

# RE Curriculum Overview 2023

## Our Mission

**All that we do at St Joseph's is shaped by our commitment to our Faith.** The choices we make and the expectations we nurture in our children emanate from a guiding desire to live our lives according to gospel values. In the words of our Mission Statement, written by the children:

- *God is at the heart of everything. Prayer is behind us in all that we do.*
- *We are God's family, here to learn and try our best.*
- *As friends of Jesus, we treat others with respect, as we would wish to be treated ourselves.*
- *We want everyone to be the best person they can be.*
- *We are all amazing in our own way.*
- *We look after the wonderful world that God created for us.*

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Our Mission Statement is reflected in our Religious Education curriculum as the teaching of Religious Education is designed to meet the principles and goals as laid down in the School's Mission Statement.

## Our Vision for RE

Religious Education takes pride of place in the school curriculum. It compliments and builds upon experiences children gain in other areas of their academic, social and spiritual development, inside and outside of school.

Through our Religious Education programme we:

- Promote each child's innate capacity for wonder, awe and reverence and inauguration for the spiritual.
- Deliver a curriculum in accordance with the rites and practices of the Catholic Church
- Foster a spirit of tolerance, respect and understanding of other cultures and traditions represented in the school and in the wider community.
- Encourage individual responsibility for one's own Faith journey by promoting independence in learning.
- Show a systematic understanding of Christ, The Christian event, the message and the "Way of Life".
- Provide a climate where Christ can reveal himself.
- Value the contribution each child makes to the spiritual community.
- Provide opportunities for affirmation and growth of faith.

## Religious Education offers opportunities:

- **celebration and worship**
- **prayer and reflection**
- **development of religious language** and literacy – of people, places and objects – through stories, symbols and rituals
- a joyful learning journey, which marks out growth in learning and understanding of The Faith
- an experience and celebration of their success and that of others
- finding evidence of "**Christ in our World**" in their everyday experiences
- working together within a context of mutual support

## How teachers embed learning

Faith formation is delivered in three specific ways:

1. R.E. lessons
2. School assemblies
3. Masses, celebrations and liturgies

The **Religious Education Directory** (RED) has recently been updated and across the diocese is being phased into schools, with Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 currently following the new curriculum.

### Come and See

'Come and See' is our RE Scheme of Work for Year 2, 3, 4 and 5, which is used by all schools in our diocese. *Come and See* is an invitation to exploration and a promise of life for everyone. Teaching guidelines, approaches and principles are laid out in each teacher booklet, which is available for each year group. These have been updated and are available on the 'Come and See' website.

### School Assemblies and Liturgies

The School gathers on a daily basis either as a whole or in year groups. Our daily liturgies focus on prayer and reflection, taking either a Come and See theme, church season or the weekly gospel readings as content.

Our Wednesday liturgies are very special; children and staff look forward to gathering together as a community. Each new Come and See topic is introduced with a 'launch' on the first Monday, which introduces the children to the main content of the topic. This liturgy is facilitated by a group of children, the Head teacher, lead teachers for RE, as well as Year group teachers. Following this, a weekly liturgy along the same theme is led by teachers and by the children.

Our Friday assembly is a celebration when we give our awards and rejoice in our special talents. The much coveted 'Child of the Week' award is given at this time.

### Masses and Celebrations

A programme of liturgies and masses is established with the parish clergy at the beginning of the year. It reflects key days in the liturgical and the school life. The parent calendar indicates when these events take place.

### Prayer Life

Prayer forms part of the daily worship in the classrooms. Within each classroom, an area is designated as a prayer focus, equipped with bibles, a candle and other objects which support prayer and liturgy. Each class is also provided with a 'Prayer and Worship Handbook', which is a guide for liturgies, masses, displays, prayer areas, and liturgies. Children take a strong lead in planning liturgies in class, year group pods and where appropriate whole school.

During Advent, each child takes home a Travelling Crib to share with their family, which includes prayer booklets for each week of Advent.

For most of the year, the school community is invited to meet once a week on the playground for morning prayers. The children often lead this session, which includes the rosary during May and October and offering intentions from the school community.

### Display

Within the classroom, display is used to enhance the area to encourage children to reflect upon the theme they are currently focusing upon. Displays are a celebration of the children's

achievements and play a very important role in the children's development of self-esteem and self-awareness.

In the entrance hall, a prayer focus calls us to pray as we enter the school. It is regularly changed, to reflect the feast days and celebrations.

### **Witness to our Faith**

Our children, through their house groups raise money for charity. House groups organise fundraising days spaced through the year. In this way, we donate to:

- Missio
- HCPT through a local parish group
- Faith in Action
- Jigsaw

In addition, at Christmas, families donate to CAFOD in place of sending Christmas cards to each other. Through the World Gifts initiative, we buy goats, education packs, water for a village and other items.

We also support an annual charity, which for the current year is Small Steps.

### **Contribution to Parish Life**

On Holydays of obligation and special days, we join with parishioners and parents for prayer services and masses, in our adjacent parish church. For these occasions, the school prepares the liturgy, including readings, singing, offertory and serving.

At other times, our children attend specific services at St. Joseph's Church. Of particular importance is the Advent Service, the Passion Play, May Procession and Harvest.

We launch our year by welcoming newcomers to the school, when children are presented with a prayer card as a memento of joining our school worshipping community. The end of year mass for the children who are transferring to their secondary schools is particularly special. At this, we present each child with a crucifix to take with them as they go forth.

During Lent and Advent, the children in years 4, 5 and 6 attend a reconciliation service. We are blessed with support from our deanery priests, which means that any child who chooses may have their confession heard.

Regular contact between school and parish is maintained, this is enhanced greatly by the weekly visits of members of the Parish Team, who are involved in the classrooms and in supporting the staff.

## The Framework for Learning in Religious Education

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Autumn	<p><b>Creation and Covenant</b> How God made the world and everything comes from Him. Caring for God's world.</p> <p><b>Prophecy and Promise</b> The stories leading up to Jesus' birth, the Hail Mary and the Gloria</p>	<p><b>Beginnings</b> God at every beginning</p> <p><b>Signs and Symbols</b> Baptism</p> <p><b>Preparations</b> Advent: Preparing to celebrate Christmas</p> <p><b>Other Faiths</b> Judaism</p>	<p><b>Homes</b> God's dream for every family</p> <p><b>Promises</b> Baptism</p> <p><b>Visitors</b> Advent: waiting for the coming of Jesus</p> <p><b>Other Faiths</b> Judaism</p>	<p><b>People</b> The family of God in Heaven</p> <p><b>Called</b> Confirmation: a call to witness</p> <p><b>Gift</b> God's gift of love and friendship in Jesus</p> <p><b>Other Faiths</b> Judaism</p>	<p><b>Ourselves</b> Created in the image and likeness of God</p> <p><b>Life Choices</b> Marriage commitment and service</p> <p><b>Hope</b> Advent; waiting in joyful hope for Jesus; the promised one</p> <p><b>Other Faiths</b> Judaism</p>	<p><b>Creation and Covenant</b> The second account of Creation, Nicene Creed, Laudato Si'</p> <p><b>Prophecy and Promise</b> Women of the Old Testament in salvation history, the Magnificat</p>
Spring	<p><b>Galilee to Jerusalem</b> The beginning of Jesus' ministry on Earth</p> <p><b>Desert to Garden</b> Lent and the stories leading up to Jesus; final days on Earth</p>	<p><b>Books</b> The books used in Church</p> <p><b>Thanksgiving</b> Mass a special time for saying thank you</p> <p><b>Opportunities</b> Lent; an opportunity to start anew to celebrate Jesus' new life</p>	<p><b>Journeys</b> Christian family's journey with Jesus</p> <p><b>Listening and Sharing</b> Jesus gives himself to us</p> <p><b>Giving All</b> Lent a time to remember Jesus' total giving</p>	<p><b>Community</b> Ministries in the Parish</p> <p><b>Giving and Receiving</b> Living in communion</p> <p><b>Self Discipline</b> Celebrating Growth to new life</p>	<p><b>Mission</b> Continuing Jesus' mission in the diocese</p> <p><b>Memorial Sacrifice</b> The Eucharist the living memorial of Jesus' sacrifice</p> <p><b>Sacrifice</b> Lent a time of aligning with the sacrifice Jesus made</p>	<p><b>Galilee to Jerusalem</b> The Miracles of Jesus and the seven sacraments</p> <p><b>Desert to Garden</b> Stations of the Cross and the stories leading up to Jesus' death</p>
Summer	<p><b>To the Ends of the Earth</b> Pentecost</p> <p><b>Dialogue and Encounter</b> Local Christian Community and Judaism</p>	<p><b>Spread the Word</b> Pentecost; a time to spread the Good News</p> <p><b>Rules</b> Reasons for Rules in the Sacrament of Reconciliation</p> <p><b>Treasures</b> God's Treasure; the World</p> <p><b>Other Faiths</b> Islam</p>	<p><b>Energy</b> Gifts of the Holy Spirit</p> <p><b>Choices</b> The Importance of Examination of Conscience</p> <p><b>Special Places</b> Holy Places for Jesus and the Christian</p> <p><b>Other Faiths</b> Islam</p>	<p><b>New Life</b> To hear and live the Easter Message</p> <p><b>Building Bridges</b> Admitting wrong being reconciled with God and each other</p> <p><b>God's People</b> Different saints show people what God is like</p> <p><b>Other Faiths</b> Islam</p>	<p><b>Transformation</b> Celebration of the Spirit's transforming power</p> <p><b>Freedom and Responsibility</b> Commandments enable Christians to be free and responsible</p> <p><b>Stewardship</b> The church is called to the stewardship of Creation</p> <p><b>Other Faiths</b> Islam</p>	<p><b>To the Ends of the Earth</b> The stories following Jesus' Resurrection and meeting Christ in the Eucharist</p> <p><b>Dialogue and Encounter</b> Promoting unity and love among all people. Connections between Dharmic beliefs.</p>

### Achieving the highest standards in RE

What we believe we achieve at St Joseph's is that our children are living and breathing our Catholic faith, following the Gospel values and living out the school Mission Statement.

In many lessons, children have the choice of a **challenge task**, which encourages deeper thought and reflection. This enables them to show a deeper understanding of the learning, often **making links** to scripture, Catholic beliefs and their lives.

The children are used to self-assessment in RE, where the **success criteria** enable children to reflect on their learning and strive for high levels of attainment.

The Special Books are one of the ways we measure how well knowledge and understanding is embedded in RE learning.

Another is the way the children conduct themselves in and around school and the way they treat and respect each other and their school environment, both sound indications of how they have learned to live their Catholic faith and serve others.

When we talk to children, we hear them using religious language.

Children have the opportunity to share their work with their parents on three open days through the year, a shared time, which they relish.

## **Monitoring**

Leaders for RE and senior leaders triangulate evidence of standards in RE through:

- Observation of teaching and learning in classrooms through regular drop ins
- Book looks where the leaders verifies the extent to which the standards of work match planning expectations and those consistent with pupils achieving mastery in the subject.
- Pupil discussion to evidence that policy and practice align with outcomes
- Senior leaders monitor all aspects of the above

Subject leaders are required to share evidence of any monitoring with the HT by email in order that it can be recorded centrally.

A dedicated RE governor has responsibility for reporting on RE to the full governing body. There are regular meetings between the governor and the subject leader.

## **Assessment**

See Assessment Policy for specific information.

## **Specific resources used**

The subject leader is responsible for ensuring that resources are relevant and ensuring that teachers utilise them to enhance learning. Key resources that help to embed children's understanding of RE further:

- Year group sets of Bibles
- Other books that support the understanding of bible stories, Catholic traditions and devotions.
- Prayer stations
- Travelling cribs
- Outdoor Stations of the Cross