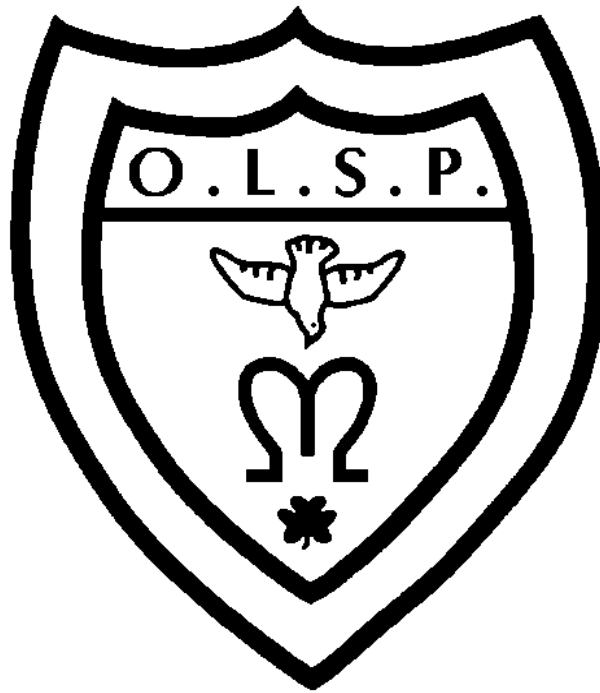


***Our Lady and St Patrick's
Roman Catholic
Nursery and Primary School***



Religious Education Policy

Our Lady and St Patrick's Roman Catholic Nursery and Primary School

Religious Education Policy

Mission:

The Catholic Faith and the principles of the Gospel are central to the daily life of Our Lady and St Patrick's School. We are committed to:

"Living, Loving and Learning Together in God's Way"

Rationale:

"Catholics believe that Religious Education is not one subject among many but the foundation of the entire educational process. The beliefs and values it communicates should inspire and unify every aspect of school life. It should provide the context for, and substantially shape, the school curriculum, and offer living experience of the life of faith in its practical expression." (Bishops Conference of England and Wales, 1988) We also recognise that our children come from a range of backgrounds and abilities and that our teaching of Religious Education will reflect this. (Reference Curriculum Directory, pg.9)

Aims and Objectives

Aims

"The Catholic vision of education promotes the dignity and freedom of every person as created in the image and likeness of God. This vision inspires and encourages the beliefs and values which are lived out in the daily life of the Catholic school." (RED 2022)

Curriculum Religious Education in Catholic schools aims to promote:

- **Religious literacy:** deepening knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith and its living tradition.
- **Engagement with questions of meaning and purpose,** exploring the ultimate questions of human life in the light of faith.
- **Formation of skills, virtues, and habits of mind** needed to think spiritually, ethically, and theologically.

Objectives

- To develop knowledge and understanding of Sacred Scripture, the Church, the person of Jesus Christ, and the central beliefs which Catholics hold.
- To form pupils who can relate faith to life and life to faith.
- To encourage study, critical thinking, investigation, reflection, and prayer.
- To nurture attitudes of respect for truth, openness to the views of others, and an awareness of moral and spiritual responsibility.
- To foster the ability to dialogue in a multi-faith and multi-cultural society.

Religious Education in the Classroom

Implicit RE

Through the ethos of the school, relationships, prayer, liturgy, and the daily lived experience of Catholic faith.

Explicit RE

Through taught, timetabled Religious Education lessons. In line with the Bishops' Conference, a minimum of **10% of the timetable** is devoted to the teaching of Religious Education across EYFS, Key Stage 1, and Key Stage 2.

Programmes of Study

- Religious Education at Our Lady and St Patrick's follows the **Religious Education Directory (2022)**, *To Know You More Clearly*.
- The six areas of study are:
 1. Sacred Scripture
 2. Church
 3. Theological Foundations
 4. Christian Living
 5. Judaism
 6. Other World Religions
- In partnership with the Diocese of Plymouth, the school is implementing RED gradually across phases. Y3 and EYFS began in September 2023, with Y1 and Y4 from September 2024.

Pedagogy and Methodology

Religious Education is taught using a variety of strategies to meet the needs of all pupils, making use of sacred texts, theology, liturgy, art, drama, discussion, and opportunities for reflection and prayer.

The process of **engage – explore – reflect – respond** guides our approach, mirroring the human search for meaning, God's initiative in Revelation, and our response in faith (RED 2022).

Inclusion and Equality

All pupils, regardless of background, ability, or faith, have access to Religious Education. Differentiation and inclusion are embedded in planning. "Children of all abilities benefit from ways of learning and knowing which are not necessarily reliant on cognitive ability, in particular, the learning of the heart." (RED 2022)

Right of Withdrawal

Parents retain the legal right to withdraw their child from Religious Education. However, in a Catholic school, Religious Education is central to the whole curriculum and withdrawal is strongly discouraged.

Other Religions and Dialogue

- Judaism is taught each year as part of the RED curriculum.
- In addition, pupils study Islam, Hinduism, or Sikhism at different points.
- Dialogue and Encounter is embedded, particularly in upper Key Stage 2, preparing pupils to live respectfully in a multi-faith society.
- Visitors from other faiths are welcomed to share their lived experience.

Assessment, Monitoring, Recording, and Reporting

- Standards in RE are assessed against **age-related standards for Religious Education** (developed nationally in line with RED).
- Teachers maintain records of progress and provide personalised feedback.
- In-school moderation and diocesan moderation take place annually.
- Pupil progress is tracked and used for school improvement planning.
- RE contributes to teacher profiles and school self-evaluation, in line with other core subjects.
- Reports to parents include progress and achievement in Religious Education.
- Data is submitted annually to the Diocese of Plymouth and termly to the Trust.

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure continued alignment with the Religious Education Directory and diocesan guidance.