

St. Ethelbert's Catholic Primary and Nursery School



Religious Education Policy

Date of Policy/Review	September 2024/September 2026
Name of Responsible Person	Mr S. Marshall
Role of Responsible Person	Headteacher
Signature of Responsible Person	
Signature of Headteacher	

Signature of Chair of Governors	
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Mission Statement

‘Every child at St Ethelbert’s is to fulfil their academic, social, behavioural and emotional potential in the surroundings of a Catholic community, and in which each individual shares or respects the Catholic Church and Christian way of Life.’

As a Catholic school we endeavour to create a living and caring Christian community, where we aspire to ignite within everyone the light of Christ.

We strive to:

- i) Educate the whole person to their full potential: spiritually, morally, academically, emotionally, socially, culturally and physically.
- ii) Respect, love and value ourselves and others as unique individuals and children of God.
- iii) Encourage everyone to pray and develop a deeper personal relationship with God.
- iv) Support parents and carers as the first educators of the child.
- v) Enhance the essential relationship between the school, family and parish.

Our School Values

Thoughtfulness – we reflect to become a better person and think about other people in our world.

Knowledge – we never stop learning.

Inclusion – everyone is welcome in the St Ethelbert’s family.

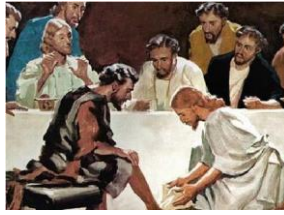
Vision

Our vision for St Ethelbert’s Catholic Primary School is to be a school with ‘high expectations for all, in the light of Christ’. All pupils will be given every opportunity to achieve their potential and encouraged to learn about and develop their hidden talents in order to reach high levels of achievement. All members of our school community will be fully equipped to meet all pupils’ needs through appropriate professional development. St Ethelbert’s will be an outstanding school.

Serviam means ‘I serve.’

'I serve Jesus with body, heart, mind and soul.'

Jesus has taught us, **'it is more blessed to serve than to be served.'**



Purpose

'High expectations for all, in the light of Christ' Everything we do, makes a difference to the children's well-being, academically, spiritually, socially, physically and emotionally.

At St. Ethelbert's Catholic Primary School and Nursery, our children are encouraged to learn in an environment where all aspects of mutual care and love of each other, respect for life and love of God are continually promoted.

Religious education enables children to learn about their Christian faith and to apply that faith when reflecting upon the fundamental questions that arise in life. In our school we seek both to think with faith, about the mysteries that God has revealed to us and from faith, to see how as Christians we are called to serve the world and each other. The children are given the opportunity to reflect on what it means to have a faith and are encouraged to develop their own spiritual knowledge and understanding. This thinking from faith also enables us to understand and appreciate world religions and other religious traditions, especially those represented in the community of our school.

Aims

The aims of religious education are to help children:

- To present the content of the Catholic faith in a clear and comprehensive way.
- To help pupils deepen their understanding of the faith, and be able to discuss it.
- To explore with the children the Church's vision of human society and the moral guidance it offers for every person through a greater emphasis on Catholic social teaching.
- To help children who live in our diverse community to appreciate those who belong to other religions and traditions, and to show respect for them.
- To help children connect the Catholic faith to their own lives, using their imagination and intellect.
- To enable the children to make links between what they learn in RE and the content and purpose of all their other subjects and activities.

- To develop an awareness of spiritual and moral issues in life experiences.
- To develop an understanding of what it means to be committed to a religious tradition.
- To be able to reflect on their own experiences and to develop a personal response to the fundamental questions of life.
- To develop critical thinking, investigative and research skills and to enable them to make reasoned judgements about religious issues.

Objectives

- To acknowledge Jesus Christ as son of God and Saviour.
- Deepen their understanding of the place of liturgical worship in the life of the church community through instruction, preparation, participation and reflection
- To understand the concept of God as creator
- To examine and learn to understand the mutual responsibility of human beings for one another, as individuals and as a community and the duty of all people to care for the whole of creation.

Leadership and Management of Religious Education

The Headteacher and Governors are responsible for ensuring that Religious Education has a high profile in the curriculum, is taught as a core subject and is well-resourced and monitored. The Subject Leader (Deputy Head) is responsible for leading Religious Education across St. Ethelbert's Catholic Primary School and Nursery. The Headteacher, governors and Subject Leader are also responsible for ensuring that the school's self-evaluation processes monitor and evaluate the identity of the school as a Catholic community and that the Section 48 SelfEvaluation Form is regularly reviewed. We are aware that foundation governors in voluntary aided Catholic schools have a statutory responsibility to preserve and develop the religious character of their schools.

Collective Worship

“For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.” Matthew 18:20

At St. Ethelbert's we are also fully aware that the law requires all maintained schools to provide Religious Education for all pupils, to hold a daily act of worship and promote pupils' spiritual and moral development. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their child from Religious Education (RE) lessons and Collective Worship if they so wish, although this should only be done once the parents have given written notice to the school governors. However,

since those who choose to belong to a Catholic school are subscribing to its ethos and values, to which both curriculum Religious Education and Collective Worship are central, it is reasonable to assume that parents, pupils and all staff will respect and engage with these central aspects of the school's life. In addition, the daily act of worship may take place in a variety of ways.

Please see Collective Worship policy for more information.

Professional Development

Within our school community we ensure there is regular and appropriate training and development for all who teach Religious Education and monitor the impact it has in the school. The Leaders of Religious Education have access to high quality CPD enabling them to develop high quality school-based training and development in addition to other appropriate provision.

The Curriculum

We plan our religious education curriculum based on the Religious Education Curriculum Directory supported by "The Way, The Truth and The Life" RE scheme. The scheme has been used for the majority of religious education lessons in all Key Stages and staff receive the training necessary to plan and teach lessons. We offer opportunities for children of all abilities to develop their skills and knowledge in each unit, and we ensure that the planned progression built into the scheme of work offers the children an increasing challenge as they move through the school.

We carry out the curriculum planning in religious education in three phases (long-term, medium-term and short-term). The long-term plan maps the religious education topics studied in each term during each key stage. "The Way, The Truth and The Life" scheme of work is used for long-term planning. We teach religious education topics in conjunction with other subjects.

Our medium-term plans give details of the "The Way, The Truth and The Life" units of work for each term. Each topic lasts approximately six weeks and other world faiths are also studied. Medium-term plans are used to show the teaching and learning for each "The Way, The Truth and The Life" topic and also show religious teaching on specific feasts and seasons. Staff plan on the whole school network and the RE subject leader monitors planning on a regular basis.

The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales require that 10% of the taught curriculum time is given to the Religious Education Curriculum. These time allocations do not include Collective Worship or hymn practice. Programmes of study comply with diocesan and national guidance. At St. Ethelbert's the standards in Religious Education match those in English.

The spiritual curriculum has been created and developed in partnership with the Parish. The children are given opportunities to meditate and pray in a variety of ways throughout the

school week. These include, but are not limited to: prayer areas, class and whole school prayers, the rosary, assemblies, Masses and singing.

Resources

Each class has a set of “The Way, The Truth and The Life” books and a Teacher Book. We also have a selection of books and artefacts to enhance the teaching of several other world faiths, i.e. Judaism, Islam, Sikhism, Hinduism. Other major world faith resource books are also available for studying different faiths, for example, Buddhism.

We keep the majority of resources for Religious Education in individual classrooms. These include a class set of Bibles a range of resources to enrich the teaching of RE e.g. books about Saints and Sacraments and assembly resources. Centrally, we also have candles, drapes and artefacts to be used at different times in the Liturgical year. Resources for class and school Masses are also kept in school. Seasonal resources such as Advent Wreaths are purchased as required. We also subscribe to ‘TenTen Resources’ where teachers can access a range of resources including classroom prayers and assemblies, as well as resources for RSE.

SEND

The teaching of RE is a vital part of our school curriculum policy, which states that we provide a broad and balanced education for all our children. When teaching RE, we ensure that we provide learning opportunities matched to the needs of children with learning difficulties. We take into account the targets set for individual children in their Individual Provision Plans (IEPs).

Assessment

The RE Curriculum is reviewed each year to ensure it meets the needs of all pupils and is fit for purpose. RE levels are assessed using assessment descriptors at the end of each term, as with other core curriculum subjects. Attainment grades will be recorded on a class assessment data sheets and will be tracked during SLT/Class teacher termly Pupil Progress Meetings.

Children will be given opportunities to complete a variety of assessment activities during the year including self and peer assessment activities. Assessment tasks are included on “The Way, The Truth and The Life” planning and the marking codes, learning aims and success criteria used in English and other curriculum subjects are also used in RE activities.

Expectations regarding marking, presentation, teaching and learning and the learning environment are the same as for other core subjects and align with those policies. Parents receive a written report annually where there are clear indications of what their child has learnt, understood and achieved in RE.

Other Faiths

There is a place within Religious Education in each Key Stage for teaching about other religions. It is important our children learn to respect and appreciate that people may have chosen another faith and it is therefore essential that we educate children in what others believe and practice. The faiths studied include Sikhism, Islam, Judaism and Hinduism along with other Christian denominations.

Parents

Parents are the first teachers of their children. The Religious Education, taught in our school through the planned curriculum and across other areas, supports the parents in this important mission. Parents are informed of what their children are learning in Religious Education.

Sacramental preparation takes place within St. Ethelbert's because the parish and parents value the in-depth preparation that this approach brings to the formation of faith. The school and parish Catechists work closely together to ensure that the children receive the best possible education and preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

Review

This policy will be reviewed by the Subject Leader for Religious Education, following discussions with the Headteacher, governors and other colleagues. Any amendments will be presented to the whole staff.