



ST. ALBAN'S

CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

LEAD THE WAY

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

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INTRODUCTION

At St. Alban's Catholic Primary School, Religious Education is central to our mission, shaping a welcoming and inclusive Catholic ethos. Our programme is rooted in sound educational principles, adapted to pupils' age and ability, and enriched by our school values. RE nurtures personal spirituality, moral development, and social responsibility, guided by Church teaching and the mystery of Christ. This policy is informed by diocesan and national guidance, Christ at the Centre (Stock, 2013), and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. We affirm that:

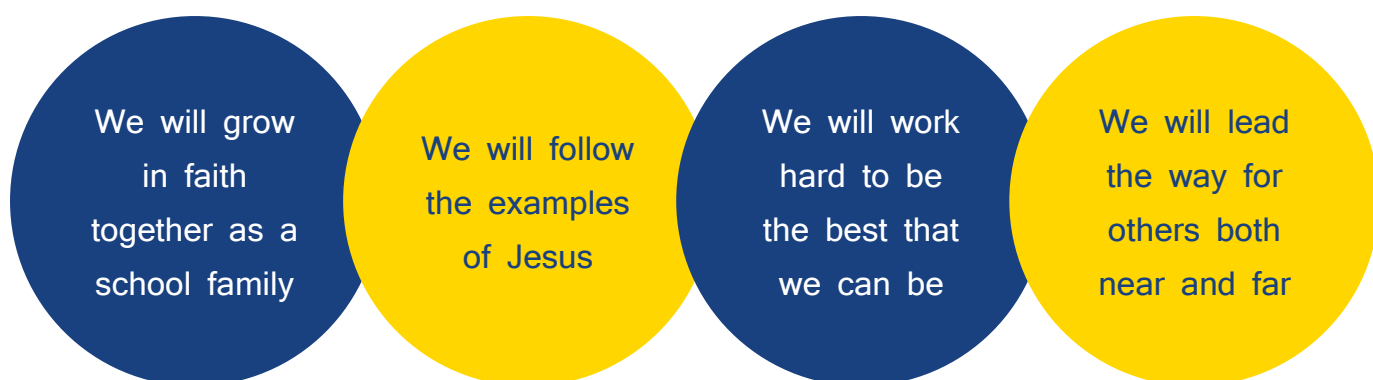
"Religious Education is not one subject amongst many but the foundation of the entire education process."

– Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, 1988

MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission Statement is central to the life of our school. All members of the school community are encouraged to think of ways in which they can strive to live out the Mission Statement in their everyday lives. The mission statement for St. Alban's was created by the children, staff, parents and governors of the school.

St. Alban's Mission Statement



St Alban's Catholic Primary School is a Christian community embracing a partnership between the school, home, and parish. It offers to each member the opportunity to grow in knowledge of the Father through Jesus His Son with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, fostered through prayer, worship and awareness of

the scriptures. We believe that every individual is uniquely created and loved by God and therefore has a right to be part of a community where each member is valued and respected for their own worth irrespective of race, colour, creed or ability. The children will be helped to appreciate that they are members of God's wider world in its richness and diversity. Our Curriculum provides a Catholic Christian setting in which all children have an equal opportunity to grow in understanding and in the acquisition of skills, attitudes and values.

THE ROLE OF PARENTS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

"The first educators in the faith are parents. It is they, above all others, who establish in their children the first sensitivity and responsiveness to the presence of God, to the practice of prayer and to the patterns of life in the community of faith, the parish. By their example in the home and, their participation in the Mass and the other sacraments, the foundations of a lifelong faith and discipleship in their children are laid down."

Statement from the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales on Religious Education in Catholic Schools 2000.

It is with this statement in mind that we recognise and acknowledge the importance of the partnership with the home and parish communities to which our children belong. As the General Director for Catechesis affirms: "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."

THE IMPORTANCE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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](#)).

AIMS

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

- Living the school's mission by actively embracing and reflecting its values in everyday life.
- Recognising the spiritual dimension of life, developing an appreciation for prayer, worship, and the presence of God.
- Building a strong understanding of Catholic beliefs and traditions, while also learning about other world religions with confidence and respect.
- Connecting RE with wider learning, making meaningful links across subjects and real-life experiences.
- Reflecting deeply on life's experiences, asking thoughtful questions about their own journey and the beliefs of others.
- Strengthening personal faith, while showing respect for the diverse worldviews within their community and beyond.
- Developing a sense of love and responsibility, inspired by Catholic Social Teaching, to care for themselves, others, and the world around them.

THE CURRICULUM

At St. Alban's Catholic Primary School, religious education is primarily guided by the Religious Education Curriculum Directory (RED) To Know You More Clearly.

We recognise the central role of religious education in our curriculum and dedicate 10% of the teaching week to RE lessons, excluding Collective Worship. In Early Years, the timetable and learning approach remain flexible, yet religious education remains a priority, ensuring children engage fully with the curriculum and develop a strong foundation in faith.

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 divide 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.

Each half-term follows the six-branch structure of the RED Curriculum:

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.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

One of the central purposes of Religious Education at St. Alban's Catholic Primary School is to engage pupils in a systematic study of Church teaching and the saving mystery of Christ. The following principles guide our delivery of RE:

At St Alban's we believe in providing the children with rich and varied learning opportunities. Teachers are encouraged to be as creative as possible in their lesson planning and to employ a range of teaching styles including:

- whole class discussion and teaching
- group discussion and feedback
- drama and role play
- independent research and study

- exploration through music and art
- Godly Play

OTHER WORLD VIEWS

Throughout the academic year, pupils at St. Alban's Catholic Primary School engage in meaningful experiences that broaden their perspectives and deepen interfaith understanding. In line with the Dialogue and Encounter strand of the Religious Education Directory, these opportunities help children explore other worldviews and recognise connections with Catholic teaching.

We promote respectful dialogue and real-life engagement with people of different faiths or none, encouraging empathy and appreciation for religious diversity. These experiences may include:

- Families from our school community sharing their faith and traditions
- Visitors speaking about their beliefs and lived experiences
- Q&A sessions with faith leaders, either in person or online
- Visits to places of worship
- Guided exploration of religious artefacts
- Independent research, reading, and discussion

External speakers are always checked in line with the CES checklist for external speakers, to ensure safe and constructive dialogue and encounter opportunities for our pupils: <https://catholiceducation.org.uk/guidance-for-schools/governance/item/1003587-checklist-forexternal-speakers-to-schools>

RESOURCES

Teachers have access to Diocese-provided resources, including the appropriate Religious Education Directory (RED) for their year group, to support planning and teaching. Pupils in both Key Stages have access to Bibles in their classrooms.

FEEDBACK, ASSESSMENT, RECORDING AND REPORTING

Assessment in Religious Education is carried out in line with diocesan guidance and supports teachers in monitoring pupils' progress and attainment across the Religious Education Directory (RED). Assessment is informed by pupils' participation in discussions, written outcomes, self and peer assessment, and pupil conferencing, which provides opportunities for children to demonstrate and reflect on their development within the Ways of Knowing.

Marking and feedback are carried out in accordance with the school's Feedback and Marking Policy. Pupils are encouraged to respond to feedback through reflective comments written in purple pen, supporting their ongoing learning and development.

Teachers use diocesan assessment standards to inform judgements and moderate learning. At the end of each branch, teachers undertake pupil conferencing in line with diocesan guidance to assess pupils' understanding and progress within the Ways of Knowing. Assessment outcomes are recorded on Arbor in line with whole-school practice, enabling progress to be tracked over time and compared with attainment in other curriculum areas, including writing.

Moderation takes place both within school and externally through Xavier Catholic Education Trust RE Lead meetings and collaborative moderation with colleagues across the Trust. This helps to ensure that assessment judgements are consistent, reliable and informed by shared expectations.

REPORTING TO PARENTS

A termly curriculum overview is shared with parents, providing information about the Religious Education topics to be covered and any other relevant information. Information shared at the beginning of the academic year helps parents to understand the Religious Education curriculum and how they can support their child's learning.

Parent consultation meetings take place in the Autumn and Spring terms, providing opportunities to discuss pupils' progress, attainment and engagement in Religious Education. Parents are also invited into school to view and celebrate their child's work.

An end-of-year report is sent to parents in the Summer term, which includes information about their child's attainment and progress in Religious Education..

MONITORING

Religious Education books and planning are routinely monitored by the RE Lead and the Headteacher to ensure consistency and quality. The leadership team and RE Lead conduct regular visits to RE lessons, utilizing Step Lab coaching to enhance teaching in alignment with other curriculum areas.

The RE Lead meets termly with the RE Governor to provide updates, review data, assess provision, and conduct book reviews, learning walks, and pupil voice exercises. Additionally, RE work is moderated internally through CPD sessions with staff and collaboratively with RE leaders from Xavier Trust to maintain high standards of teaching and learning

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

At St Alban's, Catholic Social Teaching (CST) is rooted in the Gospel and the teachings of the Catholic Church. It encourages pupils to put their faith into action by promoting the dignity of every person, caring for creation and working for the common good.

The principles of Catholic Social Teaching are woven throughout school life and are explored through the curriculum, prayer and liturgy, charitable fundraising, and opportunities for service within the school and wider community.

Catholic Social Teaching is incorporated into Religious Education lessons, where links are made with the teachings of Jesus, the actions of the saints, people from the Bible and examples from the world today. It is a regular focus of Gospel Assemblies and a key part of Friday Celebration Assemblies, where pupils are encouraged to recognise and celebrate how Catholic Social Teaching is lived out within our school, local community and the wider world.

At St Alban's, we use CAFOD resources to support pupils in developing an understanding of Catholic Social Teaching and their role as global citizens. The CAFOD CST characters are used across the school to help pupils explore and apply the principles of Catholic Social Teaching in an age-appropriate way. Pupils

across the school also benefit from workshops led by CAFOD, which further enrich their understanding of Catholic Social Teaching and its application in the world today.