



Policy for Religious Education

This Policy has been reviewed and adopted by Holy Family School
Last reviewed – April 2024
Next review – April 2026



Part of the Xavier Catholic Education Trust

Holy Family Mission Statement

Our catholic school sets out to provide an education that is God-centered. It is a community where everyone is valued, loved and respected by each other. Our children are encouraged to give of their best in all they do, to understand their beliefs and to work and play happily together. They are further encouraged to express their God given talents and to show qualities of honesty, tolerance, forgiveness, caring and patience. We value our place in the parish and aim to maintain our strong partnerships with parents, governors and the wider community. We aim to work as a team in a partnership that is truly supportive and understanding of everyone's needs. We seek to follow God's guidance of loving and caring for each other in the way he taught us and to uphold our school name, living each day as one happy and Holy Family.

Introduction

The policy has been arrived at through close consultation with governors, staff at all levels and by seeking advice and guidance from outside agencies. It has been developed with the following aims and philosophies very much in mind.

The Mission Statement

Our Mission Statement is central to the life of the school. It is displayed in all rooms. All the children are encouraged to think of ways in which they can strive to live out the Mission Statement.

The Importance of the Role of Parents in Religious Education

Holy Family School recognises the central role parents have in the religious education of their children. As the Statement of the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales on Religious Education in Catholic Schools '2000' states, "The first educators in the faith are parents. It is they, above all others, who establish in their children the first sensitivity and responsiveness to the presence of God, to the practice of prayer and to the patterns of life in the community of faith, the parish. By their example in the home and in the participation in the Mass and the other sacraments the foundations of a life-long faith and discipleship in their children are laid down."

Our Catholic School

It is in the spirit of the above statement that our school works. We see Holy Family School in the partnership with the home and the parish communities to which our children belong. As the General Directory for Catechesis affirms, "This partnership between home and parish is enhanced by the role of the Catholic school in which the educational mission of the church finds a particular and important expression." This 'educational mission' is our central role.

The Aims of Religious Education at our School

In keeping with our Mission Statement, we aim to provide a Religious Education (RE) that attends to the needs of every pupil. Within this environment we believe that:

"...Religious Education is not one subject amongst many but the foundation of the entire education process. The beliefs and values it communicates should inspire and unify every aspect of school life." (*Bishops Conference of England and Wales 1988*)

"For the teacher does not write on inanimate material, but on the very spirits of human beings." (The Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium 1998)

AIMS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT OUR SCHOOL

We aim:

- To enable all members of the school community to understand and to live our mission statement: "to follow God's guidance of loving and caring for each other in the way He taught us."
- to enable each child to deepen their relationship with God and to further their understanding of the Faith through R.E. teaching, prayer, reflection and celebration.
- to enable each child to develop a sense of moral and social responsibility supporting and caring for those close to them and extending to the wider community.
- to help each child to feel valued and respected for their contribution to school life, where success is celebrated and difficulties and problems talked through and prayed through.
- to lead children to a deeper knowledge of the Catholic faith, other religious traditions and the ways in which they seek to express the significance of human life
- to challenge children to examine their own lives, to deepen their personal faith commitment and to respect that of others
- to ensure that children acquire a deeper understanding of themselves, their relationships with others and with the natural world
- to promote spiritual and moral development in all aspects of school life, since God is present in all things, thus enabling children to make sense of how God is active in our world
- to encourage the children to develop Catholic Christian attitudes and values
- to help the children understand and value people whose customs and beliefs differ from their own
- to support parents in the faith development of their children
- to help the children to develop a range of skills including the ability to investigate, interpret, communicate, criticise, evaluate and socialise
- to foster attitudes of wisdom, understanding, knowledge, right judgement, courage, reverence, awe and wonder
- to deliver a curriculum that fosters excellence and enjoyment for all pupils.

OUR APPROACH TO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

- We aim to provide an environment where every child feels secure.
- We teach the children how to respect and value each other as individuals and how to care for one another so they help to foster a calm, happy and caring community.
- We discuss our attitudes and behaviour and how they affect the well being of other members of our school community.
- We aim to teach the children and each other, by example, in the daily life of the school.
- We pray together, teaching both specific school prayers and how to pray spontaneously and peacefully.
- We gather together for worship and to celebrate the Liturgies and Mass throughout the school week.
- We encourage home, school and parish links, actively seeking involvement of the Parish Priest and School Chaplain.
- through religious education, assemblies and liturgies we teach concepts, knowledge of the scriptures, the church and moral attitudes.
- We follow the Religious Education Programmes Come and See and The Scheme for the
- We work collaboratively with the parish of The Holy Family, Addlestone in preparations of the children in Year 3 for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.
- We promote the children's awareness of the local and wider communities by encouraging them to participate in charitable activities and fund raising.
- We acknowledge that everyone is equal in the sight of God and follow a policy of equal opportunities.

- We promote the Catholic identity of the School through the School's Admissions Policy.

This Policy For Religious Education is formed with reference to the Religious Education Directory. As the Directory states:

'Teaching in Religious Educationshould help people be attentive to the meaning of their experiences, illumined by the light of the Gospel, so that they may respond to God more fully. Experience can also make the Christian message more intelligible.'

OBJECTIVES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Within the context of our Mission Statement, Learning and Teaching, Special Educational Needs, PSHE, Assessment, Marking, Recording and Reporting, Equal Opportunities and Health and Safety Policies, the teaching of RE will give children the opportunity to:

- appreciate that God's love and presence are made real and celebrated in the seven sacraments of the Church
- develop the appropriate skills and attitudes to promote an informed and full response to God's call in everyday life
- reflect, discuss and question their thoughts, feelings, emotions and attitudes, study, investigate and reflect upon their learning,
- develop ways of expressing themselves through the various types of informal and formal prayers
- familiarise themselves with the sacred books of the Old and New Testaments,
- take part in a variety of celebrations including non-Eucharistic liturgies, Masses and assemblies
- come to know and understand the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

Following the advice of the Bishops Conference of England and Wales and the Diocesan R.E. Advisor, the school spends 10% of the teaching week on Religious Education. That is Key Stage One 2 ¼ hours and at Key Stage Two 2 hours 30 minutes, which does not include Collective Worship.

The RED (Religious Education Directory) 'To Know You More Clearly'

In all year groups, we have introduced the new RED curriculum.

The curriculum structure

The model curriculum has six components known as branches which map onto the six half-terms of the school year. Each one has a core theme and invites pupils to learn about an aspect of Revelation, Scripture, life in Christ, and life in the Church, and to discern what their learning means academically and experientially enabling them to see, judge, and act through a deeper knowledge of the Christian faith.

Creation and covenant: 'The heavens are telling the glory of God' (Ps 19:1). In this branch, pupils will encounter the God who creates and calls a people. They will explore revelation of the Christian belief that all that comes from God, the Creation accounts in Genesis, and scientific explanations of the process of Creation. They will explore the call of God and his covenantal relationship with his people first through Abraham and Moses, then through the narrative of the Old Testament.

Prophecy and promise: 'In many and various ways, God spoke to our ancestors by the prophets' (Heb 1:1). The prophets speak of God reaching to his people, calling them back into a relationship with him. In this branch, pupils will explore the Christian understanding of the teaching of the prophets as they point to the fulfilment of God's promise in a messiah, Jesus Christ. They will explore the expectant

waiting for the Messiah through the Advent season and how this speaks to Christians today as they wait for Christ. Pupils will encounter the story of the nativity of Jesus and the mystery of the incarnation.

Galilee to Jerusalem: ‘God’s only Son, who is at the Father’s side, has made him known’ (Jn 1:18). In this branch, pupils will experience the ministry of Jesus, the Word of God. They will learn about the life of Jesus and his revelation of the Kingdom of God through parables, encounters, miracles, and teachings. They will learn about the call of the disciples and the nature of being a follower of Jesus

Desert to garden: ‘Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day’ (1 Cor 15:3). In this branch, pupils will study the season of Lent and its culmination in the events of Holy Week. They will learn about the Paschal Triduum at the heart of the Catholic Church’s Liturgy and life. The title of this branch points both to the liturgical journey from the desert of Lent to the garden of Resurrection, but also to the Paschal journey from darkness to light, barrenness to fruitfulness, death to life.

To the ends of the Earth: ‘Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit’ (Mt 28:19). In this branch, pupils will study the events that flowed from the Resurrection and Ascension in the coming of the Holy Spirit and the work of the apostles and early Church. They will also learn about the Catholic Church today as the apostolic Church and how its liturgy and structures flow from the early Church.

Dialogue and encounter: ‘For “In him we live and move and have our being”’ (Acts 17:28). In this branch, pupils will learn how Christians work together with people of different religious convictions and all people of goodwill towards the common good, respecting the dignity of all humanity. They will also encounter other pathways of belief drawing on the teaching of the Church about intercultural dialogue. The sacramental life is taught within and across branches. Pupils encounter scripture and what the Church teaches about scripture and what this means for a life lived in Christ as part of the Catholic faith.

Ways of Knowing: The RED is enriched by Ways of Knowing and throughout the curriculum children will experience, be taught through and learn by understanding, discerning and responding. Children will be enabled to SEE-JUDGE-ACT. Early Years children will use the same process by using age-appropriate language.

Ways of Knowing		
Understand	Discern	Respond
See	Judge	Act
What will I see and hear to help me understand?	How will I discover more?	What can I do now?

The new curriculum follows a ‘Hear, Believe, Celebrate and Live’ lenses structure. See below an example of content for Year 6 for the ‘Creation and Covent’ lens.

Prayer
central
of our

seek

God in

them.
every
in our

anger,

through prayer (see Prayer and Liturgy policy).

CCC Links	Knowledge lens content
Fall CCC 390 John's prologue CCC 240-241, 460-461 Creed YC 26, 29 CCC 185-188, 192-197 Stewardship YC 436 CCC 2415 Original sin YCFK 22 YC 68-69 CCC 388-389, 396-402, 402-404 Jesus YC 76 CCC 456-460 Faith & science YC 23 CCC 159, YC 42 CCC 282-289 Baptism YC 194 -195, 197 CCC 1213 -1216, 1229-1245, 1250, 1276 -1278, 1282 CCC 9852	Hear By the end of this unit of study, pupils will hear the following key texts: - The second account of Creation (Genesis 2:5-10, 15-23, 3:1-7, 9-13, 17-19) - Jn 1:1-5, 16-18 - The Nicene Creed - Laudato Si' 66-67 By the end of this unit of study, pupils will know: - The literary forms employed in the Genesis account. - The Genesis account of Creation and Fall is not a literal scientific description, but expresses beliefs about God, the world, and human beings (see CCC 159). Believe By the end of this unit of study, pupils will know that the Church teaches that: - The world is in disarray because humans choose to do evil again and again. This is called original sin; the story of Adam and Eve explains why the world is no longer as good as it was in the beginning. (YCFK 22) - In Jesus, God restored humanity's relationship with him. - Baptism is the first sacrament of the forgiveness of sins. It unites Christians with Jesus Christ, who dies and rises, and strengthens the gifts of the Holy Spirit. - Belief in God as sustainer and source of the universe is compatible with the scientific account of the beginnings of the universe and the theory of evolution. Celebrate By the end of this unit of study, pupils will know: - The symbols in the Sacrament of Baptism that point to a Christian's new life in Christ - The Church teaches that the Nicene Creed allows all believers to make a common statement of their faith. Live By the end of this unit of study, pupils will know: - Many scientists are Christians and they do not see any conflict between their faith and science. - The work of Catholic scientists in contributing to the scientific account of the beginnings of the universe (e.g., the work of Mendel and Lemaître). The ways in which some sin is social and embedded in social structures (cf. CCC 1868-69).

PRAYER AND LITURGY

and liturgy are a
and ever living part
school day.

Through prayer, we
to deepen the
children's
relationship with
a way that is
relevant and
meaningful to
We feel that at
stage the children
care should be
encouraged to
spontaneously
express their joy,
wonder, awe,
concern, thanks,
sorrow, sadness,
fear and
disappointment

Prayer forms an essential part of all acts of liturgy. Each class has their own prayer table which is a focus for the children's prayer. More formal prayers are shared too, such as morning and evening prayers, grace before and after meals. Children are also encouraged to compose their own prayers. The Liturgical Calendar is reflected in special opportunities for prayer, such as the Rosary Challenge in May and October. Quiet reflection is timetabled into the daily life of the school in all classes. There is a crucifix in every classroom. Our School Chaplain comes into school to support the prayer life of the school and is available to lead the staff and children in prayer. He also leads us in our Eucharistic and Reconciliation liturgies throughout the year. Staff and Governors pray together before every meeting.

SPIRITUAL AND MORAL DEVELOPMENT

At Holy Family, we believe that spiritual development relates to that aspect of inner life through which the children acquire insights into their personal existence. It is the experience of love, of goodness and beauty. It is a sense of being taken out of oneself; the sense of wonder, of questioning, of awe, or simply the instinct that there must be more to life than this.

We believe that enhancing spiritual development helps children to create increasingly coherent narratives about themselves. Through spiritual development, the children are encouraged to grow in self-awareness and in awareness of their responses to experience, seen especially in the light of faith. At Holy Family we aim to provide a safe environment in which our children feel confident to open themselves to the truth of their own experience and feelings. We encourage children in their spiritual development by encouraging a questioning and searching attitude about the self which will include "Who am I?" "Where do I fit in?" and "How do I relate to others?"

Staff are also encouraged to develop their awareness of their own spiritual journey and that, like the children, they can experience the excitement of discoveries and should be prepared to risk sharing their experiences with the children.

Moral education at Holy Family is promoted through the R.E. curriculum, PSHE and all other subject areas. It is promoted in interpersonal relationships, enlivened by the whole school Catholic ethos and is concerned with personal decision making on the basis of what is right and wrong. Spiritual and moral development is promoted in all aspects of school life, since God is present in all things: curriculum subjects, extra-curricular activities, interpersonal relationships, prayer and liturgy – each are avenues into understanding and experiencing God, thus enabling pupils to make sense of how God is active in our world. Therefore, every member of staff in our school has a role to play.

All share in the nurturing of the whole person and by their witness to Christian values, help create the ethos in which all can grow, spiritually and morally, and be formed in the likeness of Christ. Children's spiritual growth is aided by opportunities for religious experiences, meditation and reflection; prayer and liturgy allows pupils to explore and share beliefs, appreciate the discipline of silence and prayer, raise and address moral, personal, social, national and international concern (see policy for Prayer and Liturgy).

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

At Holy Family, we believe it is our mission to love God, to love each other and the world – our common home. Catholic Social Teaching (CST) provides the principles which helps us to do this. It is about how we can live our lives and put our faith into action.

Catholic Social Teaching is based on the belief that God has a plan for creation, a plan to build His kingdom of peace, love and justice. At Holy Family, we recognise that God has a special plan for every one of us, whoever we are. That plan involves every aspect of our lives, from the things we pray about, to how we live as a responsible global citizen. Our part in this story is a vocation for the common good, a call to treat everyone as our brothers and sisters.

Catholic Social Teaching underpins the essence of our daily school life. As members of the Catholic Church, we are all called upon to preserve the dignity of all human beings, to care for creation, and to reach out to our sisters and brothers in need. Pope Francis emphasises that it is our duty to work together to bring about a more just and peaceful world: to put love into action.

CST comprises seven key principles that help to guide Catholics in their mission to walk in the footsteps of Christ and to share the good news of his Gospel with all those that they encounter. These principles are intrinsic to how we live our lives as a Catholic community. We share these principles with our children through all that we do, through the curriculum, prayer and liturgy, fundraising activities, through our ordinary actions in school and in service of others in our community.

At Holy Family, we strive to put CST at the heart of all we do. CST is referred to in prayer and liturgy, which makes the worship relevant to our lives today. CST is incorporated into RE lessons, where relevant, and links are made with the actions of the saints, people from the Bible and people today. It is a regular and key part of the Friday Celebration Assembly timetable.

As a school we use CAFOD's resources to support our children in recognising how to become the best global citizens that they can be.

OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

The children will be encouraged to:

- understand that we are all made in the likeness of God and are called to be members of the community of the Church,
- understand the roles of the people of the Church, past and present and that to be a member of the Church is to follow the example of Jesus Christ,
- reflect upon the benefits and responsibilities of belonging to a community by becoming active members within it,
- explore the relationships between the Catholic Church and other denominations and faiths.

Our links with the community include:

- prayer of the Stations of the Prayer Garden
- work in the parish with St Vincent de Paul
- inviting members of the parish and local community to join us for various liturgical and non-liturgical celebrations,
- supporting various charities, including the parish charities,
- joining with the parish for various celebrations during the liturgical year
- Sixth Form pupils from St George's College supporting children in their Religious Education work as part of their catechetical programme,
- School leaders preparing children for their First Holy Communion,
- sharing our Christian message through praise and song at community events
- The priest and School Chaplain within the parish regularly supports the RE Lead and Prayer and Liturgy Lead in developing the religious life of the school, through advice and providing staff CPD.

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS

We will help the children to explore the meaning of celebration in the following ways:

- Preparing and participating in the Mass and Reconciliation. This will take the form of Masses at the beginning and end of term and on holy days of obligation. Masses may also be organised to celebrate special occasions.
- Every class leads a school Mass each year.
- Prayer is an integral part of everyday school life. The children are given the opportunity to pray formally and informally and to experience personal and communal prayer at various times of the day. Daily prayers are said and special times of prayer take place in the classroom twice weekly.
- Three times a week the whole school comes together for the Celebration of the Word led by the Prayer and Liturgy Lead, Headteacher or members of the SLT.
- Participation by the children is encouraged in different times of collective prayer.
- As part of the Praise Assembly on Wednesdays, we learn music and songs that will be used in prayer and liturgy.
- The children will learn certain prayers from memory and be introduced to other prayers which they will use for different occasions. There are also opportunities provided for spontaneous prayer in acts of prayer.

- Through the Dialogue and Encounter branch of the RED and the faith week topics in “Come and See” the children will develop an understanding of the ways in which other people worship and pray.

RESOURCES

Each teacher has access to relevant resources to inform their planning. The resources for the new RED curriculum are provided by our Diocese.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

A wide variety of strategies are used by teachers in order for each child to participate in the learning of RE, appropriate to their specific need. These are outlined in our Special Educational Needs Policy.

MARKING, ASSESSMENT AND RECORDING

Each class teacher is responsible for the marking of work. Marking is carried out in accordance with the school guidelines (see Assessment, Marking and Recording Policy). Assessment is carried out in line with Diocesan guidance and this can take the form of observations by teachers and self/peer assessment by students.

The new assessment standards are used to moderate learning and this is used to inform assessments for all children. Assessment is in line with the guidance for each objective. External moderation of these assessed topics also takes place at the Xavier Trust R.E. Lead meetings and also through shared moderation in year groups within the Trust.

The standards are then recorded using Arbor in line with school practice. This allows the progress of each child to be tracked and for comparisons to be made with the pupil’s performance in writing. Careful consideration is given to children’s verbal responses, particularly in class and group discussions, their willingness to contribute ideas and relevant material and the quality of their written work when retelling and interpreting stories. Pupil voice and responses via platforms such as Padlet and Microsoft Forms are also used to inform assessment.

REPORTING TO PARENTS

A Parent meeting in the summer term for Reception and early in the Autumn term for Key Stages 1 and 2, provides parents with an outline of the R.E. curriculum and how parents can be involved. A termly curriculum overview is accessible to parents on the school, providing them with information about the topics for that term and any other relevant information. There are parent evenings in the Autumn and Spring terms when parents have the opportunity to discuss their child’s progress and parents are also invited into school see their child’s work. A report is sent home during the summer term which informs parents of their child’s attainment.

MONITORING

The subject lead is also responsible for carrying out a range of monitoring activities such as lesson observations and pupil interviews. The Senior Leadership Team/ RE Lead regularly take samples of children’s work. General feedback and examples of good practice are given at staff meetings. Individual feedback is also given if appropriate.

POLICY MONITORING AND REVIEW

This policy is monitored by the RE Lead together with the RE Governor and is evaluated and reviewed by governors. Any additional policies referred to can be viewed/downloaded from the school website (www.holy-family.surrey.sch.uk). All policies should be read in conjunction with central policies of Xavier CET.

Reviewed: April 2024

Next Review: April 2026