



## ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

#### MISSION STATEMENT

*St. Peter's Catholic Primary School is a Christ-centred family where every individual person is celebrated with joy and is truly valued.*

*We nurture caring, supportive relationships based on mutual respect and love.*

*We serve the different communities to which we all belong – home, school and parish, as well as our wider world.*

*When we welcome the child, we welcome the whole family.*

*We foster resilience so that we may be the best that we can be; spiritually, morally, academically, socially and physically.*

*We are guided by our faith, we live each day in the love of God and neighbour, and we aspire to excellence in all we do.*

*St. Peter, pray for us.*

#### Overview

RE is the core of the core subjects we teach. Our planning for this subject will make meaningful links with the Catholic Life and Mission of our school, and with Catholic Social Teaching. Our aim is to ignite children's curiosity to learn about our faith and from our faith. In our school we will help all children to develop an understanding of the place that our Catholic faith plays in our lives, and how it influences us, as a community, each day.

#### INTENT

- To help all children to develop an understanding of our Catholic faith.
- To enable children to learn about and get to know Jesus.
- To develop children's appreciation and wonder at the impact of our faith on our lives.
- To make meaningful, relevant links with other subjects of the curriculum.
- To explore key religious beliefs, practices and values with age-appropriate resources.
- To encourages children to analyse different perspectives, ask insightful questions and develop their own informed opinions.
- To introduce fundamental religious concepts in Key Stage One through stories, songs and activities.
- To study Sacred Scripture, and to deepen children's knowledge and understanding of the Mass and Sacraments.

## IMPLEMENTATION

- RE is taught for at least 10% of our weekly curriculum timetable each week at St. Peter's.
- All RE lessons are compliant with the Religious Education Directory (2023) as laid down by the bishops' conference.
- In line with the requirements of the Bishop of Shrewsbury Diocese, our RE lessons follow *The Vine and The Branches* programme of study in year groups 1-6, and *The Way, The Truth and The Life* in EYFS.
- We begin the teaching of Religious Education in the EYFS. From their earliest years, children are encouraged and facilitated to make personal, spiritual responses to the stories, songs and activities in which they take part.
- As they move into Key Stage 1, children will build on their EYFS experience, progressing to recording their personal responses in writing, which becomes more extensive throughout this key stage.
- The knowledge lenses of Hear, Believe, Celebrate and Live divide the content of *The Vine and The Branches* into four systematic sub-sections for the study of Catholicism, and there are two additional lenses of Dialogue and Encounter for the study of religions and worldviews.
- Strong links are made with the teaching of English. Stories, plays and poems are shared with the children. Children's work is marked with the same rigour and thoroughness as their work in English and the other core subjects.
- The development of oracy, writing, thinking and reasoning skills is fostered as part of our teaching in RE.
- Our children will learn about the Catholic faith, and experience teaching about other faiths and worldviews during their time at St. Peter's; particularly in the 'Dialogue and Encounter' branch of *The Vine and The Branches*.
- Art, music, dance, poetry and drama feature in teachers' planning as part of Creative RE.
- On every appropriate occasion, teachers use first-hand experience, visits, visitors, artefacts and the local and wider environment to engage children's interest and imagination, and to foster their spirituality.
- Through our Catholic ethos, children are encouraged to develop their feelings, empathy and understanding for others. Opportunities for children to encounter and explore Catholic Social Teaching are explicitly planned for in RE and throughout our whole taught curriculum.
- RE at St. Peter's helps children to develop an understanding of citizenship and life in modern Britain.
- Children learn about rights and responsibilities, as well as moral, spiritual, social and environmental issues.
- We use financial resources to build up an extensive collection of resources, artefacts and books to support the teaching of RE. The section of our budget dedicated to RE is of the same value as that dedicated to maths and English.
- RE is monitored by the subject leader and by governors and local headteachers through learning walks, book scrutiny and monitoring of planning.

## IMPACT

Religious Education motivates children at St. Peter's to 'be the best that they can be,' as stated in our school mission statement. It has a strong presence in the ethos of our school through displays, performances, music, drama and assemblies. Parents, families and members of the church and parish are encouraged to support the teaching and learning of Religious Education. Pupils develop an understanding and respect for different faiths and the religious diversity of our wider

community and world. They begin to appreciate how our Catholic faith has shaped our school and society.

Katherine Ryan

Autumn, 2025

This policy will be reviewed in November 2028