



St Edward's Catholic Primary & Nursery School

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Policy Checklist to be inserted with all current Policies and Key Documents

TO BE COMPLETED BY REVIEWER

TYPE:	Policy																	
TITLE:	RE																	
Compiled / reviewed by?	All teaching staff																	
Does it relate to any change in legislation?	Yes																	
Which (if any) model has been used as a framework?	None																	
Have any new recommendations / alterations been incorporated?	Yes																	
Review Required? If yes, how long	Annually																	
If significant changes, who needs to be notified?	✓ as required <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Teachers</td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pupils</td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Learning Support staff</td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clerical Staff</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ancillary Staff</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Governors</td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Parents</td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Other (specify):</td> </tr> </table>		Teachers	✓	Pupils	✓	Learning Support staff	✓	Clerical Staff		Ancillary Staff		Governors	✓	Parents	✓	Other (specify):	
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TO BE COMPLETED AFTER REVIEW FOR ATTACHMENT TO FINAL COPY

When ratified by governors (if required)	
Next Review (if required)	October 2027
Next Governor approval (if required)	



Saint Edward's Catholic Primary and Nursery School

RE Policy 2026-28

At St Edward's Catholic Primary and Nursery School, we believe that Religious Education is the foundation of the entire educational process, and that the beliefs and values it communicates will inspire every aspect of school life.

We recognise that as teachers of religious education our need is to lead young people through word and action towards an ever-increasing understanding of the faith. We are seeking for our children to walk hand in hand with God, and to live out their faith every day. We want our children to learn more about and appreciate the Catholic faith regardless of gender, cultural background or ability. As a staff we are dedicated to setting good examples and expressing our own faith in our teaching and in all of our care for our pupils.

We firmly believe that the Gospel message should be reflected in the lives of everyone connected to our school. Therefore our school Mission Statement lies at the very heart of our school:

'We carry the light of Christ as we love, live and learn with each other.'

Love God, ourselves and each other.

Live life in response to God's teachings.

Learn to achieve our best in everything we do in school.

We are part of a MAC- Our Lady and All Saints and we work closely with these schools to plan and embed new ideas/projects to enhance the Catholic Life and RE across the school.

Aims of RE in our school

The aim of religious education in St Edward's Catholic Primary School is to lead the children in knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith and to support them in living it in their daily lives. This includes:

- To encourage children to develop a love and passion for their faith
- Becoming a setting, whereby our Catholic values are embodied in our mission statement and are central to the development of our children's spiritual, moral and vocational understanding
- To encourage study and reflection
- To encourage children to take an active role in planning and leading Collective Worship
- To encourage skills of listening and spirituality
- To develop opportunities for learning about other faiths and to respect and acknowledge that we live in a multi-faith world
- To continue to develop parish links within our local community
- To develop links with our schools within 'Our Lady and All Saints' MAC.
- To assess and monitor performance of pupils in order to plan work that encourages pupils to reach their full potential regardless of gender, class, culture or ability

Legal rights:

Parents do have a legal right to withdraw their child from RE and collective worship but at St Edward's we encourage all children to take part.

How we teach RE:

As a school within the Archdiocese of Birmingham, we fully embrace the mission of the Birmingham Diocesan Education Service (BDES) to be:

"Forming Christ-centred pilgrims of hope with kind hearts, questioning minds, a thirst for knowledge and a hunger for justice."

This mission is reflected throughout both the Religious Education curriculum and the wider life of the school. Through high-quality Religious Education, pupils are encouraged to develop a deep knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith, to think critically and ask meaningful questions, and to grow in their relationship with God and others. The curriculum supports pupils in becoming informed, reflective and compassionate individuals who are equipped to respond to the challenges of the modern world in the light of the Gospel.

As a member of the Our Lady and All Saints (OLAAS) Catholic Multi Academy Company, we work collaboratively with schools across the MAC to promote excellence in Religious Education. This partnership provides opportunities for shared professional development,

moderation, curriculum development, the sharing of best practice and the strengthening of Catholic life across all schools. Through this collaborative approach, we ensure that Religious Education remains rigorous, engaging and faithful to the teachings of the Catholic Church, enabling all pupils to flourish academically, spiritually and morally.

In partnership with the OLAAS MAC, the Birmingham Diocesan Education Service and the wider Church, we are committed to ensuring that Religious Education is at the heart of our school's mission and contributes to the formation of young people as Christ-centred pilgrims of hope.

Aims and purposes of Religious Education at St Edward's

At St Edward's Catholic Primary and Nursery School, Religious Education is at the heart of our curriculum and school life. The Religious Education Directory (RED) describes Religious Education as **"the core of the core curriculum"**, reflecting its central importance in the mission of Catholic education. Through Religious Education, pupils are enabled to deepen their knowledge of the Catholic faith, encounter Christ and grow academically, spiritually and morally.

We aim to:

- To develop an awareness and understanding of the presence of God in each child's life and to encourage a personal response to that presence.
- To allow each child to develop their conscience and make sound moral judgements based on commitment to following Christ.
- To enable each child to learn and develop their full potential according to their abilities and adopt attitudes of care and respect for each other.
- To develop within our school a respect for the dignity of each human being and provide children with the opportunity to reflect upon and celebrate the diverse nature of our society.
- To promote the sacramental life of Christian families and to encourage parents to take an active part in the preparation of their children for the sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation.
- To foster school-parish links to ensure that our children remain exposed and committed to the Catholic faith beyond the realms of the school curriculum into the wider community.

How we meet our Aims

We work together to meet these aims through:

- a) Following the new Diocesan Scheme of work 'Discerning Disciples'
- b) Sacramental Education and preparation from 'Discerning Disciples'
- c) Prayer and Liturgy – Celebrations of the Word
- d) Gospel Values education and promotion
- e) British Values
- f) Catholic Virtues education and promotion

Religious Education Entitlement and Provision

Religious Education in our school is an integral part of our ethos, aims and relationships, as Christian values and virtues permeate all aspects of the curriculum and all relationships.

RE is a core subject and is allocated 10% of Curriculum time as required by the Bishops' Conference. The 10% relates to 'curriculum time', which is the time allocated for the taught curriculum of Religious Education. This 10% is provided every week of the school year. It does not include time committed to activities such as assemblies, hymn practice, PSHE, RHE, preparation and attendance at Mass etc. Consideration is given to the time of day allocated for RE, ensuring it is taught during both morning and afternoon sessions. RE is taught across three lessons and is not delivered as a single block. In EYFS, there are a minimum of two discrete input sessions each week. Continuous provision is linked to the lesson theme, and the 'Discerning Disciples' strategy is taught in its entirety.

Religious Education Scheme of Work

School follows the Diocesan Religious Education strategy, Discerning Disciples, which covers six branches of learning. This strategy reflects the curriculum and expectations of the Religious Education Directory (RED), which has been mandated by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales and is compulsory for all Catholic schools in England and Wales. Catholic schools exist as part of the educational mission of the Church and therefore have a responsibility to provide Religious Education that is faithful to the teachings of the Catholic Church and supports pupils in their formation as disciples of Christ. Through the delivery of the RED through *Discerning Disciples*, pupils are enabled to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith and their role in the life and mission of the Church.

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

These branches are taught through the following four lenses:

1. Hear
2. Believe
3. Celebrate
4. Live

The Four Lenses of the Discerning Disciples Programme provide a child-centred framework that mirrors the Catechism's holistic vision of Catholic formation. Together they help pupils to hear God's Word, believe the faith, celebrate the mysteries of faith, and live as disciples of Christ, ensuring that Religious Education is rooted in the same foundations that shape the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

The RE Coordinator carries out regular observations, monitoring, and assessment validations to ensure that the scheme is implemented consistently and effectively. All work corresponds to the children's age, though every child will study the same branch. Opportunities for cross-curricular work are fully endorsed

In addition to the Diocesan Curriculum Strategy, 'Discerning Disciples', pupils will:

- Follow the 'Ten Ten' Scheme as part of the school's delivery of Relationships and Sex Education.
- Experience the Catholic Schools Profile by focusing on two paired virtues each half-term in line with the Diocesan plan.

- Be taught Catholic Social Teaching through the entire curriculum.
- Learn about the school's mission and the mission of the BDES within the MAC and wider mission of the church.
- Celebrate and learn the liturgical traditions of the Catholic Church through, for example, saying the Rosary, May procession, and Holy Days of Obligation.

Planning

Long-term Planning

The Long-term Plan indicates which branches are to be taught, when and for how long. This is provided by the Diocesan Education Service in the new RE directory – 'To Know You more Clearly'.

Medium-term Planning

Medium-term planning is the responsibility of the class teacher following BDES CPD and school CPD.

Short-term Planning

Short-term planning (weekly planning) is the responsibility of the class teacher and is completed on a weekly basis.

Assessment and Monitoring

Marking and Feedback

Marking in RE is based on the quality of RE work produced in pupils' books and the evidence of the key knowledge statements recorded alongside each task. Children will know what they have done well in the lesson as evidence will be highlighted with a green pen. Misconceptions will be indicated with pink pen. Teachers will only add a comment when they feel it is appropriate e.g. to clarify an element of a child's learning a little further or to pose a reflective/spiritual question to deepen a child's knowledge and understanding. Children be invited to respond through Discerning Deeper questions within books.

Summative Assessment

End of Unit assessments are carried out by class teachers at the end of each branch. These are in the form of multiple-choice questions (MCQ's). The results of the MCQ's are recorded on a RE assessment tracker to be provided by the diocese. Teachers also make a judgement for all branches from 'Discerning Disciples', and achievement judgements are reported termly at parents' evenings.

In each branch of the Discerning Disciples curriculum, pupils are expected to complete an extended piece of writing that draws together learning from the Hear, Believe, Celebrate, and Live lenses and demonstrates the three ways of knowing: Understand, Discern, and Respond.

Assessment focuses on whether pupils can accurately explain Catholic teaching (Understand), make connections and justify their thinking (Discern), and reflect on the implications for themselves and others (Respond). High-quality writing should therefore move beyond simple recall to include explanation, evidence from Scripture or Church teaching, thoughtful reflection, and personal response.

The RE Coordinator reviews and analyses attainment and progress judgements in order to identify trends, patterns and possible underachievement – including achievement for groups of pupils. This work is shared and discussed with staff and governors. Where appropriate, action is taken, which includes support for staff and further monitoring.

The school's involvement with parents and the parish community.

Parents are invited to attend assemblies, Masses, parent workshops and open days to see the daily pattern of the school day. Parent workshops that incorporate prayer are also timetabled into the school year to give families a chance to collectively pray together. Parents/children are informed and encouraged to attend Mass and processions at our parish church throughout the year. Parents are involved with sacramental preparations and can keep up to date with RE across the school, through accessing our school website and looking at 'Catholic Life' as well as looking at our social media accounts.

Sacramental preparation.

Monitoring, Review and Evaluation

All RE monitoring is in line with the whole school monitoring system. Monitoring takes the form of a multi-faceted approach, including:

- Pupil Voice
- Staff Voice
- Surveys and Parental Consultations
- Learning Walks
- Book Trawls

Work is moderated through each year group and external validation from other schools within the MAC. Any moderation receives detailed feedback and reporting, which feeds directly into Self Evaluation and action plans.

Resources

School has a bank of resources which are stored centrally in the Resource room or in the Hive.

Prayer Tables/RE Displays

Each classroom has a designated prayer area. This is draped in cloth depicting the current liturgical colour. The Crucifix is displayed prominently. The area has specific prayers displayed for use during classroom worship. Children are encouraged to use this area as a focus when praying independently or together.

Each classroom is expected to have at least one RE display which reflects either the current topic being taught, or the liturgical time of year.

Sacramental Preparation

The Birmingham Diocesan Education Service (BDES) Sacramental Preparation Programme is the mandatory programme for the preparation of children receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation and forms the foundation of the school's sacramental provision. School works in close partnership with parents, catechists and the parish to support children on their sacramental journey, ensuring that preparation is rooted in the life of the Church and parish community.

In addition to the mandatory diocesan programme, the school and parish work collaboratively to provide further opportunities for catechesis, prayer, worship and family involvement, enriching children's understanding and experience of the sacraments. These additional experiences complement and enhance the BDES approach; they do not replace or operate independently of the diocesan programme. The school's sacramental preparation is therefore fully aligned with diocesan expectations whilst responding to the needs of its parish and school community.

Reconciliation and Holy Communion

- This is delivered by the six 20-minute 'Discerning Disciples' sessions devised by the diocese to be taught outside the 10% curriculum time designated for RE.
- There is an enrolment Mass and parents 'Faith Journey' meeting in which the Sacrament is explained by the Parish priest and school.
- First Confessions are held on a Sunday afternoon during Lent.
- First Holy Communion is held on a Saturday in June in which the Parish Choir join the Mass.

- A Mass is then held in school the following week to celebrate this sacrament with school community and a small party is held afterwards for the children.

Sacrament of Confirmation

- The Y6 teachers prepare the children for the Sacrament of Confirmation, actively supported by the parish, their parents and their sponsors. This is done alongside the six 20-minute 'Discerning Disciples' sessions devised by the diocese to be taught outside the 10% curriculum time designated for RE.
- This can be supplemented with opportunities for Sacramental retreats.
- Children attend an enrolment Mass at the local parish and are required to attend Mass on at least 3 separate occasions following this Mass.

Other Faiths and Religions

St Edward's recognises the importance of children having an appreciation of other faiths from different cultures. There are regular opportunities throughout the year for pupils to learn about aspects of different faiths and cultures. However, the main teaching of other faiths will be done through the delivery of branch six of 'Discerning Disciples' – Dialogue and encounter, which will be taught in the second half of the summer term.

Children have opportunities for school visits or assemblies where the emphasis is to raise their awareness of where different people worship. Visitors of other faiths are encouraged to come into the school to teach the children about their faith. The children are also encouraged to recognise and value the international and multicultural nature of the Catholic Church, including British Values of tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

Equal Opportunities and SEND

The fair and equal treatment of all individuals regardless of race, creed, disability, or gender is integral to the Gospels' Revelations and the Church's message and is central to our school mission. All children are given equal access to the Religious Education curriculum, promoting their understanding to their full potential. A variety of teaching and learning strategies are employed to try to meet all children's different needs.

Continuing Professional Development.

CPD is implemented through INSET, staff meetings and phase meetings. The RE Coordinator, Head Teacher and Deputy Head Teacher lead and provide feedback from attended cluster meetings or MAC events. Information and training relating to current

themes, changes, and requirements are implemented throughout the year at appropriate points. The RE Coordinator attends regular meetings led by the Diocese. New teaching staff also attend courses provided by the Diocese. The focus of training is to facilitate best practice in the teaching and learning of RE.

Links with Parents and the Parish

Celebrations and events related to the Catholic Life of our school are shared in school newsletters and published on the school social media. Parents, families, and parishioners are regularly invited to join the school community for Mass and other celebrations. Parents of children in Sacramental year groups are also invited to Sacramental Meetings and Enrolment Masses as part of the Sacramental Preparation Programme. Children in Year 1 during Liturgical seasons of Advent and Lent can take home a Prayer Bear, promoting opportunities for children and their families to talk and pray together.

We have strong links with Father Hudson's who also form part of the parish and also the parish choir.

Governing Body

RE is always a key part of the School Improvement Plan and is reported upon termly as part of the Headteacher's Report to Governors. In addition, the RE Subject Leader reports back to the Catholic Education Committee. Governors are also invited to join with other members of the whole school community in the celebration of Mass. One member of the governing body has the role of RE Link Governor; this is currently Theresa Phillips, who meets regularly with the Head Teacher and RE Subject Leader and is a member of the Parish SVP, who runs Mini-Vinnies in the school and is also a parish catechist.

The Role of the Religious Education Leader

The Role of the Religious Education Leader is outlined in the job description.

Health and Safety

All relevant risk assessments for visits are carried out, overseen, and stored by the Head Teacher. Staff should note:

- When using candles, it is important that children must never be left alone with lit candles or allowed to light them or blow them out.
- Consideration given to children with asthma when using incense and scented candles

Legal Right of Withdrawal

It is a parents'/guardians' legal right to withdraw their child from RE and Prayer and Liturgy. Further information can be obtained from the school.

Mrs Flanagan – Executive Headteacher

Mr Phillips – Deputy Head Teacher and RE Co-ordinators

Theresa Phillips – RE Link Governor

Policy to be reviewed: October 2028