



Religious Education Policy

2025-2026

Version	Date	Description of changes and person/organisation responsible
1.0	January 2019	
2.0	January 2021	
3.0	January 2023	

People Responsible:	Headteacher R.E. Lead Governing Body
Reviewed date:	March 2025
Next review date:	March 2026

Mission Statement

Learn, Grow, Love, Live

At Holy Cross Catholic Primary School

we learn about ourselves and about the world.

We grow in faith, we act with kindness, generosity and love
to ourselves and others.

We live life to the full and have a future full of hope.

Philosophy

The Catholic identity of our school is at the heart of our ethos and influences every aspect of school life. **Our Mission Statement** embodies the values that unite all members of our school community.

Catholic schools play an essential role in supporting the wider community, providing a nurturing yet challenging environment where children can experience and understand how Gospel values can be applied in society. Holy Cross acknowledges the profound significance of high-quality religious

education in shaping each child's development and recognises the central role the school plays in this journey.

Guided by the Holy Spirit, we strive to offer a well-rounded education where faith is seamlessly integrated into learning, enabling children to reach their full potential—academically, spiritually, physically, emotionally, creatively, and socially. Our aim is to educate children in the teachings and traditions of the Church while providing opportunities for them to explore, reflect on, and strengthen their own Catholic faith within a secure and supportive environment. We believe it is vital for every child to cultivate a meaningful and personal relationship with God. Religious Education is not limited to lessons; it is woven into all aspects of school life, influencing our curriculum and shaping our interactions with one another.

At the core of our school's religious ethos is the example set by Jesus in his loving and compassionate relationships with others. At Holy Cross, all members of the school community are committed to treating each individual with respect, fostering positive and harmonious relationships among both children and adults.

The introduction of the new **Religious Education Directory (R.E.D.)** curriculum promotes a deep understanding of Catholic faith and practice. The curriculum is structured around six key branches across the liturgical year, incorporating the four curriculum lenses: hear, believe, celebrate, and live. At Holy Cross, the objectives outlined in the R.E.D. are being introduced gradually into year group Religious Education lessons (please refer to the timetables below to see phased implementation of the new). The R.E.D. curriculum presents new concepts through a spiral progression, ensuring that learning builds year on year. Phasing in the curriculum enables staff to focus on delivering new content, refining teaching strategies, and aligning assessment methods with the revised curriculum, ensuring high-quality instruction. As a result, we are equipped to provide children with strong foundation of knowledge and skills, preventing gaps in understanding. The Religious Education Directory will be fully integrated by January 2026.

Year Group	Current R.E. curriculum	Beginning the new R.E.D.
EYFS	New RED curriculum	
Year 1	New RED curriculum	
Year 2	God Matters	September 2025
Year 3	New RED curriculum	
Year 4	New RED curriculum	
Year 5	God Matters	September 2025
Year 6	God Matters	January 2026

In the meantime, other year groups will continue to follow the R.E. scheme based on **God Matters**, which aligns with the objectives outlined in the Curriculum Directory—Revelation, The Church, Celebration, and Life in Christ—across KS1, and KS2. This programme helps children develop key skills such as investigation, interpretation, communication, critique and evaluation.

The school's Relationship, Sex and Health Education programme follows the **Ten:Ten** programme of study for EYFS, KS1, and KS2 (see separate policy). This is in line with the statutory Relationships Education guidance introduced in September 2020.

Teachers conduct regular assessments of pupils based on specific learning outcomes that measure knowledge, understanding, and skills. This ensures continuity and progression throughout the school. Pupils' progress is recorded for each unit of work in their books. The diocesan guidelines on Age-Related Expectations will continue to inform our assessment procedures, with new guidance from the Diocese shaping assessment criteria in line with the revised R.E.D. curriculum.

Children are made aware of their attainment targets through the use of outcome ladders, which are placed in their R.E. books at the start of each unit. Throughout the unit, the class teacher tracks and records achievements against these targets.

Holy Cross values a broad and balanced curriculum, aiming to foster knowledge and understanding of different religions and religious practices. Judaism is explored through a structured and progressive scheme of work developed by the R.E. Lead.

As a school, we actively support CAFOD, Mission Together, and various local, national and international charities. We encourage the use of CAFOD resources for different events and Mission Together materials during Lent and Easter. Our community responds to global issues as they arise, such as refugee crises and natural disasters. Additionally, we integrate CAFOD's Catholic Social Teaching resources annually to help children understand global justice issues and explore ways to live out their faith in action.

General Principles

Religious education is a fundamental right and will be provided for every child within the school.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of religious education and/or collective worship. If they wish to do so, they must first discuss the matter with the Headteacher. Parents must then provide written notification of their decision in advance so that appropriate alternative arrangements can be made. For further details, please refer to the 'Guidance on the Right of Withdrawal from R.E. and Collective Worship' issued by the Catholic Education Service.

The school considers Catholic Education in Relationships to be an essential aspect of the religious life of the school. From September 2020, parents no longer have the right to withdraw their child from any aspect of the curriculum outlined in the Department for Education's Relationship Education guidance.

However, parents do retain the right to withdraw their child from any aspect of sex education that exceeds the requirements of the National Curriculum 2014. If they choose to do so, they must first discuss their concerns with the Headteacher. However, withdrawal is not permitted from sex education content that forms part of the National Curriculum Science programme. Parents must provide written notice in advance if they wish to withdraw their child so that alternative provision can be arranged.

Religious education at Holy Cross will be delivered in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church and rooted in Scripture. The use of Scripture is a priority, ensuring that children in EYFS and KS1 become familiar with key biblical stories and figures, while those in KS2 engage in deeper reflection and develop empathy. In EYFS and KS1, the focus will be on Biblical narratives, basic prayers, and doctrine. In KS2, children will also explore Jesus' Jewish heritage and the traditions he followed.

Religious education will be taught at a level appropriate to each child's age, as well as their spiritual and intellectual development.

As a core subject, religious education will be carefully planned, recorded, and assessed to ensure continuity and progression. The curriculum follows the new Religious Education Directory and *God Matters*, with modifications made when necessary to align with liturgical celebrations and feast days. R.E. is a core subject and must account for 10% of curriculum time each week (approximately 2½ hours), in addition to Celebration of the Word, assemblies, and prayer time.

Religious education will be engaging and thought-provoking, with high expectations set for all pupils. A cross-curricular approach is encouraged, incorporating ICT, discussion, drama, creative writing, artwork, music, and dance. R.E. should be embedded in all aspects of school life.

The aim of religious education is to deepen children's knowledge and understanding, helping them to develop concepts, attitudes, and values that foster a personal relationship with God through faith—while recognising that faith cannot be imposed.

Teachers of religious education will be mindful that children come from diverse faith backgrounds. Some may belong to practising Catholic families, others to non-practising families, and some to different Christian, non-Christian, or secular traditions. Pupils will be encouraged to respect those of different beliefs and to develop an understanding of other faiths.

Every classroom will have a dedicated space for reflection and prayer, linked either to the current unit of work or the liturgical calendar. Each class will also maintain an R.E. display showcasing the learning journey within their reflection area.

School assemblies will be rooted in Scripture and may be used to explore RE themes, other world faiths, Catholic Social Teaching, and aspects of Relationship and Health Education (RHE).

Content

The religious education provided for each child will include teaching, at a level appropriate to their age and understanding, about:

- The life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded in the Gospels;
- The teachings and practices of the Catholic Church, including the significance of Catholic Social Teaching and the responsibility of caring for our Common Home;
- Major events, figures, stories, and themes of the Bible;
- The lives and examples of key saints and notable figures from Church history;
- Important spiritual and theological concepts;
- Prayer and worship, including the Mass and the Sacraments;
- Significant feasts and seasons of the liturgical year;
- Personal morality in light of the teachings of Christ and the Church.

Full details of the school's religious education content can be found in the scheme of work and align with the new R.E.D.

Prayer

Holy Cross aims to foster each child's personal relationship with God through prayer. The school seeks to make prayer, worship, and liturgy meaningful educational and personal experiences that contribute to the spiritual growth of every member of the school community. Active participation is encouraged, and all children are expected to respect the right of others to pray, even if they choose not to participate themselves.

Children will have opportunities to pray and develop their understanding of prayer in various ways:

- Engaging in daily prayer and reflection within the classroom, often linked to the weekly theme;
- Participating in whole-school prayer during assemblies;
- Learning and understanding the words of commonly used prayers;
- Studying psalms and exemplary prayers;
- Composing and sharing their own prayers with their class;
- Attending school Masses and other liturgical celebrations;
- Exploring the nature of prayer through teaching, discussion, and personal experiences;
- Learning hymns and using them as a form of worship;
- Taking part in reconciliation services;
- Making use of the Prayer Room for reflection and spiritual growth.

The RE Lead will:

- Ensure that the policy and scheme are implemented effectively and reviewed regularly;
- Maintain strong links with teachers, parents, governors, clergy, partnership schools, and the Diocesan centre;
- Collaborate with the Samuel Partnership schools on curriculum and assessment developments, as well as diocesan-wide themes;
- Ensure new staff have a clear understanding of the expectations for teaching and working within a Catholic school;
- Use staff meetings to keep teachers informed about developments in R.E. and ensure consistency in planning, assessment, and marking;
- Oversee, promote, and monitor the effective teaching and assessment of R.E.;
- Maintain and expand resources to support the new R.E.D., the Diocesan Scheme of Work, and the Ten:Ten Scheme of Work;
- Build resources to enhance the teaching of other faiths;
- Manage the RE budget efficiently to ensure EYFS, KS1, and KS2 are adequately resourced;
- Ensure that each year group teaches about other faiths to foster knowledge, awareness, and understanding;
- Work with the Headteacher, R.E. link Governor and Chaplaincy Lead to prepare and organise school Masses;
- Encourage classes to participate in charitable giving for local, national, and international causes, including Mission Together, the Church's official children's charity.

Parish and Home Links

The school strives to foster a strong and supportive partnership between home, parish, school, and the wider community. This collaboration is encouraged through the following:

- Each class celebrating Mass in the parish church with the community;
- Celebrating Holy Days in the parish church alongside the parish community;
- Encouraging parents and children to participate in sacramental preparation programmes held in the parish;
- Inviting parents and parishioners to attend school and class Masses, as well as class assemblies;
- Encouraging children to engage in parish life through music, altar serving, reading, and the offertory;
- Maintaining strong relationships with local parish priests and deacons;
- Sharing information about R.E. units of work and ways to support learning at home through regular newsletters.

Equal Opportunities

At Holy Cross, we are committed to providing for all pupils, regardless of gender, ethnicity, socio-economic status, cultural background, academic ability, Special Educational Need/Disability, or vulnerability. Guided by the teachings of the Catholic Church, we aim to cultivate an inclusive environment where every student feels respected and valued. Our curriculum honours the richness of Catholic tradition while also embracing and exploring the diversity of other world religions. We promote understanding, dialogue, and respect for all beliefs, ensuring that each pupil has equal access to learning opportunities. Through this approach, we nurture an atmosphere of compassion, respect, and critical thinking, empowering all students to grow in their faith and understanding.

Health and Safety

Standard health and safety protocols will be upheld during RE lessons. Extra care and close supervision will be maintained during liturgies and prayer time, particularly when lit candles are used.