Christ the King Catholic Primary School

Learning to love - Loving to learn

Religious Education Policy 2023-2025

Policy Reviewed	Nov 2023
RE Coordinator	Helen Keegan
Headteacher	Susan Miles
Chair of Governors	Anna Buckland
To be reviewed	Nov 2025

CHRIST THE KING MISSION STATEMENT

We are:
A worshipping community *that holds and celebrates Christ as the centre of its faith and life.*
A learning community *that values and fosters learning for the whole community.*
A respecting community *that follows the teaching of Christ to love our neighbour as ourselves.*
A welcoming community *that recognises and welcomes the presence of Christ through our respect and love for one another.*
A serving community *that enables its pupils to serve each other, their families and wider world.*

Worshipping:

- Celebrating through participation in prayer, reflection and worship so that our community feels inspired, rewarded and challenged in its faith journey.
- Giving our children hope for their future through an understanding that they are unique and that God loves them for who they are and who they will become.

Learning:

- Enabling our children to become confident, skilled, enthusiastic lifelong learners.
- Developing thoughtful, questioning, creative and collaborative attitudes to learning.

Respecting:

- Fostering respect for all people, celebrating the wonder of God's creation and understanding the need to share our planet with all in sustainable ways.
- Respecting the unique God-given gifts that each member of the school community has to offer and promoting fairness, care and courtesy.

Welcoming:

- Instilling a culture of inclusivity, encompassing our pupils, parents and the wider community.
- Nurturing a sense of honesty, openness and self-worth in ourselves and others.

Serving:

- Encouraging our children to serve each other through friendship, kindness and sharing in work and play.
- Developing an awareness of the role of our school within our parishes and the wider community.

CHRIST THE KING VISION STATEMENT

· A purpose led curriculum with Christ at its Centre.
· An inclusive, ambitious and faith-filled curriculum which is shared by all members of the CTK Community.

We aim to develop:

· Ethical and informed citizens, with a strong Welsh identity, respectful of the needs, rights and diversity of others.

· Healthy, confident individuals both physically and emotionally, showing resilience and empathy towards others.

· Ambitious, capable learners who enjoy challenge, problem solving and are curious about their world. They are able to connect different experiences, knowledge and skills, to become lifelong learners.

· Enterprising, creative contributors who work effectively in teams, set goals for themselves and make their own decisions. They will use their voice to play a full part in school, life and work.



Christ the King Policy for Religious Education

For the years 2024 – 25, Christ the King will be trialling the new Religious Education Directory (RED) 'To Know You More Clearly'. This will be interspersed with our current scheme of work, 'Come and See', until September 2025 when the RED becomes statutory. At this time, elements of Come and See will continue to be used as a resource along with other recommendations from the Archdiocese.

A 'school is not enclosed within boundaries and schedules; it goes beyond them, it offers an educational program for the whole of life 'Pope Francis - March 23

Catholic education strives to offer students every opportunity to develop their talents to the full through their academic work, spiritual worship and extracurricular activities. Within Catholic schools, each individual is seen as made in God's image and loved by Him. (CES)

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]

- Religious Education is 'the core of the core curriculum.'

'Therefore, Religious Education is never simply one subject among many, but the foundation of the entire educational process. The beliefs and values studied in Catholic religious education inspire and draw together every aspect of the life of a Catholic school…. All pupils have the right to receive an overall education which will enable them, in the light of the faith of the Church, to engage with the deepest questions of life and find reasons for the hope which is within them. Religious Education is, then, the core subject in a Catholic school.'1

- Religious Education is the systematic study of the teaching of the Church and the mystery of Christ and is a rigorous academic subject in its own right.

Religious Education is regarded as an academic discipline with the same systematic demands and the same rigour as other disciplines. 2 As such it is to be taught, developed and resourced with the same commitment as any other subject.

"Excellence in religious education, then, will be characterised by a clarity of succinct religious learning objectives and of key content, by appropriate methodologies, rigour, richness of resources, achievement of identified outcomes and accurate methods of assessment. Classroom RE will be a challenging educational engagement between the pupil, the teacher and the authentic subject material." 3

- Whilst evangelisation and catechesis are happening in our school for some pupils, the specific contribution Religious Education makes to the Catholic Life of the school is primarily educational and will be planned, taught, assessed and monitored with the same rigour as other curriculum subjects.

- The outcome of Classroom Religious Education as stated in the Religious Education Directory 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***

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

2 Religious Education Curriculum Directory, Department of Catholic Education and Formation, Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, 2012, p.3

3 Religious Education in Catholic Schools, Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, 2000, para 7

4 Religious Education Curriculum Directory, Department of Catholic Education and Formation, Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, 2012, p.6

The Aims of Religious Education as stated in the RE Curriculum Directory are:

- *To present engagingly a comprehensive content which is the basis of knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith;*
- *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 so that pupils can make a critique of the underlying trends in contemporary culture and society;*
- *To raise pupils' awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities in order to respect and understand them;*
- *To develop the critical faculties of pupils so that they can relate their Catholic faith to daily life;*
- *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;*
- *To bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture.*

Our Objectives

- To communicate the Christian message in a manner appropriate to the age and life experience of the children, and to 'live' our Mission Statement
- To provide opportunities for experiencing prayer, to pray spontaneously, to teach the formal prayers of the church and to encourage children to pray liturgically, preparing them for the celebration of Mass
- To encourage home, school and parish links through involvement in the Mass, feasts, festivals and assemblies
- To introduce the children to the Liturgical Year
- To develop pupils' ability to form relationships and be part of a living and loving community
- To promote and encourage among pupils active, committed participation of the life of the church and community of Christ the king
- To follow the 'Come and See' Religious Education programme including 'Other Faiths'
- To focus on the needs of the individual learner when delivering the RE curriculum
- To develop cross-phase links through visits and the transfer of information with our feeder school, Corpus Christi

Virtues and Value

As a Catholic School in the Archdiocese of Cardiff, we have embraced the Catholic Schools' Pupil Profile, which teaches the children a set of eight pairs of virtues to be internalised and cultivated - enabling them to grow in wholeness as fully rounded individuals in the image of God.



5 Religious Education Curriculum Directory, Department of Catholic Education and Formation, Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, 2012, p.6

At Christ the King, the children are growing to be:

- **Grateful** for their own gifts, for the gift of other people, and for the blessings of each day; and **generous** with their gifts, now and in the future.
- **Attentive** to their experience and to their vocation; and **discerning** about the choices they make and the effects of those choices.
- **Compassionate** towards others, near and far, especially the less fortunate; and **loving** by their just actions and forgiving words.
- **Faith-filled** in their beliefs and **hopeful** for the future.
- **Eloquent** and **truthful** in what they say of themselves, the relations between people, and the world.
- **Learned**, finding God in all things; and **wise** in the ways they use their learning for the common good.
- **Curious** about everything; and **active** in their engagement with the world, changing what they can for the better.
- **Intentional** in the way they live and use the resources of the earth, guided by conscience; and **prophetic** in the example they set to others.

Religious Education - Curriculum Time Allocation

10% of curriculum time is allocated to Religious Education. This does not include Prayer and Liturgy.

Teaching and learning

Catholicity is not only evident in our religious lessons and in prayer and liturgy, but permeates the whole curriculum. Religious Education is fundamental to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils. In this respect our Religious Education enables our children to:

- develop a sense of awe and wonder towards God's creation
- develop a moral awareness as they reflect on the human condition and their own and others' lives in the light of the Christian message, and
- appreciate the dignity of human existence within the immediate school, parish and local community and in the wider world.

Programme of Study

To fulfil the above aims and to address the four areas of study outlined in the Religious Education Curriculum Directory, 2012 – Revelation, Church, Celebration and Life in Christ - the 'Come and See' programme is presently used as recommended by the Diocese.

Each topic lasts approximately 4 weeks and explored through the three themes:

1. **The Community of faith - Church themes:**
   - Autumn - family, domestic church
   - Spring - community, local church
   - Summer - world, universal church
2. **The Celebration in ritual - Sacrament themes:**
   - Autumn - belonging, Baptism, Confirmation
   - Spring - relating, Eucharist
   - Summer - inter relating, Reconciliation
3. **The Way of life - Christian living themes:**
   - Autumn – loving, Advent, Christmas
   - Spring - giving, Lent, Easter
   - Summer - serving, Pentecost

Process

Religious Education is taught through the process of *Explore, Reveal, Respond.* This follows the pattern of: the human **search** for meaning, God's initiative in **Revelation** and the **response** in faith. This pattern is outlined both in the Catechism of the Catholic Church and in the Curriculum Directory.
As the Directory states:
'Teaching in Religious Education …. should help people be attentive to the meaning of their experiences, illumined by the light of the Gospel, so that they may respond to God more fully. Experience can also make the Christian message more intelligible.' 6

Methodology

A variety of teaching and learning strategies will be used from across the curriculum adapted appropriately to the needs and learning styles of pupils.

Inclusion and Equality

All pupils in our school, irrespective of ability, faith and background will have appropriate differentiated access to the Religious Education programme.
The governing body have wider responsibilities under the Equalities Act 2010 and will ensure that our school strives to do the best for all of the pupils, irrespective of disability, educational needs, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, sex, gender identity, religion or sexual orientation or whether they are looked after children.

Right of withdrawal from RE

Parents have the right of withdrawal from RE for their children.

Other Religions

Two other religions are taught from Nursery to Year 6 following the programme of study in 'Come and See'. These are Judaism, which is usually taught in the Autumn, and Islam, which is taught either in the Spring or Summer. At least one week's teaching and learning time per year is given to each.

6 Religious Education Curriculum Directory, Department of Catholic Education and Formation, Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, 2012, p.7

Assessment, Monitoring, Recording and Reporting
This takes place through:

- Observation of children engaged in general tasks and activities and their contributions made to classroom lessons and display.
- Reviewing end of tasks, activities, lessons, topics.
- Teacher feedback - verbal and written comments in children's books
- In - house moderation of children's books to ensure consistency of teacher assessment. This takes place during INSET sessions
- Monitoring of children's books with feedback, including individual next steps and generic targets for all teachers shared at INSET
- Listening to learners enabling the RE lead to use the children's comments to feed into school action planning
- Monitoring of teaching and learning to share good practice
- Monitoring of prayer and liturgy – including observations to share/model good practice
- Recording progress and achievement on the Christ the King tracker using Come and See standard indicators linked to NBRiA levels
- Reporting on progress and achievement in Religious Education to parents/carers in a written report at the end of each academic year.
- Reporting on Religious Education to Governors in the Subject Leader report.
- Celebrating the children's success' and achievements in RE e.g. Christ the King Pupil Profile assemblies' Merit assemblies', newsletter, X (formally Twitter)

INSET and CPD are devoted to RE.

Management of the Subject

Helen Keegan, the RE Coordinator with the support of the Headteacher has responsibility for leading, managing and supporting the delivery of and training in Religious Education.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed by the Headteacher, RE Coordinator and Link Governor. It will be updated every 2 years and shared with the FGB and staff.

APPENDIX 1

Christ the King Primary RE Coordinator Job Description

- To be responsible to the Headteacher and colleagues for the monitoring of teaching, assessment and planning of Religious Education based on the development of the children at each stage. Monitoring occurs in order to support staff and should include classroom observation, book scrutiny, planning and discussion with pupils.

- To manage resources and facilities for Religious Education.

- To liaise with the Diocesan Department for Education particularly through attendance at the Coordinators' meetings, and inform the Headteacher and colleagues of current standards and developments within Religious Education.

- To attend appropriate In-service training for Religious Education, keep up-to-date with current developments and feed these developments back to staff.

- To advise individual colleagues and induct new members of staff as required on the Religious Education process and teaching methods.

- To implement the changes Religious Education and support staff during the transition period.

- To collect and keep pupil books showing pupils working at the end of each academic year.

- To facilitate in-house moderation of pupils' books

- To track RE data and use this, in consultation with the Headteacher, to identify trends and target individuals.

- To ensure that cross-curricular concerns such as literacy skills, multicultural issues, equal opportunity, the use of Information Technology and RSE are reflected in Religious Education.

- In consultation with the Headteacher to communicate with parents, governors and the parish community regarding issues associated with Religious Education.

- To liaise with other primary and secondary colleagues.

- To maintain a Subject Leader's file containing all up-to-date information from the Diocese and school progress

- Working with the Headteacher and colleagues, to undertake a regular audit/review of Religious Education in line with the school improvement plan.

- To be familiar with the current inspection framework and to consult with the Headteacher to complete the school's CSED (Catholic Schools Evaluation Document).

- To keep up to date with any changes to the Religious Education Curriculum Directory and attend relevant training.

Chair of Governors: Anna Buckland Head Teacher: Susan Miles RE Coordinator: Helen Keegan