



St Anne's R.C.

Primary & Nursery School

## Religious Education Policy



### *St, Anne's Mission Statement*

*"To help every person here to achieve his or her best in work and in play.*

*To celebrate whatever is good and to follow in the footsteps of Jesus by supporting and forgiving each other,*

*For the honour and glory of God."*

### **Introduction**

At St. Anne's RC Primary School, we are dedicated to helping every child achieve their best in both work and play, celebrating all that is good, and growing in the love of God and one another. Guided by our mission to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, we place Religious Education at the heart of our curriculum and school life, supporting the development of the whole person — spiritually, morally, intellectually, and emotionally.

Our school's greatest mission is to live by the Rule of Love, inspired by Jesus' teaching: to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and to love our neighbour as ourselves. This call to love shapes who we are, how we learn, and how we treat one another each day.

Our school's Mission Statement, Creed, and aims reflect the central role of Jesus in all we do, and inspire us to live each day with faith, love, and hope. These values shape our learning, our relationships, and our sense of community. In partnership with our families and parish, Religious Education provides a foundation for nurturing compassionate, thoughtful individuals who are sensitive to the needs of others and who live out their faith in daily life.

Together, we support and forgive one another, sharing our journey in faith — all for the honour and glory of God.

### **We aim to achieve this by:**

- Embedding a strong Catholic ethos throughout our school, creating an environment where all children and adults feel valued, safe, loved, and confident to grow in faith and learning.
- Creating opportunities for every child to deepen their love and knowledge of God, nurtured through the kindness and care they experience within our school community.

- Guiding pupils to a richer understanding of the Catholic faith through the teachings and life of Jesus Christ, exploring the relationship between faith and daily life, and helping them recognise how Catholic beliefs can shape and inspire their own lives.
- Encouraging open hearts and minds in the search for truth about God, fostering respect for people of other faiths, and recognising goodness wherever it is found, as pupils grow in their understanding of the Bible.
- Celebrating the shared values and similarities between Catholicism and other world faiths, promoting unity and mutual respect.
- Affirming the dignity and worth of every individual, supporting the growth of self-esteem, personal responsibility, and a strong sense of identity in all our pupils.
- Encouraging each child to live, grow, and contribute as a responsible citizen, fostering a sense of care for others and the environment around them.
- Collaborating closely with families and the parish to ensure that our Catholic values are reflected in both home and school life, supporting our community in living according to God's will.

### **Aims for the Pupils:**

Every pupil will be able to recognise how they can live their lives in the light of God, actively demonstrating their faith in both school and home life. This will be fostered through engaging, thought-provoking lessons based on the 'Lighting the Path' and RED resources from Salford Diocese integrated with the new RE Directory 'To See You More Clearly', and informed by Catholic Social Teaching. Our lessons will be supported by the headteacher, deputy headteacher and RE coordinator, with regular monitoring and feedback to the governors. Through this approach, we aim to nurture the knowledge, concepts, and attitudes in our pupils that will enable them to:

- Deepen their knowledge and love of God.
- Develop an understanding and appreciation of Scripture and its central role in Christianity.
- Grow in knowledge of the Church, its life and teachings, and its relevance in the world today, with a focus on peace and justice.
- Engage with the Liturgical year, actively participating in the sacramental life and worship of the parish community, including preparation for and involvement in Liturgical prayer, worship, and sacramental celebrations.
- Become familiar with the person, life, and teachings of Jesus, understanding how He reveals both the nature of God and the fullness of what it means to be human.
- Develop an awareness of the beliefs and practices of other faiths.
- Cultivate moral awareness, guided by the Christian message.

## **Curriculum Planning and Development**

We have developed a rich and dynamic Religious Education curriculum, with the new Lighting the Path programme, based on the updated Religious Education Directory, To See You More Clearly. This transition is supported by the resources provided by the Salford Diocese, ensuring that our curriculum is both comprehensive and aligned with the latest educational standards. The new resources help us offer a broad and meaningful experience, rooted in Scripture, which reflects our Catholic identity at its core.

The Caritas in Action scheme, also produced by the Salford Diocese, is central to our approach. This scheme, inspired by Catholic Social Teaching, invites us all to work towards the common good, build a just society, uphold the dignity of every human life, and champion justice, particularly for those in greatest need. We have enhanced this scheme to ensure that it remains rich, engaging, and reflective of our Catholic values, integrating Scripture, opportunities for prayer, interactive activities, and whole-school collective worship to celebrate the lessons learned in each class.

By weaving together these resources —Lighting the Path, RED resources provided by Salford Diocese and Caritas in Action — we create a well-rounded, faith-filled curriculum that nurtures both spiritual and intellectual growth in our pupils. We dedicate 10% of our teaching time to Religious Education across all year groups, ensuring that every class benefits from a comprehensive RE experience, as outlined in our curriculum plan.

Furthermore, we have integrated Catholic Social Teaching throughout the whole curriculum. We use the Catholic Social Teaching characters developed by CAFOD to help pupils understand and engage with these principles in an age-appropriate and meaningful way. Each character represents a key aspect of Catholic Social Teaching, such as dignity, solidarity, peace, stewardship, and participation, making complex values accessible and relatable for children.

These characters are consistently referenced across subjects and year groups, allowing pupils to make clear links between their learning and the values that underpin Catholic Social Teaching. Teachers explicitly model and discuss how the characters' values can be lived out both in school and in the wider community. This approach helps pupils to see Catholic Social Teaching not as a separate topic, but as a lived ethos that informs daily actions, relationships, and decision-making.

Foundation Stage	Two 30 minute lessons Continuous Provision Table	Two Prayer and Liturgy group session Cartas in Action Day each half term  Minimum of two whole school masses per term
KS1	Two 1 hour Lessons	Two whole-class Prayer and Liturgy session  Cartas in Action Day each half term  Minimum of two whole school masses per term plus attending one class mass each half term
KS2	Two 1 hour and 15-minute lessons	Two whole-class Prayer and Liturgy session  Cartas in Action Day each half term  Children attend Church Mass every four weeks.

Each class has a scheduled weekly act of collective worship (Celebration of The Word), which is planned either by the teacher or the children themselves. In Upper Key Stage 2, students take on the responsibility of planning and leading their own worship, with younger classes working towards this skill throughout the year. KS2 children take it in turns to attend weekly planning sessions with the RE lead, further developing their leadership and planning skills. As the children progress through the school, they take pride in both planning and leading these acts of worship, in addition to attending and leading a Mass throughout the academic year.

### **Planning**

Planning follows the 'Lighting the Path' scheme of work, incorporating the new RE Directory 'To See You More Clearly' in preparation for its full implementation in September 2025.

Medium-term planning is clearly outlined, with all staff recording the expected outcomes, key vocabulary, necessary differentiation, and extension tasks, either within the planning documents and through detailed PowerPoints. The planning includes notes on any required adaptations, specifying differentiated activities for various ability groups or the varying expectations of outcomes within lessons. Opportunities to

challenge and nurture gifted and talented (G&T) children are also recorded in the planning, evaluations, and assessments, with a focused aim to encourage and develop their abilities.

Trips are an essential part of enriching the curriculum at St. Anne's, offering pupils valuable opportunities to deepen their religious education. Visits to a variety of places of worship broaden the children's understanding and experience of faith. They also engage in the Celebration of the Word in nature within our local area and some children visit the Laudato Si' Centre in Salford to connect faith with the care for creation. In addition, children actively participate in a variety of Faith in Action activities within the community, putting their faith into practice.

We also collaborate closely with other schools in our Diocese, visiting partner schools to provide pupils with a wide range of opportunities to learn and grow in faith alongside others. This partnership strengthens the sense of community and broadens the pupils' horizons.

We are currently using a curriculum derived from 'Lighting the Path', RED resources provided by Salford Diocese, and the new RED Directory. We supplement this with by 'Day by Day' from the Arundel and Brighton Diocese.

Each lesson and actions of our school will focus on the lenses:

### **Hear**

This lens focuses on the word of God which is transmitted to us via the streams of sacred tradition and sacred scripture. Children learn about stories and passages from the Bible, thinking about what they can take from these to help them live in the light of God. We believe it is important to promote Gospel values and their relevance to everyday life and living to help children fully embrace their faith. We live by our faith and God is truly revealed to us through sacred scripture (the word of God) and the living tradition of our Church.

### **Believe**

This lens deals with the contents of the Creed, focusing on the Church's own profession of faith. Our GIFT team take a lead in preparing pupil prayer groups which enables pupils to be actively prayerful during the significant dates of the liturgical calendar. We are actively engaged and help to lead the Sacramental program for the children in our Parish and work closely with them to ensure the triangle of home, school and Parish support children in their sacramental journey. We strengthen links between home, school and our faith community by sharing in a range of shared Masses, celebrations and acts of worship. Our children are invited by our Parish Priest to participate in Super Stars at church once a month, where they lead the singing and serve as the choir. This

experience has encouraged them to attend Sunday Mass regularly, helping them become more immersed in and connected to our parish community.

### **Celebrate**

We feel the presence of Christ’s love, in the warmth of our welcome as we open our doors, our hearts and our minds to serve, strengthen and encourage all who visit or work with our school and Parish community. Everybody is treated with dignity, and we reach out with ‘open hands’ as we live our Mission daily and celebrate the life God gave to us. This can be witnessed in the joy around the school, and the respect adults and children show to each other. In this lens, we look at prayer, liturgy and sacraments.

### **Live**

Gospel values are understood and evidenced in policies and procedures of the school. Scripture is read during collective worship and child led worship. This impacts significantly on learning and the life of the school. The behaviour of pupils is outstanding. In lessons and around school pupils are courteous and considerate. We also provide a variety of opportunities for children to demonstrate responsibility and witness to their community by holding a number of fundraising/ community activities.

### **Caritas in Action**

We follow the Diocese scheme of ‘Caritas in Action’ for our Catholic Social Teaching. Each half term we have a Caritas in Action Day where children focus on the seven themes of Rights and responsibilities, Solidarity and the Common Good, Option for the poor and Vulnerable, Dignity of the Human Person, Family and Community, Dignity of work and people and Stewardship. The scheme is used within our own planning that explores the themes through four areas: Discover, play and care for, help and celebrate and uses a range of scripture, art and music to enable highly engaging lessons and children who are motivated to make a change.

<b>Autumn</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Summer</b>
Rights and Responsibilities	Option for the Poor and Vulnerable	Stewardship
Solidarity and the Common Good	Family and Community	Dignity of Work and People
Dignity of the Human Person		

### **Assessment:**

Assessment tasks will be carried out at the end of each unit. These will be based on AT1 and AT 2. Children will have assessment sheets visible in exercise books at the beginning of each unit or book that the class teacher can reflect on. The RE Leader will monitor planning, work and the delivery of both RE and prayer and liturgy on a regular basis. In addition, progress over time will be recorded for each child on Insight. Each

child will complete an assessment task at the end of each Branch (Half-termly) . This will highlight what the children have learnt during each unit of work and give them the opportunity to demonstrate how their learning has had an impact on their daily lives and faith journey. The RE Leader will monitor planning, work and the delivery of both RE and prayer and liturgy on a regular basis. In addition, progress over time will be recorded for each child.

### **Inclusion:**

The school is committed to providing a range of appropriate activities for all pupils, to support and promote their learning and achievement. Where appropriate this will be differentiated to ensure challenging and meaningful work which both meets pupil needs and enables progression.

School will be sensitive to the beliefs of children from other faiths. Where possible in RE lessons, we include children of other faiths in the lesson by adapting what is taught for them so that it links to our theme but about their faith.

A whole school commitment to enabling and facilitating the learning and nurturing of gifted and talented pupils is evident in planning and these children are highlighted within each year groups Assessment records. All children, including those with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and English as an Additional Language (EAL) are integrated and supported in the teaching and learning of RE.

### **Legal Rights:**

Parents have the right to withdraw their child(ren) from Religious Education and Collective Worship. 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.

### **Prayer and Liturgy:**

Planned opportunities for high quality worship are an essential part of our school life. Collective worship, individual prayer time and opportunities for reflection at school, key stage and class levels enrich the religious experiences of both children and adults in our community and are supported by school and diocesan guidelines. These include:

- Our school daily prayers
- Weekly class collective worship (Celebration of The Word), including music, scripture and reflection.

- Weekly whole school assemblies.
- Whole school masses throughout our liturgical year
- Class masses on rota during our liturgical year
- Additional services linked to the liturgical calendar in our school chapel.
- Our shared prayer space is available during break times to allow for spontaneous prayer supported by our GIFT Team

The Prayer and Liturgy policy provides more information. Individual worship and reflection is supported within each classroom and in shared areas around the school. Each Monday we gather for a whole school collective worship assembly (KS1 and KS2 separate). In this way we aim to make prayer and liturgy an intrinsic part of our daily lives at St. Anne's.

#### **Resources:**

There are resources available to support the teaching of Religious Education following the 'Lighting the Path' scheme. They include written, pictorial, visual artefacts, ICT based links including video clips and interactive images and supportive music materials. Resources are stored centrally along with the resources purchased to enhance multi-faith learning.

#### **Conclusion:**

Religious Education is a central element of our school curriculum, reflecting the unique Catholic ethos of St. Anne's. While rooted in Catholic teachings, we also respect the beliefs of non-Catholic children, teaching all students to live harmoniously in a multi-faith, multi-ethnic, and multi-cultural world. At St. Anne's, we are dedicated to promoting equal opportunities in line with our Equality and Diversity policy, ensuring an inclusive environment for all.

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L. Chadwick

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