



Religious Education Policy

Mission Statement

*Faithfully following in the footsteps of Jesus,
we serve, love and learn together
inspiring each other to excellence.*

Since September 2012 our school has followed the Religious Education scheme, 'Come and See', which is used in Catholic schools throughout England and Wales. At St. Patrick's religious education is at the heart of our curriculum and allows children of all ages to 'Come and See' the wonder of all that is within them and beyond them. The scheme offers our children the opportunity to search, explore, discover and respond. A new Religious Education Directory (RED) was introduced at the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales in 2023 and this will eventually lead to an updated curriculum being taught in all Catholic school. The directory is entitled 'To Know You More Clearly' and, over time, this new scheme of work will replace the Come and See scheme.

At St Patrick's School the new scheme is being introduce to the youngest children first, (Reception and Year 1) and will eventually be implemented in all year groups as new materials are introduced.

The Aims of Religious Education at St. Patrick's

'The outcome of religious education is religiously literate young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills – appropriate to their age and capacity – to think spiritually, ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life'. (R.E.C.D P6)

The aim of Religious Education at St. Patrick's Primary School is to promote the Catholic vision of the dignity and freedom of every person, as created in the image and likeness of God. This vision inspires and encourages the beliefs and values, which are lived out in the daily life of the Catholic school. Within this vision religious education is a journey of the pupil's family and parish community. Religious Education is the foundation of the entire educational process.

Religious Education is the core subject in St. Patrick's school curriculum. It is a rigorous academic discipline and is taught, developed and resourced as such. The Religious Education provided at St. Patrick's aims to promote:

- Knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith and life
- Knowledge and understanding of the response of faith to the ultimate questions about human life, its origin and purpose
- The skills required to engage in an examination of, and reflection upon, religious belief and practice

Objectives

The objectives of the Religious Education curriculum in St. Patrick's Catholic Primary school are:

- 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 an awareness and appreciation of Catholic belief, an understanding of its impact on personal and social behaviour, and of the vital relationship between faith and life.
- To provide opportunities for celebration, prayer and reflection in implicit and explicit ways.
- To help children find meaning and importance, both in their own life experiences and those of others, and to value them.
- To encourage study, investigation and reflection by the pupils.
- To develop appropriate skills: for example, the ability to listen; to think critically, spiritually, ethically and theologically; to acquire knowledge and organise it effectively; to make informed judgements.

- To foster appropriate attitudes: for example,
 - respect for truth;
 - respect for the views of others;
 - awareness of spiritual and moral responsibility,
 - awareness of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life and especially the challenge of living in a multicultural, multi-faith society.

The Religious Education Programmes

To fulfil our Aims and Objectives we use the 'Come and See' and 'To Know You More Clearly' Programmes of Religious Education recommended by the Archdiocese of Liverpool. The aim of these programmes is to explore the religious dimension of questions about life, dignity and purpose within the Catholic tradition. Links are made with the pupil's own experiences and with universal experience. Links are also made with the experience of other faith traditions. The programmes are therefore both 'objective' and 'subjective'. For all children the programmes will raise questions and provide materials for reflecting on their own experience. It will help them to explore the beliefs, values and way of life of the Catholic tradition and where appropriate, of other faith traditions. There is no presumption that children come from committed Catholic families. For those from committed Catholic families, it will deepen and enrich their understanding and living of their faith.

The Approach Chosen

At St. Patrick's we implement the 'Come and See' and 'To Know You More Clearly' programmes using the whole school approach. This means that the whole school will explore each theme through different topics.

Allocation of Curriculum Time

Ten per cent of the curriculum teaching time is set aside for Religious Education. This is approximately two and a half hours per week for each Key Stage and this is clearly indicated on class timetables. This time does not include Collective Worship, hymn practice or assemblies.

Overview of the 'Come and See' Content

Each term a question is explored about a mystery of life and the Christian belief, which answers it.

Autumn	Where did I come from?	Life - Creation
Spring	Who am I?	Dignity - Incarnation
Summer	Why am I here?	Purpose - Redemption

Each question is explored through three areas. A different dimension is explored each term.

Area	Faith Community – The Church
Autumn	Family – Domestic Church
Spring	Community – Local Church
Summer	World – Universal Church

Area	The Celebration in Ritual – The Sacraments
Autumn	Belonging – Baptism, Confirmation
Spring	Relating - Eucharist
Summer	Inter-relating - Reconciliation

Area	Way of Life – Christian Living
Autumn	Loving – Advent, Christmas
Spring	Giving – Lent, Easter
Summer	Serving - Pentecost

Relating the topics to themes

Community of Faith	Church Themes
Celebration of Ritual	Sacramental Themes
Way of Living	Christian Living Themes

Overview of the new Religious Education Directory Content

The model curriculum is presented as six branches representing the six half-terms in the school year. **The six curriculum branches are:**

1. Creation and Covenant
2. Prophecy and Promise
3. Galilee to Jerusalem
4. Desert to Garden
5. To the Ends of the Earth
6. Dialogue and Encounter

Scripture is the foundation of each Branch and will develop knowledge, understanding, skills, compassion and awe and wonder across the curriculum

The ways of knowing describe the skills that pupils develop as they progress through the religious education curriculum. These are:

- *Understand*

In this way of knowing the aim is to help pupils understand deeply the meaning of sacred texts, religious beliefs, sacred rites, and the lives of individuals and communities who are shaped by these texts, beliefs and rites.

- *Discern*

In this way of knowing the aim is to help pupils be able to judge wisely in response to different interpretations of the meaning, significance and implications of texts, beliefs, rites, and ways of life so that they can arrive at justified conclusions about what is true, what is good and what is beautiful.

- *Respond*

In this way of knowing the aim is to help pupils reflect personally and with integrity on what they have learnt and consider the implications for action these may have their own lives and the world in which they live.

The knowledge lenses indicate what should be known by the end of each age phase. They are referred to as lenses since they are what we are looking at.

- *Hear*

The first knowledge lens is called 'Hear' and discusses the human capacity for God, Divine Revelation, and its transmission, Sacred Scripture, and the human response to God's invitation. It is called 'hear' because it focuses on the Word of God which we hear.

- *Believe*

The second knowledge lens is called 'Believe' and deals with the contents of the Creed. It is called 'believe' because it focuses on the content of the Church's own profession of faith. In this lens we look at those doctrines that constitute our faith: trinity, incarnation, the Holy Spirit, the communion of saints, the role of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

- *Celebrate*

The third knowledge lens is called 'Celebrate' and is an exemplification of the Catechism that deals with liturgy and prayer. It is called 'celebrate' because it deals with the liturgy in which the Church celebrates the Paschal mystery of Christ. In this lens we look at prayer, liturgy, and sacrament, sacraments of initiation, the

Eucharist, sacraments of healing, sacraments at the service of communion, and other liturgies and sacramentals.

- Live

The fourth knowledge lens is called 'Live' and is an exemplification of Catholic social teaching and deals with the ways in which the disciples of Christ are called to be in the world. It is called 'live' because it focuses on the impact of faith on how Christians live. In this lens we look at the dignity of the human person; freedom, conscience, and virtue; law, grace, and sin.

A copy of the long-term plan for 'Come and See' can be found attached and enables you to look at each year group and the topics taught in further detail. Long-term plans for the new Religious Education Directory will be added as they become available.

In addition to learning about the Catholic faith, the children have the opportunity to learn about Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism and Islam.

Assessment, recording and Reporting

Assessment, recording and reporting of Religious Education meets current requirements, and we adhere to the new Diocesan guidelines.

Policy Monitoring and Review.

This policy is monitored by the Religious Education leader and is evaluated and reviewed by staff and Governors every two years.

Date of review: January 2025 Date of next review: January 2027

Signed

See also:

Collective Worship Policy

Moral Development Policy

Sacramental Policy

Spiritual Development Policy