St Ralph Sherwin
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

Federation of All Saints & St Margaret's Catholic Voluntary Academy.

Religious Education Policy

Mission Statement

We will provide a happy, caring and stimulating environment, in which every child may achieve their full potential, valuing the variety of faith and cultural experiences in our children.
We will help children develop their relationship with God through prayer, worship and liturgy, helping them to live as good Christians.

Lord in everything I do let me always follow you;
Let the moment of my days overflow with endless praise;
Every move that I shall make, Lord direct the steps I take.

Celebration for everyone Hymnal No 381 – Patrick Appleford.

Approved by:	Grainne Beaumont	**Date:**	10/09/2025
Last reviewed on:	22/10/2026		
Next review due by: 22/10/2027			

"For all children Religious Education is a subject in its own right in the school's curriculum. It is a rigorous academic discipline, and as such it is to be taught, developed and resourced with the same commitment as any other subject.

For those already engaged in the journey of Faith, Religious Education will be catechesis, and for some children Religious Education will be evangelisation, the first opportunity to hear the good news of the Gospel."
(RE curriculum directory P10)

Aims and Objectives

- To support and develop the primary task of parents, who are the first teachers of their child in the ways of faith (Rites of Baptism).
- To support children in their journey of faith – in getting to know God and experience His presence in all aspects of life.
- To provide a balance between knowledge of Catholic doctrine (teaching), response to God (Worship) and Christian living.
- To provide a syllabus for Religious Education that will give adequate and balanced attention to the:
  - Liturgical Year
  - Sacraments
  - Church's teaching
  - Catholic Social teaching principles
- To enable the children to grow into an awareness of the justice and peace issues of our time and to have respect for life at all levels.

Content

The RED Religious Education programme for Primary schools, as recommended by Bishop Patrick McMahon, is the agreed core programme to be used as the basis for our policy.

The programme consists of six main branches which are explored each year, with each year group exploring a specific theme of the branch using big questions. Each year, children then build on their knowledge as they progress through the school and explore a different part of the branch, as well as revisiting knowledge from the previous year. An overview of the big questions being explored each year are available on our school website.

The themes are:

- Creation and Covenant
- Prophecy and Promise
- Galilee to Jerusalem
- Desert to Garden
- To the Ends of the Earth
- Dialogue and Encounter

The school uses the medium-term planning exemplars from the Diocese. As the school is made up of mixed age classes we have adopted a two year cycle. This ensures every child receives lessons on every topic through their time in school. The teaching of R.E. takes place in the classroom through a selection of differentiated activities, including storytelling, role play, painting, discussion, reading and independent research. R.E. is also taught in a cross curricular way in addition to explicit subject teaching.

Organisation and Methodology

10% of Taught time is put aside for Religious Education for all pupils, excluding the daily Act of Worship. Staff meet to plan for each new topic.

Planning of work by Class Teacher

Work is planned for each branch in advance of teaching. Teachers then adapt the topic as they teach, based on the learning needs of their class. These plans consider –

- School Policy

- The Church's calendar
- The seasonal calendar
- Scripture
- Religious Artworks
- Prayer and Liturgy
- Doctrine
- Links to other subject areas
- Computing opportunities

Each topic will have:

- It's own identified aim within the context of the stated general aim
- Identified learning intentions and learning outcomes i.e. Key experiences, key attitudes, key skills and key concepts will be identified.
- List of resources required for the topic.
- An assessment activity at the end of each topic where teachers can 'capture' what the children have learnt.
- An act of worship where children can reflect on what they have learnt and celebrate their topic through prayer.

Assessment:

Recording of children's work takes many forms – pictorial, written, displays, assemblies, etc. All children have a Religious Education book. Children are assessed on the levels of attainment in R.E. each term and these assessments are uploaded onto Insight.

Staff ensure that all children have equal access to the R.E. curriculum and plan so that all the activities are differentiated to meet the needs of all the class. Teachers will use the 'Religious Education Directory Guidance for Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities' to support with planning for and assessing children with Special Educational Needs.

Resources:

Each class has some resources appropriate to their age and each teacher has access to the Nottingham Diocese RED SharePoint. Most resources are stored centrally where all staff have access. We review and update our resources regularly. We recognise that people are our greatest resource and that teachers 'take the place of Christ' in relation to the children's education in the Catholic Faith. Therefore, we work to promote respect, love, understanding, compassion, kindness, dedication and personal growth.

Staff Training and Development:

Staff meetings are held to discuss the teaching of Religious and Spiritual development in school. The R.E. coordinator attends meetings at the Diocesan Centre whenever possible. Each year, one inset day takes place with other schools within our CMAT.

Prayer and Worship:

In school we see Prayer as an intrinsic part of our school life. Pupils are guided to reflect on the Word of God in formal and informal settings, to listen to music and to pray individually as well as in a group. Each day begins and ends with an appropriate time of prayer. Each classroom has a focal point for prayer which may be decorated with children's pictures, prayers or poems.

Sacramental Preparation:

Specific preparation for Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist take place annually at school for pupils from Year 3 and upwards who have reached that stage in their journey of Faith. A decision on the latter is made by Priests, staff and parents. The Parish Priest and Head Teacher meet with the parents in the Advent term to explain to them the vital role they play in this preparation.

A further meeting takes place before reception of Sacrament of Reconciliation which is celebrated during May. Parents are further involved in the immediate preparation of the Eucharist which is celebrated in the month June/July.