



St. Aloysius' Catholic Primary School

Religious Education Policy

Purpose

Catholic education is based on the belief that the human and divine are inseparable. We believe in the value of the individual and the education of the whole person. Through Religious Education and the general life of the school, we aim to live out our Mission Statement in school and to prepare pupils to serve as witnesses to moral and spiritual values in the wider world.

Aims

- To support and encourage faith when it is present and to facilitate its emergence when it is not.
- To promote as the central and dominant feature of RE in the classroom an appreciation and understanding of Catholic practice and doctrine.
- To promote religious questions in general and address other religious beliefs and practices.
- To promote the moral and spiritual development of pupils, in the imitation of Jesus Christ.
- To promote and encourage among Catholic pupils active committed participation in the life of the Church and involvement in the community, particularly in caring for those who are disadvantaged.
- To ensure that the partnership between home, parish and school becomes a reality rather than merely an aspiration.

Content and Approach

We implement the diocesan scheme of work, 'Discerning Disciples'.

Class teachers are responsible for medium-term and short-term planning in RE and for teaching RE to their class.

Religious Education is a core curriculum subject and is allocated 10% of taught curriculum time, in accordance with the requirements of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales and Birmingham Diocesan Education Service (BDES) Diocesan Protocol 14.3. Teaching is adapted to meet the needs of pupils and takes place through whole-class teaching, group work and other appropriate approaches.

Staff have opportunities to attend training in aspects of Religious Education.

The Religious Education Policy complies with the school's Equal Opportunities Policy and Special Educational Needs Policy.



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Right of Withdrawal from Religious Education

Religious Education is central to the mission and Catholic character of St. Aloysius' Catholic Primary School and forms part of the school's basic curriculum. The school therefore expects all pupils to participate fully in Religious Education. However, parents and carers have a legal right to withdraw their child from all or part of Religious Education.

In accordance with Birmingham Diocesan Education Service (BDES) Diocesan Protocol the Governing Board will follow Catholic Education Service guidance on the right of withdrawal from Religious Education and will seek appropriate advice from the Diocese if a parent or carer wishes to exercise this right.

A parent or carer wishing to consider withdrawal should make a written request to the Headteacher. The Headteacher will invite the parent or carer to discuss the request so that the school can clarify the nature and purpose of Religious Education in a Catholic school, the areas from which withdrawal is requested, and any practical arrangements that may be required. Parents and carers are not required to give a reason for withdrawal.

Where a pupil is withdrawn from all or part of Religious Education, the school will make appropriate arrangements for supervision. The school is not required to provide alternative Religious Education or additional curriculum teaching during the period of withdrawal. Children who are withdrawn from RE are to be provided with work by their parents to be completed independently. Any arrangements will be considered carefully so that they are safe, proportionate and do not undermine the Catholic nature and mission of the school.

In accordance with BDES Diocesan Protocol, the Headteacher will keep a record of all requests to withdraw from Religious Education and where parents or carers are willing to provide them, the reasons for those requests. Details of withdrawal requests will be included in the Headteacher's termly report to the Governing Board.

The right of withdrawal from Religious Education is distinct from the legal right of withdrawal from prayer and liturgy (collective worship). Any request relating to prayer and liturgy will be considered separately in accordance with statutory requirements, diocesan guidance and the school's Prayer and Liturgy Policy.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

Children are assessed at the end of each unit of work against the unit objectives. Assessments are recorded on the school's RE assessment sheet and copies of assessments are given to the RE Co-ordinator to track coverage and progress. RE moderation meetings are held each year.



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The School's Involvement with Parents and the Parish Community

Parents are welcomed at regular Masses in school and meetings are held to help parents to be involved and to support their children in sacramental preparation.

Priests from the parish of The Oxford Oratory regularly celebrate Mass at the school and all children visit the church for Mass, other liturgies and visits relating to the RE curriculum.

Date September 2026

Review September 2029