



Religious Education Policy

We learn to love and love to learn with Jesus

CONTENTS

1. Rationale of Religious Education	3
2. The Aims of Religious Education	3
3. Outcome of Religious Education	3
4. Religious Education at the Heart of the Curriculum	4
5. Programme of Study	4
6. Curriculum Structure	4
7. Assessment, Monitoring, Recording and Reporting	4
8. Leadership of the Subject	5
9. Right of Withdrawal	5
10. Review of Policy	5



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

We learn to love and love to learn with Jesus

Rationale of Religious Education

- Religious Education is central to the educative mission of the Church. *'At the heart of Catholic education lies the Christian vision of the human person. This vision is expressed and explored in Religious Education.'*¹
- 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.²

The Aims of Religious Education

- To engage in a systematic study of the mystery of God, of the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, the teachings of the Church, the central beliefs that Catholics hold, the basis for them and the relationship between faith and life;
- To enable pupils continually to deepen their religious and theological understanding and be able to communicate this effectively;
- To present an authentic vision of the Church's moral and social teaching to provide pupils with a sure guide for living and the tools to critically engage with contemporary culture and society;
- To give pupils an understanding of the religions and world views present in the world today and the skills to engage in respectful and fruitful dialogue with those whose world views differ from their own;
- To develop the critical faculties of pupils so to bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture;
- To stimulate pupils' imagination and provoke a desire for personal meaning as revealed in the truth of the Catholic faith;
- To enable pupils to relate the knowledge gained through religious education to their understanding of other subjects in the curriculum.³

Outcome of Religious Education

The outcome of Religious Education is religiously literate and engaged young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills – appropriate to their age and capacity – to reflect spiritually, and think ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.⁴

¹ Religious Education in Catholic Schools, Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, 2000, para 4

² Religious Education Directory 2023, p13

³ Religious Education Directory 2022 p6

⁴ Religious Education Directory 2023, p6

Religious Education at the Heart of the Curriculum

- Religious education is the core of the core curriculum and is to be the source and summit of the whole curriculum.
- Religious education is an academic discipline with the same systematic demands and rigour as other disciplines.
- Religious education is to be delivered within a broad and balanced curriculum, where it informs every aspect of the curriculum. Every other subject is to be informed by religious education and have a strong relationship with it.
- In each year of compulsory schooling, religious education is to be taught for at least 10% curriculum time within each repeating cycle of the regular school timetable.

Programme of Study

As a Catholic school, Our Lady Catholic Primary School is required to comply with the Religious Education Curriculum Directory (2012) / Religious Education Directory (2023).

Since September 2025, all year groups across the school are following the model curriculum outlined in the Religious Education Directory (2023).

Curriculum Structure

The model curriculum has six components known as branches which map helpfully onto the six half-terms of the school year. Five of these have a core theme which invites pupils to learn about an aspect of Revelation, Scripture, life in Christ, and life in the Church, and to discern what their learning means academically and experientially enabling them to see, judge, and act through a deeper knowledge of the Christian faith.

The Encounter & Dialogue branch involves the study of other religions, encountering other pathways of belief drawing on the teaching of the Church about intercultural dialogue.

Further information on the curriculum can be found here: [Religious Education Directory 2023](#)

Assessment, Monitoring, Recording and Reporting

- Assessment of standards is carried out against the Age-Related Standards in Religious Education (3-19) interim document / Expected Outcomes in RED 2023
- Assessment moderation/standardisation takes place in school amongst colleagues, alongside other schools within our Deanery and with colleagues at diocesan meetings.
- Monitoring of teaching and learning in Religious Education takes place in line with our school policy.
- Progress and achievement is recorded and tracked in line with our school policy.
- Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to Governors at least termly in line with other core subjects.
- Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to parents/carers each year in line with other core subjects.

Leadership of the Subject

- Mrs Teresa Valentine has responsibility for leading, managing and supporting the delivery of Religious Education and the continuous professional development of teachers in Religious Education.
- Canon Norbert Fernandes is the link governor with responsibility for Religious Education.

Right of Withdrawal

Religious Education is a core subject at Our Lady Catholic Primary School and is central to the life and mission of the school. However, parents have a statutory right to withdraw their child wholly or partly from Religious Education and from collective worship. This right is set out in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

Parents do not have to provide a reason for exercising this right. Any request for withdrawal should be made in writing to the Headteacher and will remain in place unless the request is withdrawn by the parent.

The school will make appropriate arrangements for the supervision of pupils who are withdrawn, in line with legal requirements.

Review of Policy

This policy is monitored and reviewed by the Headteacher and Governors of the school and will be updated bi-annually.

This policy will be reviewed in Summer 2028.

Signed by Headteacher:



Date: 23rd June 2026

Signed by Chair of Governors



Date: 23rd June 2026

Policy Originator	Richard Curry
Governor Responsible	Kelly Donkor
Status	Statutory
Last reviewed	23rd June 2026
Ratified on	23rd June 2026
Review period	Bi-Annual