

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Religious Education Policy



September 2025

Subject Leaders: Mrs Emma Hemsil

LCB Link Governor: Rev Declan McConville (Deacon)

“Inspiring each other to learn in the light of Christ.”

Our School Vision and Values Statement

“At St Mary’s, we are a joyful and caring Catholic school where we learn and grow together in the light of Christ.

Inspired by the words of the prophet Micah - ‘Act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with your God.’ (Micah 6:8) - we follow Jesus by living out His love every day. We learn about and practise the principles of Catholic Social Teaching and treat others with kindness, compassion and justice, and we use our gifts to help make the world a better place.

At St Mary’s, we strive to become the people God wants us to be – curious learners, kind friends and joyful children of God.”

Gospel Values

As a Christian learning community, we nurture the key Gospel values of creativity, respect, spirituality and love through a curriculum that is inspired by the wonder of God’s creation. We link these to our 8 bees.

- With **INTEGRITY** and **COURAGE**, we strive for the highest standards of personal, social and intellectual development in order to inspire the creativity of all within our community.
- With **JUSTICE** and **PEACE**, we emphasise the fundamental importance of RESPECT, we recognise that we are all unique and so support each other along our personal journeys of faith.
- With **HUMILITY** and **FORGIVENESS**, we value the spirituality of every member of our community and provide opportunities for all to experience prayer, worship and reflection.
- With **COMPASSION** and **KINDNESS**, love underpins every action we take and is the cornerstone of all we do.
- With our community we work together to look after our common home based on the Pope’s guidance in Laudato Si.



Catholic Social Teaching

At St. Mary’s Catholic Primary School, we teach children about the principles of Catholic Social Teaching (CST). As Catholics, we believe that it is our role to help others in need and care for the world that we have been given. We use CAFOD, Ten:Ten and Picture News resources to support teaching and learning related to CST.

These principles of Catholic Social Teaching are linked into all areas of the curriculum We focus on:

- Human Dignity
- Stewardship
- The Common Good
- Participation
- Subsidiarity
- Solidarity

Aims

At St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, Poole, we are committed to the Catholic faith, recognising each individual as special, unique and made in the image of God. Religious Education is a core subject through which we inspire our pupils to be inspired, wondering and spiritual. We aim to help students understand and develop a mature relationship with the Catholic faith by exploring God's revelation through Jesus Christ and fostering an understanding of our principles of Catholic Social Teaching principles and our Gospel values. The primary goal of Religious Education is to increase the knowledge and understanding of the Christian message for all pupils in Catholic schools. As such, it will be planned, taught, assessed and monitored with the same rigour as other core curriculum subjects.

Our intent is to inspire our children:

- To study Jesus' teaching, keeping Christ at the heart of this school to encompass the whole faith community of home, school and parish into the life of the school.
- To deepen understanding with learning opportunities that allow pupils to experience the awe and beauty of God's creation and our role in its stewardship.
- Use Catholic Social Teaching to live out our values in today's society. We encourage each child to use and develop their God-given gifts and talents to the benefit of all.
- Take an active part in a range of opportunities for prayer and reflection. To have the opportunity to lead and shape worship.
- To think critically to enable our children to appreciate and understand the significance of our beliefs and practices in everyday life.

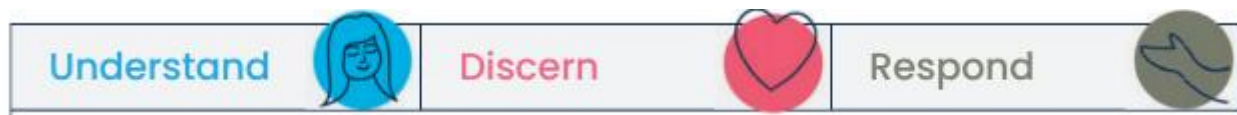
Teaching and curriculum

Our school is fully Catholic RE is allocated 10% of total teaching time, emphasising its status as a core subject.

RE is allocated 10% of total teaching time, emphasising its status as a core subject. We follow *To Know You More Clearly*, a diocesan-approved scheme based on the Second Vatican Council, the Catholic Catechism, and the revised RE Curriculum Directory. The model curriculum: The curriculum comprises six branches which are organised into year groups. These branches align with the liturgical year, as well as a six-term school year. The curriculum is robust, sequenced and progressive. At its centre is the study of scripture. The curriculum requires pupils to have regular opportunities to engage in critical and creative thinking and in personal reflection. It enables pupils to make meaningful connections between scriptural texts (hear), Catholic beliefs (believe), prayer and liturgy (celebrate) and the relationship of faith to life (live).

The expected end of age-phase expected outcomes are presented systematically around the key concepts in each of the knowledge lenses. The model curriculum offers an ambitious and detailed programme for pupils from Early Years to the age of 14. It fulfils the requirements of the Catholic Schools Inspectorate framework. The six-branch framework works within a half term.

Branch One - Creation and covenant
Branch Two - Prophecy and promise
Branch Three - Galilee to Jerusalem
Branch Four - Desert to garden
Branch Five - To the ends of the Earth
Branch Six - Dialogue and encounter



These symbols are used to describe the way the children develop and describe their age related attainment skills. They aim to describe the holistic ways children experience education as a creative and growth in understanding and link to their own life.

There are different ways to know – To know, critically assimilate and then put it into practice. Often summarised in the phrase **See, Choose, Act**

The study of other faiths will use the lenses of Dialogue and encounter.

Monitoring and Evaluating

The success of our RE curriculum is evidenced by:

- **Knowledge Retention:** Children demonstrate deep learning and the ability to recall and apply knowledge. We want our pupils to know more and remember more,
- **Critical Thinking:** Pupils confidently discuss and navigate complex topics and develop questions about faith, morality, and the world around them.
- **Academic Achievement:** Each child meets age-related objectives, showing pride in their work and understanding.
- **Cultural Awareness:** Pupils exhibit respect for others and are prepared to contribute positively to a diverse society.