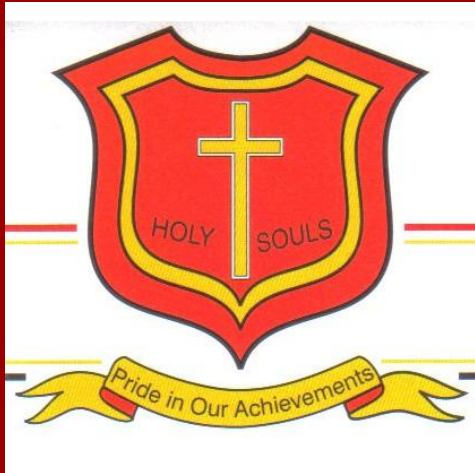


**HOLY SOULS RC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**Pride in our achievements**



# Religious Education Policy

## **Vision Statement**

Holy Souls School is a Catholic School where we share our life in Christ in the growing knowledge that Jesus loves us. Our school is a place where everyone is able to feel welcomed, valued, secure, loved and happy. Everyone who comes into our school will be treated with respect. We remember that Jesus said, 'Treat others as you would like them to treat you'

Date Agreed by Governors: Spring 2026

Governor Review Date: Spring 2029

# Holy Souls RC Primary School

## Policy for Religious Education

### Introduction

This document is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for teaching and learning of Religious Education at Holy Souls RC Primary School. It was developed during the Spring term 2026 through a process of consultation with teaching staff and governors.

### Mission Statement

**"To love one another as I have loved you"** is at the heart of our Mission Statement. Holy Souls is a place where we share our life in Christ, in the growing knowledge that Jesus loves us. Our school is a place where everyone is able to feel welcomed, valued, secure, loved and happy. Everyone who comes into our school will be treated with respect and valued as a unique member of our school family.

We take pride in the achievements of our school because it is a celebration of the development of the talents God has given us. Our Mission Statement is displayed as a school flower which is prominently displayed in classrooms, in the school hall and the entrance to the school. Its values create the catholic, caring ethos that makes our school so special.

*"Catholic schools are communities of faith and learning, devoted to the education of the whole person."*

(Religious Education Directory (RED), Introduction, p.4)

### What is Religious Education?

Religious Education is at the heart of learning at Holy Souls School. It is taught according to the traditions, doctrines and practices of the Roman Catholic Church and takes into account our Mission Statement, which has the love of God and one another as its roots, and where every child is seen as a special, valued individual. Religious Education is taught both as a curriculum based subject and also pervades all other curriculum areas, so that our children are constantly developing ways to learn how to look at the world and ourselves, and the relationship of the whole creation to the creator God. Religious growth and development run parallel to academic and social progress.

The Catholic vision of education promotes the dignity and freedom of every person as created in the image and likeness of God.' Religious Education is a core subject at Holy

Souls. It must engage the pupil's intellect, heart and imagination. The beliefs and values studied in Catholic RE should draw together every aspect of the life of a Catholic school. Religious Education should also promote tolerance, respect, understanding and knowledge of different faiths.

*"Religious Education in Catholic Schools aims to promote religious literacy and formation in the Catholic faith."*

*(RED, Introduction, p.4)*

### **Aims of Religious Education:**

In line with the Religious Education Directory (RED) and Diocesan guidance the RE curriculum at Holy Souls RC Primary School aims to:

- Provide systematic and rigorous knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith for all pupils, whatever their background
- Foster a deep knowledge and understanding of Sacred Scripture, Church teaching, liturgy, and the Sacraments
- Enable pupils to develop a personal relationship with God
- Offer opportunities to explore the moral and social teaching of the Church
- Equip children to engage in respectful dialogue with people of other faiths and world views

We are committed to:

- Supporting pupils' spiritual, moral, social, cultural, and emotional development
- Developing pupils' religious literacy through structured learning and critical engagement
- Helping pupils to live out Gospel values in all aspects of their lives

*"Religious Education in the Catholic school is primarily educational in nature. It is never simply catechesis, or evangelisation, but contributes to both."*

*(RED, Introduction, p.6)*

### **Objectives:**

In RE we follow the six branches, as required by the RED (Religious Education Directory):

- ❖ Creation and Covenant
- ❖ Prophecy and Promise
- ❖ Galilee to Jerusalem
- ❖ Desert to Garden
- ❖ To the Ends of the Earth
- ❖ Dialogue and Encounter (Other faiths/World Views)

- These will be taught through the Knowledge Lenses: Hear, Believe, Celebrate, Live, Encounter, Dialogue
- Lessons are shaped to enable pupils not simply to know facts but to understand, discern, respond and apply their learning
- 'Lighting the Path' (Oxford University Press) will be the core scheme across EYFS and Key Stage 1. Salford Diocese pilot resources will be used in Key Stage 2, with a full roll-out of 'Lighting the Path' by September 2026, when implementation of the new Religious Education Directory, will be statutory
- We use RE as an opportunity to apply learning from lessons through discussion and activities focused on skills outlined within the national age-related standards for RE
- Pupils learn vocabulary relevant to the area of study, developing knowledge and understanding of words important to the topic and linked to skills within the age-related standards
- We develop knowledge and understanding of God with Jesus being central to the beliefs of Catholics/Christians
- We structure lessons which encourage learning through creative activities, stories, art, drama, people/visitors and objects/symbols
- We explore a range of other faiths and their traditions and beliefs
- We develop an awareness of their personal faith and a developing sense of:- self-esteem - awe and wonder - transcendence - respect for the beliefs and practices of others - personal responsibility - belonging to a community - personal and community responsibility for others

### **Pupil Entitlement:**

Pupils will be taught 10% of the curriculum timetable in Reception, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

*"Religious Education is to be regarded as a core subject, in the same way as English or Mathematics...It must be given its full share of curriculum time."*

(RED, Section 2.6, p.9)

This core entitlement will be enhanced by: Sacramental preparation, Whole School Celebrations of the Word, Masses, liturgies, school prayers and Chaplaincy work by the Mini Vinnies and the Laudato Si groups.

### **Primary growth points**

The Roman Catholic children in Year 4 prepare for Holy Communion and Reconciliation with the assistance of the Headteacher, RE lead, Class teacher, parents, school, FR Morrough and Parish Catechists.

Support Staff are used in Religious Education to assist:

- In the classroom by preparing materials and working with small groups.
- With visits to church and other outings relevant to Religious Education.

We should always be conscious of the need to foster the partnership between home, school and parish. This partnership should be our hallmark.

### **Pupils with Special Needs / Inclusion**

All children take part in RE lessons regardless of their ability or religious beliefs. The class teacher may adapt tasks, or direct learning support assistants, to guide a child or group of children, to enable all children to access this area of the curriculum.

The emphasis in our teaching of Religious Education is:

- To recognise, appreciate and develop skills, talents and uniqueness within a religious context.
- To become independent and more responsible for self- learning.
- To develop a positive self image

### **The role of the RE Leader is to:**

- Take the lead in policy development and the production of schemes of work designed to ensure progression and continuity in Religious Education throughout the school with the guidance of the Religious Education Directory.
- Support colleagues in their development of detailed work plans and implementation of the scheme of work and in assessment and record keeping activities.
- Monitor progress in RE and advise the Head teacher on action needed.
- Take responsibility for the purchase and organisation of central resources for RE
- Keep up to date with developments in RE education and disseminate information to colleagues as appropriate.

### **Assessment**

*"Religious Education should be assessed with the same rigour as other core subjects."*  
(RED, Section 2.8, p.10)

### **Feedback to pupils about their own progress in RE is achieved through:**

- The positive and constructive marking of children's work linked to the marking and feedback policy.
- Discussion between teacher and pupil.
- Pupil questionnaires and voice

### **Formative assessment**

This is used to guide the progress of individual pupils in RE through:

- Discussion and observation
- Check in and check out sheets
- Ongoing assessments to inform future planning
- Live Marking

### **Monitoring/Assessment and Evaluation**

- Monitoring is carried out by the Headteacher and RE Leader
- Assessment is completed at the end of every branch/unit
- Whole school moderation of work takes place in staff meetings at least once per year. Staff are also required to assess the children's RE work against the 'Age Related Standards in Religious Education' - this is recorded on our electronic tracking system

### **Strategies for Recording and Reporting**

A written comment is also made on the annual report for each child.

### **Resources**

- Lighting the Path provides appropriate resources - which teachers add to as appropriate
- The CAFOD website is sometimes used for finding relevant resources for each branch in RE
- Central resources for RE are the responsibility of the RE Leader. These resources can be found in the RE cupboard situated at in Bright Sparks.

### **Computing**

- Role play and drama activities may be recorded/photographed
- Computing resources are used to support learning by accessing the internet.
- Interactive whiteboards enhance the curriculum.
- Online clips or programmes are used at various times throughout the year.
- Related art work is photographed

### **Staff Formation**

All teachers of RE are:

- Actively supportive and exemplify the principles of the Catholic faith in their teaching practice, regardless of their personal faith background
- Supported by the RE leader for subject knowledge and planning
- Involved in CPD, including:
  - ❖ Diocesan training
  - ❖ Staff meetings
  - ❖ Collaboration with our School Improvement Group

There is a separate policy for Prayer and Worship.

Danielle Ellison

Religious Education Leader (Acting)

March 2026