

# St Richard's RC Primary School, Longsight



## Religious Education Policy

The mission of St Richard's is that we know, love  
and follow Christ by looking after each other  
and trying our best every day

Proposed by .....

Seconded by .....

Approved at Full Governing Body meeting 2.7.25

Signed: ..... Chair of Governors

Date:

**Mission Statement**

The mission of St. Richard's is that we know, love and follow Christ by looking after each other and trying our best every day.

**Introduction**

At St Richard's, we believe that Religious Education (RE) is at the heart of our curriculum as we strive to know, love and follow Christ in everything we do. We believe that RE is at the foundation of all our teaching as we educate our pupils in the Catholic faith so that all may grow to know and love Jesus Christ. We reflect the Gospel message that Jesus loves, accepts and cares for all. Therefore, our aim as a Catholic school is to ensure that the pupils, teachers and parents do likewise and so make the presence of Christ evident and enable the children to deepen their understanding of religious truths and think creatively.

Our Catholic ethos permeates the educational development of each child at St. Richard's. We aim to teach the values that help the children, while growing fully within the Catholic Faith, to also develop their growth in awareness of other faiths. We strive to follow in the footsteps of Christ and set an example to the children from our own relationships between all staff, between parents and staff and between pupils and staff.

**Aims**

The aims of Religious Education are:

1. 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.
2. To enable pupils continually to deepen their religious and theological understanding and be able to communicate this effectively.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. To develop the critical faculties of pupils so to bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture.

6. To stimulate pupils' imagination and provoke a desire for personal meaning as revealed in the truth of the Catholic faith.

7. To enable pupils to relate the knowledge gained through religious education to their understanding of other subjects in the curriculum.

*(Religious Education Directory 2023)*

Religious Education is a core subject in our Catholic school and because of this it is planned, taught, assessed and monitored with the same rigour as other core subjects in the curriculum.

### **Curriculum Time Allocation**

Each class teacher is responsible for the teaching and learning of RE in his/her class. Lessons constitute 10% of teaching time each week. However, RE is celebrated and incorporated into other aspects of the taught curriculum. Grouping will vary according to the content and style of the lesson and will be decided by the teacher.

### **Our RE Programme**

At St. Richard's we have developed strong learning journeys to ensure that our curriculum embraces our Catholicity at its heart and complies with the Religious Education Directory requirements. As we transition towards full compliance with the new Religious Education Directory, pupils in EYFS and KS1 follow the '**Lighting the Path**' scheme and pupils in KS2 follow the '**Come and See**' scheme. We have worked on developing these schemes to create robust learning journeys, which enable our pupils to be creative, independent learners and have a high level of ownership over their learning. Pupils' knowledge is further deepened and embedded through engaging in termly extended pieces of writing in English linked to their RE topics.

### **Caritas in Action**

At St Richard's, we use the 'Caritas in Action' scheme of work, which calls us all as Catholics to work for the common good, help build a just society, uphold the dignity of human life and work for justice and the dignity of all our brothers and sisters, especially those in the greatest need.

Each half term, pupils explore one of the seven strands of Catholic Social Teaching by answering big questions and devising creative responses to demonstrate their understanding of their role in answering these. We have carefully selected scripture to ensure that the work is centred around the Word of God. We then share our work in key stage assemblies. The themes and big questions are progressive from EYFS through to Year 6.

**Building the Kingdom**

Through our Building the Kingdom curriculum, pupils explore big questions of meaning and purpose that arise throughout the Liturgical year and engage in creative tasks which develop their skills and provide opportunities for them to reflect on how we can be agents for a Spirit-fuelled transformation of society. Pupils are encouraged to reflect on how we can be the leaders of tomorrow and the change we need to see in modern society. Pupils study one of our six key themes each half term and big questions are designed to ensure there is progression from EYFS to Year 6. Through the Building the Kingdom programme, pupils deepen their understanding of our unique Catholic identity as they study the life and legacy of St. Richard.

**Assessment**

Teachers assess pupils against the lesson objectives on their learning journeys every lesson using the codes:

- PA – objective partially achieved
- OA – objective achieved
- OA+ - the pupil has demonstrated evidence of deeper learning

This enables both teachers and pupils to continuously assess their learning and adapt teaching accordingly. At the beginning and end of every topic, pupils complete checking-in/checking-out tasks to assess knowledge and progress within a topic. These formative assessment strategies are used to inform summative assessment judgements, which teachers submit twice-yearly, in line with other core subjects. Judgements will relate to the following school standards for each year group:

- Working towards the expected standard (WTS)
- Working at the expected standard (EXS)
- Working at greater depth standard (GDS)

Pupils' progress and achievements in RE are reported to parents throughout the year at parents' evenings and in their end-of-year reports.

**Recording of Children's Work**

Children record their learning and achievements in RE in a variety of ways:

- RE books
- iPad/laptops
- Photographs in RE books
- Photographs on X
- QR codes
- EYFS – learning journeys on Tapestry

**Roles & Responsibilities****Headteacher/SLT**

The Headteacher/SLT will:

- Support the subject leader in ensuring that high standards are maintained in Religious Education
- Support staff through the provision of training and resources
- Monitor the planning and delivery of the subject
- Ensure the requirements of the Religious Education Directory are met
- Ensure this policy is reviewed according to the timescales set out

**Subject Leader**

The subject leader will:

- Prepare and review subject policies and curriculum plans
- Ensure that high standards in Religious Education are maintained
- Monitor the teaching and assessment of the subject
- Attend appropriate CPD
- Stay informed regarding developments in the study and teaching of the subject
- Evaluate and audit resources and monitor the RE budget
- Provide training and CPD to staff on the subject curriculum and its delivery, and keep them informed about subject developments nationally
- Assess the impact of the subject curriculum on pupils' learning and development
- Deliver presentations to governors on the subject and how it is being taught

**Teachers**

Class teachers will:

- Teach and assess the subject according to the principles laid out in this policy
- Report to the subject leader
- Maintain subject knowledge and appropriate CPD

**Inclusion**

St. Richard's is a Catholic school that encourages tolerance, respect and care for all people, regardless of colour, race or creed. While Religious Education is specifically the Catholic tradition, we welcome input from other faiths and denominations. We appreciate how the beliefs and values of other faith communities can enrich our own spiritual existence. Throughout their

school life at St. Richard's, we aim that the children grow spiritually and develop a strong sense of the value of God's world and its diverse nature.

St. Richard's is dedicated to offering a variety of suitable activities to support and enhance the learning and achievement of all pupils. When appropriate, activities are differentiated to provide meaningful and challenging work that meets individual needs and supports progression. All children, including those with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and those for whom English is an Additional Language (EAL), are fully integrated and supported in RE teaching and learning. Teachers ensure that more able children are appropriately challenged and stretched within taught RE lessons.

**Legal Rights:**

Parents have the right to withdraw their child(ren) from Religious Education and Prayer & Liturgy. However, given its importance in a Catholic school, parents and prospective parents need to be aware of the fact that it can never be confined to 'timetabled slots' but may take place in a variety of contexts other than those which are specifically structured.

**Review**

The RE Policy is monitored and reviewed by the RE subject lead in consultation with the SLT and Link governor.