St. Peter's Catholic Primary School

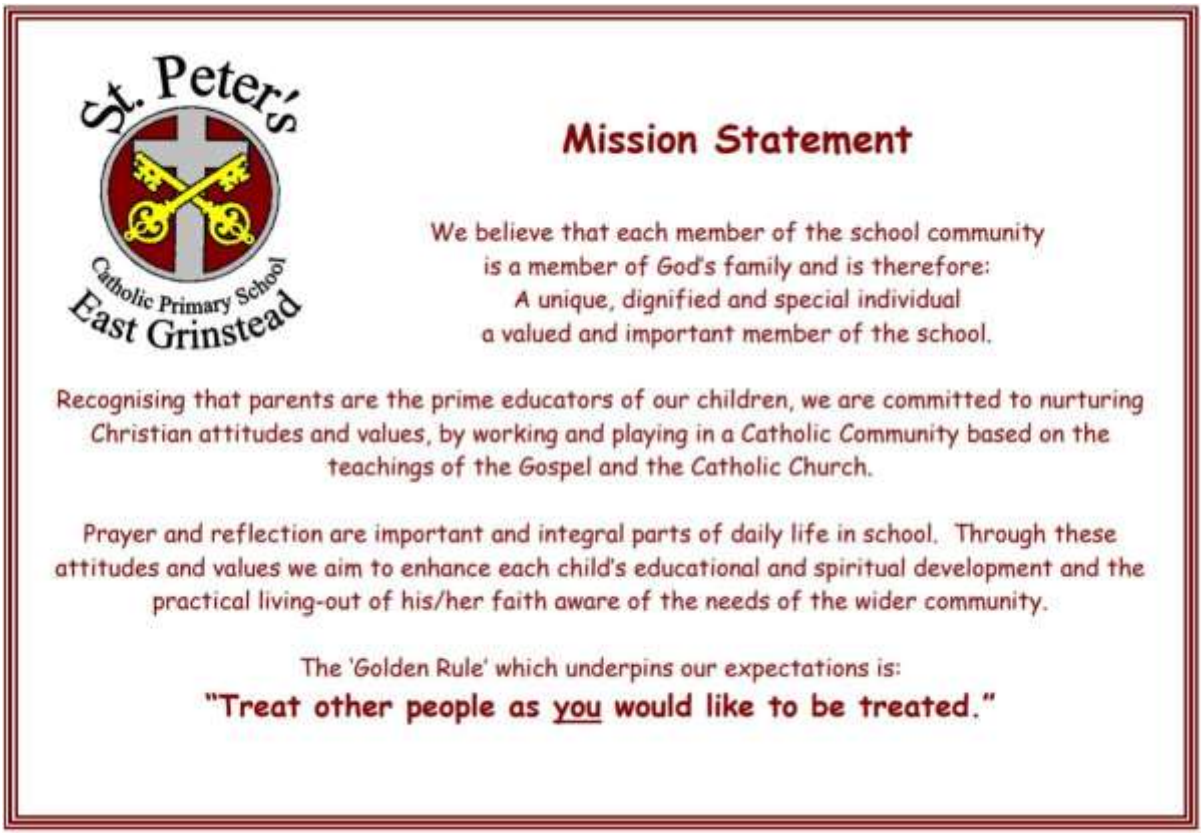


Religious Education Policy

Agreed: May 2024 Review Date: May 2026

Mission Statement

This policy has been written in accordance with our school's Mission Statement:



Introduction

At St. Peter's, our mission statement is at the heart of our RE curriculum. Everything we do relates back to the understanding that each person is a unique and valued member of the community. Everything we teach is based solidly on the Gospel values and the life of Jesus Christ. We hope to help children understand that religion is not just for learning, but also for living. Consequently, religious education enters every sphere of the curriculum. By placing religious education at the centre of our school, it helps us to achieve our mission to educate the whole child, allowing them to further their personal development and create religiously literate children. We aim to equip our pupils with the knowledge, understanding and skills to reflect spiritually, think ethically and understand the religious commitment in everyday lives.

Our Aims

The aims of our religious education programme are:

- to teach the children the knowledge and skills required to develop their understanding of the Catholic faith through engaging and comprehensive content
- to teach children to follow the example of Christ, so they may live out the Gospel values and our mission statement throughout their own lives
- to promote Catholic social teaching, allowing them to develop respect and care for others and the world around them
- to allow all children the opportunity to explore and celebrate their unique and special talents as an individual within our community
- to develop a sense of awe and wonder at the world around them

- to raise pupils awareness of other faiths, promoting respect and showing the value of those whose beliefs differ from their own, preparing them for life in modern Britain
- supporting parents in their role as primary educators

RE Programme

In previous years, we have followed the Come and See curriculum for our religious education. In line with guidance from the Diocese, we are currently transitioning to the new Religious Education Directory (RED, published in 2023). Alongside the rest of the schools in our Diocese, we are following the recommended roll out. Reception, Year 1, and Year 6 are currently following the new curriculum, with Year 2 and Year 5 due to begin in academic year 2024/2025, supported by resources from the Diocese. Year 3 and 4 will be staying with Come and See until autumn 2025, as advised by the Diocese.

RSE

As a school, we encourage the children to grow in their understanding of themselves, and to develop respect for both themselves and others through our RSE programme. We follow a Diocese-approved program. Please see the RSE policy for full details of our RSE curriculum.

Equal Opportunities and SEND

We believe that every child, as a member of God's family, is highly valued and worthy of respect, regardless of race, colour, gender, culture or ability. As such, our RE curriculum aims to allow all children complete access to learning in religious education to the best of their ability, and allow them the opportunity for spiritual development. We acknowledge and value comments and responses from all pupils. We aim to provide opportunity for all children to actively participate in Masses and assemblies. Class teachers will use a wide variety of strategies within lessons in order to fulfil these aims.

Teaching and Learning Expectations

Our RE lessons within the classroom help to contribute to the moral and spiritual wellbeing of our pupils and help to foster the knowledge and understanding required to do this. In our school, the expectations for the teaching and learning of RE are:

- RE is to be taught discretely across all age groups, being given at least 10% of the timetable
- planning should be informed by either the Come and See programme and the standarddescriptors of the Diocesan Interim Standards of Assessment, or the RED programme
- teaching of RE should be in line with the school's Catholic ethos, and following current legislation and guidance from the diocese
- lessons should include a balance between input, discussion and independent activity
- teachers should strive to use a variety of creative teaching methods and strategies to ensure enthusiasm and engagement of all children (e.g. drama, artwork, analysis of religious image, creative writing, group work etc.)
- teachers should use a variety of strategies to ensure work is accessible to all pupils to

enable every child to make progress appropriate to them
- I can statements that are linked to the assessment driver words should be used to help children understand how to be successful in their learning
- In KS2, opportunity for self-assessment should be built into each lesson

Displays

Each classroom has an RE display, which is regularly updated so that it reflects both the Come and See topic currently being taught as well as the liturgical season.

RE displays should:

- Reflect the liturgical season
- Be clear and visible in the classroom
- Have the current Come and See topic title visible
- Have key vocabulary (called star words) linked to the current topic
- Have the scripture linked to the current topic
- Have questions linked to the current topic
- Be interactive, allowing children to answer these questions where possible

Assessment

We use the Diocesan Interim Standards of Assessment as recommended by the Diocese. Children are assessed against the three strands laid out in these standards:

- AT1 Knowledge and Understanding
- AT2 Values and Attitudes
- AT3 Analysis and Evaluation (KS2 only)

Driver words from the Interim Standards are used to create success criteria for each lesson to ensure that children are able to successfully meet the knowledge and skill criteria appropriate for their stage of learning.

Each class teacher is responsible for maintaining the assessment records for their class. At the end of each topic, teachers decide on a best-fit judgement for each pupil based on the skills and content covered in that topic. This data should be entered onto our tracking spreadsheet once the teacher has come to a judgement for that child. Staff can use evidence of the work in the child's book, as well as observations they have made, or verbal comments that a child has made that have been noted down and included in the child's RE book to help with their assessment of the child.

Monitoring

Religious education is monitored throughout the year through a variety of different methods. Monitoring will be performed by the RE Subject Leader and at times, will include SLT, and school governors where possible and appropriate.

Throughout the year, the RE Subject Leader will undertake learning walks to observe lessons, as well as collect in samples of work to perform a book scrutiny once per term to ensure a high standard of learning is taking place and to check the progress of children across the school. In addition, the RE Subject Leader will undertake pupil voice surveys to ensure expectations of teaching and learning are being met. All class teachers participate in internal moderation of RE work to ensure consistency and standardisation of teacher judgement across the school.

General feedback is given out during staff meetings, and individual feedback may also be given if appropriate.

Findings from monitoring processes are then used to identify strengths and areas for development, which can then inform both the RE subject action plan as well as the whole school improvement plan.

Role of the RE Subject Leader

The RE Subject Leader fulfils a variety of responsibilities around the school. These include:

- ensure adherence by all members of staff to the RE policy
- ensuring the RE policy is regularly updated and in line with both diocesan guidelines as well as other core curriculum subjects
- to keep up to date with developments within religious education through liaison with the Diocese Primary Advisor and attendance of Primary Coordinator Meetings
- providing opportunities for development and support for all members of staff, either through running CPD sessions or seeking external providers of CPD where necessary
- providing and regularly reviewing resources available to staff to enhance the teaching and learning of RE
- being responsible to the SLT and governing body for the teaching and learning of RE across the school and through regular communication, inform them of developments within the subject
- to undertake regular monitoring of religious education across the school, including observations work scrutiny and pupil voice to ensure standards for teaching and learning are being met, celebrate strengths and identify an areas for further development

Other Faiths

Allowing children the chance to explore other faiths is a vital part of our religious education program. Helping children to gain a better understanding and respect of others' faith and religion allows them to reflect upon their own faith, as well as ensure they are prepared for life in modern Britain.

The 'Come and See' scheme of work builds in time each year for pupils to explore other world faiths. During the autumn term, a week is spent in each class learning about Judaism. In the summer term, a week is spent focussing on Islam. 'Come and See' provides units for studying

both these religions at an appropriate level from early years to the end of KS2. In the new RED curriculum, there is time in the summer term to focus on other faiths.

Relationship with Home, School, Parish and Wider Community

At St. Peter's, we recognise parents as the primary educators and therefore value the important role parents play in their child's spiritual development. Because of this, we aim to involve and fully engage parents with our religious education.

We aim to do this by:

- inviting parents and carers to both whole school Masses and class Masses and liturgies
- sending home the Wednesday Word to share the Gospel message for the week
- sending home weekly newsletters to keep parents informed about school life, including key messages from Pope Francis
- sending home termly Come and See newsletters
- holding parent's evening twice a year to share their child's progress
- sending home written reports at the end of the year to share their child's progress and achievements in religious education
- participating in the parish children's mass once a month as part of the choir, supported by the Head teacher

We also aim to maintain a good relationship with our Parish and the wider community through:

- regularly inviting our Parish Priest to lead termly Masses, as well as to participate in individual class Masses and liturgies
- inviting members of the Parish community in to share their knowledge within religious education lessons when possible and appropriate
- Inviting wider members of the community such as grandparents in for a Mass each year
- serving the wider community through collecting for various local charities, such as Crawley Open House as well as international charities such as CAFOD
- Attending Mass at our Parish church on our Feast Day
- Holding the KS2 Christmas Carol Concert at the Parish Church where it can be attended by members of the wider community
- Raising awareness of the wider world community through teaching about world issues and participation in national and international campaigns, days and events (e.g. Share the Journey, Fair Trade Fortnight, Operation Shoebox, supporting children to plan and organise their own fund raising activities)

Sacramental Preparations

Preparation for children in Year 4 receiving First Holy Communion is part of a Parish based programme and all members of staff at St. Peter's fully support this. Staff are always happy to pass on any communications to children as well as recommend the programme to parents enquiring about sacramental preparations. Children who are preparing receive a gift from the school to commemorate this important aspect of their spiritual development. The Head teacher attends each Mass and will participate in the celebration by either reading or being a part of the offertory procession.