Religious Education Curriculum Vision Statement

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Otley

Academic Year 2026 to 2027

"As a family with God in our hearts, we love, laugh and learn."

Document owner	Faith Mentors and Religious Education Team
Faith Mentors	Mr Gilhooly, Miss Middleton, Mrs Tremlett and Mr Prowse
Approved by	Academy Council
Review cycle	Annual

Our vision

Religious Education is at the heart of our Catholic school. It helps every child to know and love Jesus, understand the Catholic faith, encounter other religions and worldviews with respect, and recognise how faith calls us to serve others.

Intent

> ***"To engage in a systematic study of the mystery of God, of the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, the teachings of the Church, the central beliefs that Catholics hold, the basis for them and the relationship between faith and life."***
>
> *Religious Education Curriculum Directory 2023, page 6*

At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Religious Education is a core subject and a central part of the formation of every child. Rooted in our mission, we recognise that each person is created in the image and likeness of God and is therefore known, loved and valued.

Our curriculum enables pupils to deepen their religious and theological knowledge, communicate their understanding with confidence and connect faith with everyday life. Children learn about Scripture, the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, the beliefs and traditions of the Catholic Church, prayer and liturgy, the Mass, the Sacraments, Mary, the apostles and the saints.

We aim to nurture wonder, awe, reverence and spirituality. Children are supported to develop a positive prayer life and a personal relationship with God, knowing that Jesus is their friend and that God is loving, forgiving and always present.

Religious Education also helps pupils understand Catholic moral and social teaching. They learn that faith is lived through compassion, justice, stewardship and service, and they consider how they can contribute to the life of the school, parish, local community and wider world.

Pupils encounter other religions and worldviews in a thoughtful and respectful way. This develops knowledge, understanding and dialogue, preparing children to participate positively in modern Britain while remaining confident in their own Catholic identity.

Implementation

> ***"Religious education is more than just one subject in the curriculum. In Catholic schools, it is the core of the "core curriculum"."***
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> *Pope St John Paul II, 1988*

The teaching and learning of Religious Education permeates the life of St Joseph's. It is also taught explicitly as a core subject, with at least 10 per cent of curriculum time dedicated to RE. Our curriculum follows the Religious Education Curriculum Directory and the expectations of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, supported by diocesan guidance and carefully selected resources.

How Religious Education is taught

Careful sequencing

Teachers identify the knowledge, vocabulary and skills pupils need and build these progressively. Prior learning is revisited so that pupils can make secure links within and across branches of study.

Strong teaching

Lessons include clear explanation, modelling, questioning, discussion, individual and collaborative learning, and opportunities for pupils to apply knowledge independently. Our "I do, we do, you do" approach supports confidence and success.

Religious literacy

Children learn precise theological vocabulary and are encouraged to speak, listen, read and write with increasing confidence, depth and accuracy.

Scripture and tradition

Pupils develop knowledge of the Bible and learn how to locate, interpret and respond to Scripture. They explore the life of Jesus, key Old Testament figures, Mary, the apostles and the saints.

Prayer and reflection

Every lesson provides appropriate opportunities for spiritual and moral reflection. Prayer and liturgy, sacred art, music and other forms of expression help pupils respond personally and creatively.

Faith in action

Catholic Social Teaching, charitable action and service help children understand that belief shapes how we treat other people and care for our common home.

Inclusion and challenge

Teachers adapt teaching so that pupils with SEND and other barriers can participate meaningfully, while maintaining ambition and providing suitable challenge for all.

Curriculum enrichment

The curriculum is enriched through links with Our Lady and All Saints Parish, visits and visitors, sacred objects, fine art, music, diocesan resources, Catholic charities and opportunities to lead prayer and liturgy. Children study other religions and worldviews both through dedicated learning and through meaningful links across the year.

Impact

> ***"The outcome of excellent Religious Education is religiously literate and consciously engaged young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills appropriate to their age and capacity to reflect spiritually, and think ethically and theologically."***
>
> *Religious Education Curriculum Directory 2023, page 6*

The impact of our RE curriculum is seen in pupils who know more, remember more and can explain their learning with increasing depth. They use religious vocabulary accurately, make connections between Scripture, Church teaching and life, and respond thoughtfully to questions of faith, meaning and morality.

Children grow in confidence as people of faith. They show respect for those with different religions and worldviews, participate meaningfully in prayer and liturgy and recognise their responsibility to love and serve others. This reflects our mission as a family with God in our hearts.

Assessment and monitoring

Teachers use ongoing assessment to identify what pupils know, understand and can do. Evidence includes pupils' written work, discussion, questioning, observation, knowledge checks and responses to Scripture and theological ideas. Assessment informs future teaching and helps staff identify misconceptions, gaps and appropriate next steps.

The Faith Mentors and RE team evaluate provision through learning walks, lesson visits, scrutiny of pupils' work, pupil voice, discussion with staff and analysis of attainment and progress. Findings inform professional development, curriculum

refinement and the school development plan. Leaders pay particular attention to the experience and achievement of pupils with SEND, disadvantaged pupils and pupils who face other barriers.

What success looks like

- Pupils develop secure and increasingly connected knowledge of Catholic belief, Scripture, worship and tradition.
- Pupils can reflect spiritually and think ethically and theologically at a level appropriate to their age.
- Pupils speak and write about RE using accurate and ambitious vocabulary.
- Pupils understand that faith has consequences for daily choices, relationships, service and care for creation.
- Pupils respect and engage positively with people whose religions and worldviews differ from their own.
- All pupils, including those with SEND and other barriers, are supported and challenged to achieve well.
- Pupils leave Year 6 ready to continue their journey of faith, learning and service.

Leadership and shared responsibility

The Headteacher and Faith Mentors lead the strategic development of Religious Education. Class teachers are responsible for high-quality planning, teaching and assessment. The Academy Council provides support and challenge, while pupils, families, the parish and the wider Catholic community contribute to the lived experience of the curriculum.

Our Faith Mentors - Mr Gilhooly, Miss Middleton, Mrs Tremlett and Mr Prowse - are available to children, staff and families who would like to talk about their faith, ask questions or seek support.