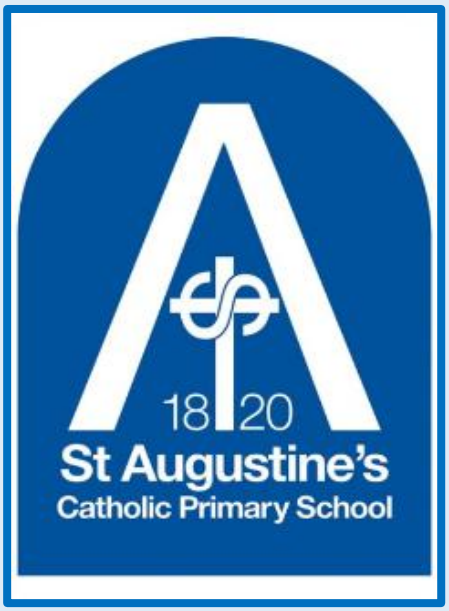
Religious Education Policy



St. Augustine's Catholic Primary School

19 West End Road, Old Costessey, Norwich. NR8 5AG

Part of the St. John the Baptist Catholic Multi-Academy Trust

We try to follow Jesus by loving each other and caring for God's world.

Wisdom, Love, Might, Let there be Light!

Last reviewed on:	February 2026
Next review due:	February 2028

School Mission Statement:

We try to follow Jesus by loving each other and caring for God's world.

Our school mission statement and teaching of the Catholic Church underpins teaching and learning within our school.

School Motto:



"Wisdom, Love, Might, Let there be Light!"

We aim to make the children who attend St Augustine's feel cared for and secure in surroundings where Catholic values are practised, and where their gifts and abilities are recognised and developed in an atmosphere of respect and friendship.

In planning the curriculum we attend to the development of the whole child: the physical, intellectual, emotional, moral and spiritual."

St. Augustine's Catholic Primary School
Policy for Religious Education

Context

This policy has been produced with our school community in mind and by seeking advice and guidance from outside agencies including the Diocese of East Anglia Education Service, the Catholic Education Service and the Department for Education. The ideas and philosophies in Christ at the Centre (Stock 2013) and in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) have also helped to inform this policy.

The Importance of the Role of Parents in Religious Education

Our school community recognises the central role parents have in the religious education of their children. The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales re-iterated in their statement on Religious Education in Catholic Schools (2000): "***The first educators in the faith are parents."***

In recognition of this, we strive to maintain a faithful partnership with parents, communicating clearly both the curriculum and the wider spiritual opportunities offered to families and warmly inviting parents to share their knowledge and experiences with the school community.

Our school works closely in partnership with the home, the Parish of St Walstan's Roman Catholic Church and the Diocese of East Anglia. The General Directory for Catechesis confirms, ***"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."*** Religious Education in a Catholic school encompasses the whole educational mission of the Church and is not confined to timetabled Religious Education lessons.

The Importance of Religious Education

Religious education is the *"core curriculum"* in a Catholic school (Pope St John Paul II). Placing religious education at the core and heart of our school, helps us to fulfill our mission to educate the whole person in discerning the meaning of their existence and strongly aligns to our mission statement.

A Catholic education is "*focused on integral formation of its students and at the same time prepares them for full participation in civic life. It forms the Catholic student as 'both human and a person of faith, the protagonist*

of culture and the subject of religion'. It teaches subjects with methods proper to them and at the same time imbues the whole curriculum with a Christian outlook. It is established for Catholic students and at the same time draws others to its doors. In short, the Catholic school reflects the apparent paradox of the incarnation that is resolved in Christ: it is both fully Catholic and really a school. Religious education in a Catholic school also bears witness to the same mystery: it is both fully religious and genuinely educational." (Religious Education Directory p9).

Religious education plays its part in this endeavour by enabling all pupils 'to be confident and secure in their religious faith and knowledgeable and respectful of other religions,' and so play 'a crucial role in building a cohesive society' (Christ at the Centre, 2012, p.9)

Aims and Objectives of Religious Education

Religious education is at the heart of our school life. We aim to ensure that all pupils will have the opportunity to:

- Understand and live out our school mission statement
- Recognise and appreciate the religious and spiritual dimensions of life
- Develop a deeper knowledge and understanding of Catholic teaching and traditions and of the teaching of other religions, so that they can explain these ideas confidently
- Make links between learning in religious education and in the wider curriculum
- Take the space to reflect and ask questions about their own and others' experience of life
- Deepen their personal faith commitment and respect the world views of others
- Develop a sense of love and responsibility for themselves, one another and the world around them, so that they can respond to this understanding in daily life (Catholic Social Teaching)

Our Curriculum

At St Augustine's Catholic Primary School, religious education is primarily based on the Religious Education Directory (RED) "To Know You More Clearly".

In recognition of the importance of religious education in our school, we devote 10% of the teaching week to religious education lessons. In Key Stage 1 and 2 this is 2 hours and 30 minutes, not including Collective Worship. In Early Years, the timetable and learning style is more flexible through continuous provision, but teaching of Religious Education is prioritised to give children the opportunity to engage fully with the curriculum.

The Religious Education Curriculum Directory has a clear framework for learning:



- **Four Knowledge Lenses:** Hear, Believe, Live and Celebrate indicate what should be known by the end of each age phase.
- **Ways of Knowing:** Understand, Discern and Respond are the skills through which children progress and develop their thinking during the curriculum journey.
- **Expected Outcomes**: Set out for each year group what pupils should be able to know, remember and do.
- **Curriculum Branches**: Divides the model curriculum into half-term units of study which repeat annually, giving a spiral curriculum which allows children to build progressively on the prior knowledge and develop their understanding year by year.

The curriculum branches are:

Autumn 1	Creation and Covenant
Autumn 2	Prophecy and Promise
Spring 1	Galilee to Jerusalem
Spring 2	Desert to Garden
Summer 1	To the Ends of the Earth
Summer 2	Dialogue and Encounter



The curriculum is firmly founded on building children's knowledge and understanding of Scripture, while providing opportunities to make connections to other faiths and cultures, as well as to their daily lives.

RE in the Classroom and Beyond

At St Augustine's Catholic Primary School, the teaching of religious education is designed to be as varied and creative as possible, to help children to engage fully with the ideas explored, to ask wondering questions and to lead their own learning in discerning their response.

Learning within the classroom may include:

- Whole class discussion and teaching
- Group discussion and feedback
- Drama and role play
- Research opportunities
- Exploration through music and art
- Making meaning through story, wonder and play
- External speakers / workshops

Learning in religious education cannot always be recorded and does not begin or end in the classroom. Learning from religious education will also flow into other curriculum areas as pupils make links between their learning. We aim to give children the opportunity to connect their formal learning with their wider understanding through regular opportunities to reflect and respond.

Learning beyond the classroom may include:

- Following the example of a role model in daily life at home or in school
- Participation in charitable activity and fundraising
- Inspiration through reflection in prayer and liturgy
- Conversations with clergy or parishioners in school
- Response to catechesis in the parish e.g for Reconciliation or First Holy Communion
- Opportunities to support the provision of RE through school chaplaincy
- Engagement with programmes based on Catholic social teaching e.g. Mini-Vinnies

We work closely with parents and with the parish of St Walstan's Roman Catholic Church and Diocese of East Anglia to support children's progress in understanding and developing on their curriculum and faith journey.

Embracing Other World Views

Catholic education seeks to form pupils who are well prepared to play a positive role in society and strongly aligns to our school mission in trying to follow Jesus' by loving each other and caring for God's world. We therefore embrace learning about other world views with ***"a willingness… to try to understand better the religion of one's neighbours, and to experience something of their religious life and culture."*** (Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales)

The Religious Education Directory includes a branch called 'Dialogue and Encounter' which focuses specifically on exploring other world views and recognizing the connections with the Catholic faith. Opportunities for dialogue and encounter are sought throughout the academic year and especially focus on broadening pupils' experiences and on real-life encounters with those of other faiths or none, to enable connections and develop understanding.

Examples may include:

- Opportunities for families in our community to share their faith and experience
- Conversations with invited visitors about their beliefs and experiences
- Q&A with faith leaders online or in person
- Visits to places of worship
- Guided exploration of artefacts from other faiths
- Independent reading, research and discussion

Feedback, Assessment, Recording and Reporting

Feedback is given in Religious Education to support children's progress and to challenge their thinking. This follows the school's Marking & Feedback Policy.

Assessment follows diocesan and national guidelines, assessing against the expected outcomes for each branch in the Religious Education Directory. Pupil attainment is recorded as per branch of the religious education directory, using the school's assessment recording system and progress is tracked regularly by the RE Lead and SLT in line with the school's Assessment Policy.

The RE Lead moderates outcomes in Religious Education both internally, across our St John the Baptist Mutli-Academy Trust and with local Catholic schools in our diocese. This helps to ensure consistency of expectations with other schools in our Trust and diocese against national expectations.

Outcomes for Religious Education are shared in line with other core curriculum subjects, both during parent consultation meetings and in end-of-year reports.

Monitoring and Evaluating Religious Education

RE Leaders and SLT monitor every aspect of Religious Education in line with other core curriculum subjects. Monitoring is conducted at least termly and feedback is given to individual staff. Outcomes inform further training at staff meetings or actions for the subject action plan.

Self-evaluation of Religious Education is the responsibility of the Head Teacher, the RE Lead, Governors and the Senior Leadership Team, with further input from all teachers of religious education, from families and from pupils. This process ensures a culture of continuous improvement, so that teaching and learning in Religious Education remains the best it can be.

Staff Formation

All staff support the Catholic ethos of our school and strive to develop children's progress and understanding in matters of faith. There are regular opportunities for all staff to engage in personal prayer and reflection which may support their professional role.

All teachers involved in planning and delivering Religious Education lessons have attended CPD sessions and been provided with opportunities to review and plan on the curriculum directory resources. The RE Lead collaborates with other local schools and our diocese to share best practice more widely.