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Office use only:

# Religious Education Policy

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## Mission and Vision

At St Paul's, Religious Education is at the heart of our Catholic identity. Rooted in the mission of the Church and shaped by the Gospel, our aim is to nurture every child in their knowledge and love of God. We are committed to educating the whole child—spiritually, morally, intellectually, emotionally, socially, and physically—so they may grow into confident, compassionate individuals who recognise Christ in others and strive to transform the world.

We want all members of our school community to continue their faith journey with joy, confidence, and a deepening relationship with Jesus. Our motto, "*United Through Jesus in Faith, Love and Learning*," guides every aspect of our RE provision.

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## 1. Intent of the Religious Education Curriculum

Religious Education is a core part of the curriculum and central to the Catholic life of St Paul's. It:

- Is planned, sequenced, and taught as a **core subject**, receiving **10% of curriculum time** in accordance with the Bishops' Conference requirements.
- Enables pupils to **know and love God** through Scripture, Tradition, doctrine, prayer, and the liturgical life of the Church.
- Encourages pupils to explore and respond to **big questions** about purpose, meaning, morality, and vocation.
- Promotes **religious literacy**, enabling children to articulate their faith and engage confidently with theological concepts.
- Forms children morally, spiritually, and academically into thoughtful disciples of Jesus Christ.

St Paul's follows the *God Matters* programme as the basis of its curriculum, and is preparing to implement the **Religious Education Directory (2023): To Know You More Clearly**, with support from the diocese of Portsmouth.

## Curriculum Content

Children study nine units linked to the liturgical year, including:

- Creation
- Catholic Social teaching
- Advent and Christmas
- Revelation
- Lent and Holy Week
- Easter and Pentecost
- Sacraments

These themes are deepened and revisited to build a secure, progressive understanding of Catholic belief. Catholic Social teaching and its principles run through all curriculum elements.

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## 2. Implementation of the Religious Education Curriculum

Our teaching of RE is rooted in outstanding pedagogy. Lessons include:

- Explicit links to prior knowledge to ensure progression and retrieval.
- Clear focus on vocabulary, oracy, and high-quality discussion.
- A range of teaching strategies such as story, art, drama, music, reflection and scripture study.
- Opportunities for children to use higher-order skills: retelling, describing, reasoning, comparing, explaining, analysing, and evaluating.
- Prayer and reflection embedded within lessons.

### Enriched Teaching Strategies (from original practice)

To reflect and build on the strong practice already established at St Paul's:

- **Modelling and scaffolding** are central in every lesson so that all children can access complex theological material.
- **Overlearning opportunities** are intentionally planned so children revisit key doctrine and Scripture themes throughout the year.
- Lessons frequently use **story, film clips, sacred art, role play, music and liturgical objects** to deepen understanding and engagement.
- Children are encouraged to ask and explore their own 'big questions', reinforcing curiosity, wonder, and theological thinking.

### Progression Overview

**Reception:** Encountering God as creator, simple prayer, introduction to Jesus' life.

**Year 1:** Bible stories, Jesus' early ministry, forgiveness, and healing.

**Year 2:** Story retell, exploring responses to God's word past and present.

**Year 3:** Identifying links between Scripture stories; considering Jesus' impact.

**Year 4:** Exploring deeper meaning in Scripture, understanding feasts and sacraments.

**Year 5:** Parables, Kingdom of God, People of God, Beatitudes, teachings of St Paul.

**Year 6:** Evaluating Scripture, giving reasoned arguments, understanding belief and action.

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### 3. Assessment

Assessment is ongoing, rigorous, and supportive. It includes:

- Marked work with **next-step questions**.
- Use of diocesan guidelines for expected standards.
- Assessment of Scripture knowledge, understanding of doctrine, and application of belief.
- Half-termly pupil progress meetings.
- Moderation within school and with local Catholic schools.

#### Additional Detail Drawn from Existing Practice

- Teachers regularly evaluate pupils' work through **written, verbal, artistic, and dramatic responses**, recognising that RE is expressed in multiple forms.
- In Reception, evidence is gathered from **spoken responses, role play, prayer opportunities, drawing and storytelling**, ensuring early spiritual development is recognised.
- Children working below age-related expectations are identified promptly and given **targeted support**, including adapted tasks, pre-teaching of key vocabulary, guided small-group Scripture work and scaffolded writing frames.
- High-attaining pupils are challenged through **evaluation tasks, theological questioning, extended reasoning prompts** and opportunities to lead aspects of RE learning.

Assessment informs planning, interventions, challenge, and curriculum development.

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### 4. Impact of the RE Curriculum

By the time children leave St Paul's they will:

- Know and love God and recognise His presence in their lives.
- Demonstrate religious literacy through the skills of retelling, describing, explaining, comparing, and evaluating.
- Live out their faith in action, inspired by the Gospel and Catholic Social Teaching.
- Show understanding of Scripture, liturgy, sacraments, saints, and Church tradition.
- Show moral and spiritual maturity, reflecting on big questions of purpose and meaning.
- Be respectful, compassionate citizens who recognise dignity in all.
- Be well prepared for the next stage of their spiritual and academic journey.

## Further Impact Reflected in Current Outstanding Practice

- Pupils talk confidently and enthusiastically about their RE learning, showing deep engagement and genuine interest.
  - Children make **clear links between Jesus' teachings and their own lives**, demonstrating empathy, forgiveness, and moral awareness.
  - Pupils can speak about a wide range of **saints** and give examples of how these saints inspire their own actions.
  - Across all year groups, children can make connections between **Scripture, Catholic beliefs and real-life Christian action**, demonstrating developed theological understanding.
  - The school environment—including high-quality displays, sacred spaces, and liturgical celebrations—visibly reflects the Catholic identity and reinforces learning.
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## 5. Equal Opportunities and Diversity

All pupils, regardless of background or need, have full access to Religious Education. We:

- Adapt teaching appropriately to meet individual needs.
  - Provide additional support and challenge.
  - Celebrate diversity within the Church and wider world.
  - Teach other world religions with respect, emphasising similarities and encouraging dialogue and understanding.
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## 6. SEND Provision in Religious Education

We believe every child is capable of deep spiritual development. We provide:

- Multi-sensory approaches to learning.
  - Visual, audio, and practical resources.
  - Scaffolds, sentence stems, and vocabulary support.
  - Opportunities for drama, art, and discussion-based responses.
  - Specialist interventions where required.
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## 7. Partnership with Home, Parish, and Community

Religious Education thrives through strong partnerships:

- Close links with **St Joseph's Parish** support pupils' sacramental and liturgical formation.
- Parents are informed about curriculum content and invited to Masses, liturgies, workshops, and celebrations.
- Partnerships with CAFOD and local charities foster social justice and compassion.

## 8. Leadership, Monitoring, and Evaluation

The RE Subject Leader:

- Oversees planning, teaching, and assessment.
- Monitors lessons, books, pupil voice, and environment.
- Ensures alignment with the Religious Education Directory.
- Supports staff with CPD and theological formation.
- Works closely with SLT, governors, and parish clergy.

Governors receive regular reports and engage in monitoring activities.

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## 9. Staff Professional Development

To maintain outstanding provision, staff receive:

- Training in theology, pedagogy, assessment, and Catholic ethos.
  - Support for planning, Scripture interpretation, and doctrinal accuracy.
  - Opportunities to engage with diocesan RE networks and training.
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## 10. Conclusion

Religious Education at St Paul's shapes the whole vision and life of our school. Through high-quality teaching, rich liturgical experience, and partnership with families and parish, we ensure that every child grows closer to Christ and becomes a thoughtful, compassionate, and spiritually confident young person.

Our commitment is to excellence in RE so that all pupils come to *know, love, and follow Jesus* and contribute to His mission in the world.

