

St Theresa's Catholic Primary School

St. Theresa's
Catholic Primary School



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

"We learn together, we play together, we pray together, we grow
together in the love of God"



Validation Grid

Title	Religious Education Policy
Author	Caroline O'Brien
Committee	RE
Target Audience	All Staff, parents/carers and governors
Stakeholders Consulted	Governors
Curriculum / Non Curricular	Non-Curricular
Associated Policies / Documents	Relationships and Sex Education, PSHE Policy, SEND Policy / Equality Policy
New Policy or Review of Existing Policy	Review
Date of Submission	April 2026
Date for Review	April 2027
Review Term	Annual

Headteacher

Barbara Costa

Barbara Costa

Chair of Governors

Fiona Kerin

Fiona Kerin

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 worldviews present in the world today and the skills to engage in respectful and fruitful dialogue with those whose worldviews 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 curriculum³

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
- At St Theresa's, these aims are realised through a carefully structured curriculum that supports pupils in knowing more, remembering more and making meaningful links between faith and life.

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

At St Theresa's Catholic Primary School, Religious Education is delivered through the *In God's Name* programme, written by Dr Margaret Carswell, which supports the Religious Education Directory (2023). This ensures a coherent and progressive curriculum where pupils deepen their knowledge, understanding and application of the Catholic faith.

Curriculum Structure

At St Theresa's, these branches are carefully mapped across the liturgical year to ensure progression and depth of learning. The model curriculum has six components known as branches which map 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.

Detail of the curriculum can be found here: [Religious Education Directory \(2023\)](#)

Teaching and Learning

At St Theresa's, a range of teaching strategies are used to engage pupils, including discussion, role play, drama, creative activities and opportunities for reflection. Pupils are encouraged to think deeply through higher-order questioning and to make connections between their learning and their own lives. Lessons promote religious literacy, critical thinking and respectful dialogue.

Assessment, Monitoring, Recording and Reporting

- Assessment of standards is carried out against the Expected Outcomes in RED 2023.
- Assessment moderation / standardisation takes place in school amongst colleagues, with schools at deanery meetings and at diocesan meetings.
- Monitoring of teaching and learning in Religious Education takes place in accordance with our school monitoring cycle.
- Progress and achievement is recorded and tracked in line with our school Assessment 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.
- In addition, monitoring includes book looks, pupil voice, lesson observations and moderation within school and across the Diocese. Outcomes inform school improvement and professional development.

Catholic Life and the Common Good

At St Theresa's, pupils are encouraged to live out their faith through action. Opportunities such as the Mini Vinnies programme support pupils in responding to the call to serve others and contribute to the Common Good. Links between Religious Education and Catholic Social Teaching are explicitly developed.

Home, School and Parish

Strong links between home, school and parish support pupils' faith development. The school works closely with St Philip's, Finchley Central, and pupils participate in Masses and liturgical celebrations throughout the year.

Other Religions and Worldviews

In accordance with the Religious Education Directory (2023), pupils study other religions as part of the Encounter and Dialogue branch. This enables pupils to develop respect, understanding and the ability to engage in meaningful dialogue.

Leadership of the subject

Caroline O'Brien the RE Lead has responsibility for leading, managing and supporting the delivery of Religious Education and the continuous professional development of teachers in Religious Education.

Patricia Stockwell is the link governor with responsibility for Religious Education.