayed in every room in the school.

All classrooms have a prayer table which stands alone and is seen as a sacred place within the classroom. Prayer tables include: a crucifix, a Bible, a candle and prayer box / book for children's own prayer intentions. Prayer tables have a cloth of the correct liturgical colour of the season. Pupils face or gather around the prayer table for collective prayer.

The Faith Ambassadors help the lead to monitor these areas and are responsible for their own area at the entrance of the school.

### **Monitoring and Evaluating**

RE books and planning are regularly monitored by the RE lead and the Head teacher. Tuesday Staff meetings begin with a Staff Gathering led by the Prayer and Liturgy Lead. The leadership team and RE lead regularly visit RE lessons and make use of Step Lab coaching to support the development of our RE teaching in line with other subjects. The RE lead meets termly with the RE governor to share updates, monitor data, review provision and complete book looks/ learning walks/ pupil voice. RE work is moderated during sessions internally with our staff during CPD as well as during sessions with RE leaders from Xavier Trust.

### **Spiritual and Moral Development**

St. Anne's Catholic Primary we are dedicated to creating the atmosphere needed to fulfil our Mission Statement. We try to emphasise the qualities of self-discipline, self-control, perseverance, determination, a sense of fair play and thoughtfulness for others in school and in the wider community. (See Behaviour Policy, Equal Opportunities Policy, Relationships and Sex Education Policy, and Personal, Social and Health Education Policy.)

## [Links with the Home](#)

To provide the best Catholic education we believe that it is essential to establish and maintain links with parents.

### **1. Home-School Agreement**

On accepting a place at the school parents and carers are requested to sign a Home School Agreement document which acknowledges the catholic identity of the school and outlines the commitment expected of the parents and children as the basis for a good working relationship between home and school.

### **2. Welcoming Prospective and New Parents**

We provide relevant information about the school in the school prospectus which is available to prospective parents. We show parents around the school, before applications are made, if this is requested.

We organise an evening for parents before admission to the Reception Class, to give the parents the opportunity to meet each other, the Head Teacher, the Class Teachers and representatives of the Governing Body and to find out all they need to know about the school.

### **3. Regular Information about the Child and his/her Progress and Welfare**

The Head Teacher and teaching staff are always very willing to talk to the parents about the education and welfare of their child.

The Head Teacher is always available before or after school to see parents if they have any questions, suggestions or concerns.

Parent Evenings are held in the Autumn and Spring Term, when parents are invited to discuss their child's progress with the class teacher. Written reports are sent home every summer term.

### **4. Parents Supporting the Work of the Teacher at Home**

The School Prospectus contains guidelines on how parents and carers can support their child's learning at home.

There is a home-school reading scheme and a homework policy.

Information about forthcoming topics to be covered in each subject is provided in a termly letter.

### **5. Providing Information about the School and What is Happening**

The monthly Newsletter and the Half-Termly RE Newsletter conveys a wide range of information about the work of the school. Separate letters are also sent home about events.

## [Links with the Wider Community](#)

We welcome the visits of the Parish Priest of the St. Anne's and other members of the Clergy. We value the clergy's contribution to the Catholic life of our school.

We encourage the children to participate in fundraising for the benefit of the Local and Wider Community.

## [Staff Formation](#)

All staff support the Catholic ethos of our school and strive to develop children's progress and understanding in matters of faith. There are regular opportunities for all staff to engage in personal prayer and reflection which may support their professional role. Teachers involved in planning and delivering Religious Education lessons have attended half-termly diocesan training on

the curriculum directory resources. The RE Lead leads and collaborates with other local schools to share best practices more widely both via online platforms and in-person.

### [Induction of New Colleagues](#)

All new members of the staff must read very carefully the R.E. Policy and the R.E. Handbook. They are encouraged to ask the R.E. Co-ordinator for any help in any matter relating to R.E. The diocese provides a set of guidelines for staff new to our Catholic schools. All staff new to Catholic Education attending the training provided by the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton.

### [Resources](#)

Resources are stored in the Resources cupboard in the RE cupboard in the conference room.