CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Part of Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Religious Education Policy

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

WE LIVE OUR LIVES LIKE JESUS

This means we will:

- √ ***Support everyone on their journey of faith as they deepen their personal relationship with Christ and by recognising the love of God in their lives.***
- √ ***Promote everyone's well-being and nurture children to be confident, resilient and articulate with a self-belief that they can make a difference to their local community and wider world.***
- √ ***Encourage everyone to achieve their personal best, enjoy school and celebrate all achievements.***
- √ ***Celebrate our school's unique cultural diversity.***
- √ ***Reach out to parents, the Parish and the wider community***

Jesus is at the heart of all that we are and do together at Corpus Christi

Responsibility	**Date**
Approved by Trust	
Scrutinised and Inspected by Governors	
Member of Staff Responsible	RE Leader
Statutory/Non- Statutory	Non- Statutory
Date Last Reviewed	June 2026
Date of Next Review	June 2028

"The Catholic vision of education promotes the dignity and freedom of every person as created in the image and likeness of God. The vision inspires and encourages the beliefs and values, which are lived out in the daily life of the Catholic school. Within this vision, religious education is very much a journey of formation involving every member of the school community, together with a pupil's family and parish community."

Religious Education: Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools

Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School bases its teaching on the Gospel message of God's immeasurable love for us and invites the pupils to respond by loving God and by loving their neighbour as themselves. The pupils are encouraged to take Jesus as their model as is expressed in the School's Mission Statement, "We live our lives like Jesus."

This policy incorporates the aims and values of our school Mission Statement which is rooted in our belief that every pupil is unique, made in the image of Christ, and that it is reflected in the desire, commitment and aspirations of our school staff to address and overcome socio-economic factors which may hinder pupil progress and attainment, and ultimately affect their life chances.

R.E. in our school is not solely taught as a curriculum area but as a way of life, promoting the Gospel values and giving praise and reverence to God. It provides an opportunity for everyone to develop their personal faith through word and action and to enter into communion with God, made possible through the divine work of Jesus, His Son, and the witness of the Holy Spirit. This is achieved through liturgy, collective worship, assemblies, lessons, including curriculum content, and roles and responsibilities throughout the school, which deepen our Catholic life and highlight our belief that Christ is at the centre of all that we do.

1. Intent

Our curriculum aims to:

- Provide a Catholic Christian education based on the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, in which the values of the Gospel underpin all aspects of school life;
- Nurture our pupils and staff in the Catholic faith
- Ensure pupils feel cared for and care for each other so that everyone who enters our community feels welcome to engage and reflect on their life, to deepen their personal faith commitment and to respect the faith of others.
- Develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith and other religious traditions
- Provide opportunities for prayer, worship and spiritual growth
- Provide a living example of Gospel values in our relationships with one another
- Provide a high-quality education where each pupil develops to their full potential and acquires the knowledge, skills and personal qualities to become responsible, respectful and faith-filled members of society
- Give each individual the opportunity to experience the Gospel values through celebration, prayer, personal reflection and sharing faith experiences with others.
- Develop independent thinking and the ability to express our own faith experiences.

2. Implementation

Teaching and Learning: The teaching of Religious Education (R.E.) fulfils the guidance as outlined in the *Religious Education Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools, Colleges and Academies in England and Wales 2023, (RED) "To know You more clearly*." We currently use "Lighting the Path" as the scheme of work, in order to deliver high-quality teaching and learning in Religious Education. The aim of this programme is to explore the religious dimensions of questions about life, dignity and purpose within the Catholic faith. Links are made with the pupils' own experiences and the experience of other faith traditions. The programme provides opportunities for pupils to reflect on their own experiences. It helps pupils to explore the beliefs, values and way of life of the Catholic tradition and other faiths.

The RED programme of study for religious education has four structural elements that are reflected in the teaching of R.E.:

Knowledge lenses – reflecting the Catechism of the Catholic Church

- Hear
- Believe
- Celebrate
- Live
- Dialogue
- Encounter

Ways of Knowing – describing the skills that pupils will develop as they progress through the R.E. curriculum

- Understand
- Discern
- Respond

Expected outcomes outline what pupils are expected to know, remember and be able to do, using the Ways of Knowing and applying it to the discrete knowledge within each lens.

Curriculum Structure – the curriculum is organised into 6 branches, typically one branch will be taught each half term; the first 5 branches reflect the Church's liturgical year with branch 6 focused on how Christians work together with people of other religions. Each has a core theme, inviting pupils to reflect on aspects of Scripture, life in Christ, Revelation and life in the church. The 6 branches are:

- Creation and Covenant
- Prophecy and Promise
- Galilee to Jerusalem
- Desert to Garden
- To the ends of the earth
- Dialogue and Encounter

The sequence of the branches is followed ensuring continuity, coverage and progression within the programme. Additional units are planned into the cycle, to teach pupils about our Mission Statement, Class Saints, and key feast days, such as Corpus Christi and Mary. The branches are taught in a 2-year rolling programme to allow for mixed year group classes.

In line with our school's Mission Statement, Religious Education holds a central place within our curriculum, and we seek opportunities across all subject areas to reinforce the values and teachings of our faith, hence R.E. is regarded as core of the core of our curriculum and covers 10% of the curriculum.

In Reception classes, R.E. is taught in short sessions throughout the school week as well as one focussed lesson. In Key Stage 1 and 2 two lessons are taught during the week. In addition to this, pupils will experience a range of worship opportunities where Scripture is at the centre. "Lighting the Path" provides the long-term plan for each year group and is used to support planning. Medium and short term planning is the responsibility of the year group teachers and is completed on a unit by unit basis.

R.E is taught using a variety of approaches which support pupils to engage and explore Scripture and religious beliefs using thinking skills strategies and where pupils can express their thoughts and opinions in a variety of ways, including role play and hot seating, written and creative responses. Teachers deepen pupils' understanding though questioning and encouraging them to make links between Scripture and belief and the actions of believers.

Support and Challenge: The R.E. curriculum, as with other areas of the curriculum, is adapted to meet the needs of our pupils through our planning. In the classroom we intend:

- to provide a happy, caring environment so all pupils achieve their potential
- that plans should indicate a variety of learning styles for all pupils
- that pupils' work should show a variety of recording to suit all abilities
- that teaching focuses on learning outcomes
- to build on the child's strengths to allow maximum participation in all activities
- pupils grow spiritually and develop a strong sense of the value of God's world.

Assessment and Progress: As a school, we assess pupils, from a range of abilities, termly against the Expected end of phase outcomes as outlined in the RED. Assessments are moderated termly with phase staff working together to ensure judgements are accurate. Currently, pupils' work is assessed in line with the other core subjects, using terms; 'Working Towards', 'Expected' and 'Greater Depth'.

Catholic Social Teaching: As part of R.E. teaching, pupils will be introduced to the principles of Catholic Social Teaching:

- Life and Dignity of the Human Person
- Solidarity
- The Common Good
- The Option for the Poor and Vulnerable
- Peace
- Care for Creation
- The Dignity of Work and Right of the Workers.

Pupils will have the opportunity to learn more about each principle each term, at a level appropriate to their age and ability.

Leadership of R.E.: Leadership of R.E. at Corpus Christi School is the responsibility of the R.E. Subject Leader, supported by the headteacher. Their role is to monitor and assess the R.E. curriculum throughout the school to ensure continuity and progression. The RE Subject Leader provides training and professional development to support teachers in their teaching of R.E. and will also purchase resources to support R.E. lessons.

Two Governors have specific responsibility for R.E. and liaise with staff to fulfil their monitoring duties.

Monitoring and Evaluation: In line with other core subjects, R.E. is monitored throughout the year to ensure that high standards in teaching and learning are maintained.

Monitoring includes:

- Book scrutiny
- Planning scrutiny
- Pupil conferencing
- Learning environments/ Holy Space
- Lesson observations
- Worship observations
- Moderation of RE assessments

Feedback and coaching is provided to staff and this process is then reviewed to ensure areas of development have been addressed and pupils are making progress in their R.E. learning and spiritual journey.

At Corpus Christi whilst we believe that academic rigour is as necessary in R.E. as in any subject, this should not negate spiritual and emotional development and learning which are not always possible to assess using formal methods but are an integral part of Religious Education.

3. Impact

The impact of our R.E. curriculum is seen in:

- High standards in R.E. books with the application of a range of other curriculum areas – art, music, drama, technology and writing
- Pupils' positive attitudes towards and high engagement in R.E. lessons.
- Pupils develop awareness and appreciation of Catholic belief, understanding of its impact on personal and social behaviour and how this impacts daily life decisions.
- Pupils will develop secure knowledge of Scripture and religious beliefs and understand how these inform daily life. They will develop the ability to listen carefully, think critically and reflect spiritually, ethically and theologically. Pupils will learn to acquire and organise knowledge effectively, make informed judgements and express considered viewpoints grounded in their knowledge of Scripture.
- To foster appropriate attitudes: for example, respect for truth; respect for the views of others; awareness of the spiritual, of moral responsibility, of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life and especially the challenge of living in a multicultural, multi-faith society.
- Pupils will become individuals who value and respect one another and demonstrate our mission in action.

4. Communication

This policy will be shared with and communicated to:

- All members of the school community
- Parish priests or members of pastoral areas as appropriate
- New members of staff and will form part of their induction

5. Policy Monitoring and Review

Monitoring, evaluation and review of R.E. is an integral part of the self-review process and is shared with the whole school community. Strengths and areas for development are highlighted through this process and recommendations for future action will be identified in the School Improvement Plan.

R.E. Governors work with the headteacher and staff to review the effectiveness of this policy.