

ST JAMES' RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

This policy has the School's values at its heart.

**Faith in action,
Growing together,
Walking in the footsteps of Christ**

Our vision is to:

Share our love of God every day in all that we learn, do and say.

AIM

The ultimate aim of Religious Education at St James' is to situate Christ at the centre of all that we do. Jesus Christ is the absolute revelation of God. Through the Holy Spirit, each of us, in the Communion of Christ's Church, has the means to know and to love God, our Father, by knowing and loving his Son, Jesus Christ.

At St James', Religious Education is a central and vital part of our school community. The beliefs and values of our faith permeate throughout the day to day life of our school, as we walk in the footsteps of Christ together.

Religious Education is fundamental to the purpose of St James', as our Christian faith informs all aspects of our life together, as we endeavour to express and reflect the religious dimension of our school through the celebration of our Christian values in word, in action and in sacrament.

Religious Education is taught so that pupils at St James' are inspired to explore, develop and affirm their own faith. It provides an environment in which the children can grow in their knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Faith, developing their own relationship with Jesus. It also allows pupils to value and have the respect for the faith, belief and values of others.

The Religious Education Curriculum Directory states that, 'the outcome of excellent Religious Education is religious 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.' (2012)

OBJECTIVES:

What we hope to provide:

- Prayer and worship, which is threaded through daily school life;
- Opportunities for the development of a personal relationship with God;
- A strengthening of spiritual development;
- Familiarisation with traditional forms of prayer used in the Catholic Church;
- An understanding of liturgy;
- An introduction to a variety of formal and informal prayer settings;
- A growing knowledge of the person and teaching of Jesus Christ;
- Guidance in social and moral issues;
- Experience of belonging to a Christian community.

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Headteacher and governors are responsible for ensuring that Religious Education has a high profile in the curriculum, is taught as a core subject and is well resourced and monitored.

The RE Leader is responsible for leading, managing and supporting the delivery of and training of Religious Education across St James'. The Headteacher and governors are also responsible for ensuring that the school's self-evaluation processes monitor and evaluate the identity of the school as a Catholic community and that the Catholic School Evaluation Document is regularly reviewed.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

At St James' we aim:

- To promote and respect the child's innate capacity of wonder, awe, reverence, imagination, mystery and spirituality.
- To help the children to grow in the love of God.
- To develop knowledge and understanding of the mystery of God and of Jesus Christ, of the Church, and of the central beliefs which Catholics hold.
- To develop in the children, positive attitudes of appreciation, reverence, care and respect for others and for nature and property.
- To assist the children in their use of prayer, in all of its forms to develop their personal relationship with God.
- To encourage study, investigation and reflection by pupils.
- To promote mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.

PROGRESSION

Progress in RE can be characterised by:

- Acquiring wider and more detailed knowledge of religious beliefs and practices.
- Deepening understanding of the meaning of stories, symbols, events and practices.
- More fluent and competent use of religious language and terminology.
- Increased levels of skills in responding to questions of identity, meaning purpose, values and commitment.
- Making links to scripture to support a point of view.
- Expressing a reasoned preference and begin to arrive at informed judgements.

DELIVERY AND PLANNING

At St James', we follow, 'The Way, The Truth, The Life' Religious Education programme throughout the school; a syllabus based on the Religious Education Directory for Catholic Schools implementing a scripture-based scheme which develops through the different year groups. (See Appendix 1)

Religion is also taught according to the religious calendar, i.e. the coming of Jesus through Advent, devotion to Mary, the mysteries of the Rosary through May and October, the feast days of Saints as they occur throughout the year, the sufferings, the death and the resurrection of Jesus during Lent. The great feasts of the Ascension, Pentecost and the Assumption are given emphasis at the relevant times of the year.

TIME

The Religious Education Curriculum Directory (3-19) for Catholic Schools and Colleges in England and Wales 2012 (RECD) clearly states the Bishops' Conference expectation that 10% of taught curriculum time is given to the teaching of Religious Education in each academic year. At St James' we ensure that this expectation is fulfilled. These time allocations do not include collective worship, assemblies or hymn practice. Two days are also set aside each year for Prayer Days where there is a key RE focus for all pupils at St James'. Themes have included St James, Laudato Si, The Good Samaritan, Christian Unity and The Eucharist.

LINKS TO OTHER SUBJECTS

Religious Education is an integral part of the school life, and Religious Education is incorporated with other curriculum areas such as Circle Time, Relationship and Health Education, PSHE and Literacy lessons linked to the RE topics when it is appropriate.

SPIRITUAL EDUCATION

Spiritual education at St James' is fostered by developing:

- Religious and personal beliefs and developing understanding of how beliefs contribute to personal identity;
- A sense of awe, wonder and mystery;
- Inner resources to help rise above everyday experience;
- A sense of meaning and purpose by reflecting on the purpose of life and responding to challenging experiences of life such as beauty, suffering and death;
- Self-respect and an awareness of oneself in terms of thoughts, feelings, emotions, responsibilities and experience;
- Relationships – recognising and valuing the worth of each individual; developing a sense of community; the ability to build up relationships with others;
- Creativity – expressing innermost thoughts and feelings through, for example; art, music, literature and crafts; exercising the imagination, inspiration, intuition and insight;
- Feelings and emotions – the sense of being moved by beauty or kindness, hurt by injustice or aggression, an awareness of when it is important to control emotions and feelings as a source of growth.

The spiritual development of children takes place within the Catholic ethos of the school and thus permeates all aspects of the curriculum. Spiritual education is not seen as being separate from other areas of the curriculum but rather a vital part and inseparable from the whole curriculum. We believe that:

'Education is about growth and development of the whole person. It should aim to integrate a pupil's intellectual, spiritual, moral, emotional, psychological and physical development, thus assisting progress towards Christian maturity'.

(Evaluating the Distinctive Nature of a Catholic School)

LITURGY

The children's understanding and interest in liturgy will be developed through preparation for Masses in the Parish church and in school, through planning and leading collective worship and through class lessons about the Mass. The children will be encouraged to understand that we offer ourselves, our work and our lives with the bread and wine and that we receive the Lord himself in Holy Communion.

PRAYERS

Children are taught to say and understand traditional Catholic prayers. However, pupils at St James' are also encouraged to make up their own prayers of thanksgiving, of petition, of awe and wonder. Prayers from children and others will be read in class assemblies and at Mass. The pupils also have opportunities to participate in spontaneous prayer and write their own prayers in the class prayer book. Each class in KS1 have Prayer Bears that are taken home by pupils each week to give them opportunities to write prayers that can be shared with their class. Pupils also have time to sit and pray quietly both in the prayer area and in the Peace Garden situated in the Key Stage 2 playground.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Please see our Collective Worship Policy.

RELATIONSHIP AND HEALTH EDUCATION

Please see our Relationship Education Policy and Health Education Policy.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment in Religious Education refers to what can be assessed - i.e. knowledge and understanding, engagement and response and analysis and evaluation. At St James', pupils are assessed at the end of each topic within the scheme of work The Way, The Truth, The Life. They are assessed in a variety of ways including through discussion, written work and observation. An assessment grid in every pupil's book is completed by the class teacher showing which age related standards have been met within that topic.

The Age-Related Standards in Religious Education approved by The Department of Catholic Education and Formation of The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales (2018) are used to enable the teaching of increasingly challenging Religious Education lessons which match each pupil's stage of development and ability. The age related standards help charter each pupil's progress in RE at the end of each age phase so that provision and teaching may enhance deeper levels of knowledge and understanding.

Records of progress are also kept in the Class Red Assessment Folders highlighting the end of term progress.

SPECIAL NEEDS/EXCEEDING, GIFTED AND TALENTED

At every stage of the pupils' learning, Religious Education is adapted to the age, ability and understanding and circumstances of each child whilst maintaining high expectations for all. Teachers offer the opportunity for every child to reach their full potential through activities tailored to the individual's needs and abilities. We recognise that every child has their own, unique set of gifts and talents and ensure that there are opportunities for these to be developed.

TEACHING OF OTHER FAITHS

At St James' we also recognise the importance of raising our pupils' awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities as this will help to prepare them for living as full members of our diverse society. It is important that we promote positive relationships for ourselves and others, regardless of faith or culture. Therefore, each year group from Year 2 onwards, studies a different faith group throughout the year, in order to help foster respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. Reception and Year 1 focus on special days in different religions. (See Appendix 2)

GUIDANCE ON VISITORS AND EXTERNAL SPEAKERS WORKING WITH PUPILS IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Visitors and speakers are very welcome as they make positive contributions to the work of the school. Preparatory work must be carried out before a visit is agreed. It is the school's duty to ensure the well-being and safeguarding of all pupils and robust preparatory work will ensure there is no risk to pupils. The Head teacher should be informed of a proposed visit with clear explanations outlining the purpose of the visit and who will be visiting. A checklist must be completed by the member of staff preparing the visit, to ensure the work and values of the organisation represented are compatible with the aims and ethos of our school.

RESOURCES

Some of the resources available to support the teaching of Religious Education in the classroom are:

- The Way, The Truth, The Life Scheme with associated resources
- Ten Ten Resource – ‘Life to the Full’
- Books and DVDs
- Bibles
- Teaching Other Faiths Topic Boxes
- Teaching Other Faiths CD Roms
- Religious Artwork.
- British Value resources
- Reflective music (CDs)

Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy will be updated in line with any new developments in the school and/or any new diocese guidance.

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Collective Worship
- Relationship Education Policy
- PSHE Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Exceeding, Gifted and Talented Policy
- SEN Policy
- Monitoring and Evaluation Policy

It was last reviewed in: summer 2023

It will next be reviewed in: summer 2026

This statement of policy was approved by the Governing Body at their meeting on:-

Date: _____

Signed : _____ (Chairperson)

_____ (Head teacher)

Appendix 1 The Way, The Truth, The Life RE Scheme

THE WAY, the TRUTH and the LIFE

KEY STAGE 1 AND 2

OVERVIEW OF FOUNDATION STAGE AND KEYSTAGE 1 SYLLABUS

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Reception	F1 God's World	F2 God's Family	F3 Getting to know Jesus	F4 Sorrow and Joy	F5 New Life	F6 A Church
Year 1	1.1 God's Great Plan	1.2 Mary, Mother of God	1.3 Families and Celebrations	1.4 Following Jesus	1.5 Resurrection	1.6 Miracles
Year 2	2.1 Chosen People	2.2 Mysteries	2.3 The Good News	2.4 The Mass	2.5 Eastertide	2.6 The Church is Born

OVERVIEW OF KEY STAGE 2 SYLLABUS

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Year 3	3.1 The Christian Family	3.2 Mary, our Mother	3.3 The Sacrament of Reconciliation	3.4 Celebrating the Mass	3.5 Celebrating Easter & Pentecost	3.6 Being a Christian
Year 4	4.1 The Bible	4.2 Trust in God	4.3 Jesus, the Teacher	4.4 Jesus, the Saviour	4.5 The Early Christians	4.6 Mission of the Church
Year 5	5.1 Creation	5.2 God's Covenants	5.3 Inspirational people	5.4 Reconciliation	5.5 Life in the risen Jesus	5.6 People of Other Faiths
Year 6	6.1 The Kingdom of God	6.2 Justice	6.3 Exploring the Mass	6.4 Jesus, The Messiah	6.5 The Transforming Spirit	6.6 Called to Serve

Appendix 2: Teaching of Other Faiths Curriculum

We recognise the importance of teaching our children about other faiths, so that they learn tolerance and recognise the principles shared by all faiths. From Year 2, each year group at St James' will study a faith in depth. The other faith will be studied throughout the year. Reception and Year 1 will focus on special days in different religions.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Autumn</u>	<u>Spring</u>	<u>Summer</u>
<u>Reception</u>	Special Days in Different Religions Diwali	Special Days in Different Religions Chinese New Year	Special Days in Different Religions Passover
<u>Year 1</u>	Festivals & Places of Worship The Church & Pope Francis Christians -Christmas	Festivals & Places of Worship Holi –Hindu Festival Hindu Mandir	Festivals & Places of Worship Ramadan – Muslim festival The Mosque
<u>Year 2</u>	Judaism Focus: Stories and Prayer Shabbat Abraham and Moses	Judaism Focus: Places of Worship and Holy Book The Synagogue and The Torah	Judaism Focus: Festivals, Belongings and Values Pesach, Yom Kippur
<u>Year 3</u>	Buddhism Focus: Stories and Prayer	Buddhism Focus: Places of Worship and Holy Book	Buddhism Focus: Festivals, Belongings and Values
<u>Year 4</u>	Hinduism Focus: Stories and Prayer Krishna and Ganesh Raska Bandan Prayer at Home Puja	Hinduism Focus: Places of Worship and Holy Book The Mandir Vedas and Bhagavad - Gita	Hinduism Focus: Festivals, Belongings and Values Brahman Belief in one God. Pilgrimage
<u>Year 5</u>	Islam Focus: Stories and Prayer Mohammad Prayer at Home	Islam Focus: Places of Worship and Holy Book	Islam Focus: Festivals, Belongings and Values Ramadan and Pilgrimage Guidance for Muslims.
<u>Year6</u>	Sikhism Focus: Stories and Prayer Guru Nanak Sikh daily life.	Sikhism Focus: Places of Worship and Holy Book Gurdwara, Langar, Amritsar. Guru Granth Sahib.	Sikhism Focus: Festivals, Belongings and Values Baisakhi, the Khalsa, Mool Mantra. Guidelines for living Sewa.