



Guardian Angels Catholic Primary School

RE Policy

Date Written	September 2026
Date Agreed	
Chair of Governors (Signature)	Mary Higgins
Head Teacher (Signature)	Helen Milligan
Date for review	September 2027

Introduction and Mission

Guardian Angels Catholic Primary School aims to be a living, loving and sacramental community which is inspired by the life of Christ, the teachings of the Church, and is rooted in Gospel Values and Catholic Virtues.

At the heart of the Church's very being is her mission to teach. Christ's own words to his disciples are addressed to his Church today.

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And look, I am with you always; yes, to the end of time". (Matthew 28: 18-20)

We see Guardian Angels Catholic Primary School as having an integral role in fulfilling this command of Jesus, our Lord.

The challenge that Christ sets us in the gospel is a goal we seek to attain within our school community. The importance of sustaining and promoting our Catholic faith is central to our school's mission for the children in our care.

Our school will offer a high standard of Catholic education where children can grow in understanding and in the acquisition of skills, attitudes, and values in all subject areas.

In delivering the curriculum we recognise the uniqueness of each child and respect the value, dignity, and individuality of each one, celebrating diversity and learning the values of mutual respect, individual liberty, and tolerance.

Within our school, great emphasis is given to Religious Education. Prayer and Liturgy, the celebration of the Mass and preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, the Eucharist and Confirmation are given great importance. Every effort is made to live by and promote the teaching of Our Lord and his Church concerning faith and moral living.

We attach great importance to forging strong relationships within the school community and recognise that the partnership, which exists between school, home, and parish, must be nurtured if we are to grow and develop as a living and worshipping community and truly provide a Christ centred environment for the children in our care.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Introduction and Mission

Guardian Angels Catholic Primary School is a living, loving and sacramental community inspired by the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and rooted in the mission of the Catholic Church. Christ

is at the heart of all that we do, and Religious Education is therefore the core of the core curriculum.

Our mission is to ensure that every child encounters Christ, comes to know Him more clearly, loves Him more dearly and follows Him more nearly. Through Religious Education, Prayer and Liturgy, Catholic Social Teaching and the daily witness of our school community, we seek to nurture children as faithful disciples who recognise their God-given dignity and vocation.

The Religious Education Directory, [To Know You More Clearly](#), provides the framework for Religious Education within our school. It enables pupils to develop a deep understanding of Scripture, Tradition and the living faith of the Church whilst encouraging them to reflect upon God's presence in their own lives and in the world around them.

Aims of Religious Education

At Guardian Angels Catholic Primary School, Religious Education seeks to:

- Enable pupils to encounter Jesus Christ through Scripture, prayer, liturgy and daily life.
- Develop a secure knowledge and understanding of Catholic beliefs, teachings, traditions and practices.
- Nurture pupils' spiritual growth and relationship with God.
- Foster theological thinking through questioning, discussion and reflection.
- Deepen understanding of God's plan of salvation as revealed through Scripture and Tradition.
- Enable pupils to understand their dignity as children created in the image and likeness of God.
- Encourage pupils to live out Gospel values through service, justice, compassion and stewardship.
- Promote respect and understanding of people from different faiths and worldviews.
- Inspire pupils to recognise and respond to their God-given vocation.
- Prepare pupils to contribute positively to society and the common good.

Religious Education Entitlement

Religious Education is at the centre of our curriculum and contributes significantly to the spiritual, moral, social, cultural and vocational development of every child.

In accordance with the requirements of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, Religious Education accounts for a minimum of 10% of taught curriculum time. RE is taught as a discrete subject in all year groups and is recognised as an academic discipline as well as a means of faith formation.

Whilst Prayer and Liturgy, assemblies, retreats, Masses, sacramental preparation and charity work all contribute to the Catholic Life and Mission of the school, these do not replace Religious Education curriculum time.

The Religious Education Curriculum

Guardian Angels Catholic Primary School follows the Religious Education Directory, [To Know You More Clearly](#), which provides the curriculum framework for Catholic schools in England and Wales.

The curriculum is rooted in Sacred Scripture, the teachings of the Catholic Church and the lived experience of faith. Through careful sequencing and progression, pupils develop a deeper understanding of God's self-revelation and humanity's response to His love.

The curriculum is organised through six branches:

- Creation and Covenant
- Prophecy and Promise
- Galilee to Jerusalem
- Desert to Garden
- To the Ends of the Earth
- Dialogue and Encounter

These branches allow pupils to encounter the unfolding story of salvation throughout their primary education and understand how God's relationship with humanity is revealed through Scripture and Tradition.

Through the curriculum, pupils learn:

- What Catholics believe and why.
- How Scripture reveals God's relationship with humanity.
- How Christians live out their faith in everyday life.
- How the Church celebrates and proclaims the Gospel.
- How faith influences decision-making and moral choices.
- How to engage respectfully with people of different faiths and worldviews.

Teaching and Learning in Religious Education

Religious Education lessons are carefully planned to provide opportunities for pupils to acquire knowledge, deepen understanding and reflect upon their own response to faith.

Learning is structured around the three disciplines of Religious Education:

1.1.1 Understand

Pupils acquire and develop knowledge of:

- Sacred Scripture
- Catholic doctrine

- Church teaching
- Religious vocabulary
- Signs, symbols and practices of the Catholic faith

1.1.2 Discern

Pupils learn to:

- Explore questions of meaning and purpose.
- Reflect upon theological ideas.
- Make connections between belief and practice.
- Interpret Scripture and Church teaching.
- Think critically and respectfully about faith.

1.1.3 Respond

Pupils are encouraged to:

- Reflect on what learning means for their own lives.
- Consider how faith shapes action.
- Engage in prayer and reflection.
- Respond to moral and ethical issues.
- Live out Gospel values in their daily interactions.

A variety of teaching approaches are used including:

- Direct teaching
- Discussion and debate
- Collaborative learning
- Independent research
- Role play and drama
- Art and creative expression
- Opportunities for personal reflection and prayer

Assessment in Religious Education

Assessment is integral to effective teaching and learning in Religious Education.

Teachers assess pupils against the knowledge, understanding and skills identified within the Religious Education Directory.

Assessment focuses on pupils' ability to:

- Recall and communicate religious knowledge accurately.
- Explain Catholic beliefs and practices.
- Make connections between Scripture, doctrine and lived faith.

- Use religious vocabulary confidently.
- Engage in theological reflection.
- Respond thoughtfully to religious and moral questions.

Assessment information is used to:

- Inform future planning.
- Identify misconceptions.
- Support pupils who need additional challenge or support.
- Ensure progression across all year groups.
- Inform subject self-evaluation and school improvement priorities.

Monitoring of Religious Education

The Religious Education Subject Leader, together with senior leaders and governors, monitors Religious Education through:

- Lesson observations.
- Book scrutiny.
- Pupil voice activities.
- Planning reviews.
- Assessment analysis.
- Monitoring of Prayer and Liturgy.
- Monitoring of Catholic Life and Mission.
- Evaluation of curriculum implementation and impact.

Monitoring outcomes contribute directly to school improvement planning and the continued development of Religious Education across the school.

The Catholic Curriculum

Through Building the Kingdom, we explore the big questions of purpose and meaning that arise throughout the Liturgical year, and then create lessons and events which engage students with the skills needed to be agents for a Spirit-fuelled transformation of society.

Children at Guardian Angels are being formed to be the 'leaders of tomorrow' and they will leave here with a greater sense that they can make a difference. We have worked with Sister Judith Russi SSMN and the Educarem team to consider approaches that will promote critical and higher order thinking skills across the curriculum.

We have developed a wide range of creative strategies to develop our children's skills to be advocates for change for those in the greatest need in society. We work with other schools who are a part of the programme and share our practice at different events, sharing ideas and forming a professional network.

Religious Education sits within the wider Catholic Curriculum of the school. Although closely connected, Religious Education, Prayer and Liturgy, and Catholic Life and Mission have distinct purposes.

- Religious Education is an academic subject taught through the RED and develops pupils' religious literacy and theological understanding.
- Prayer and Liturgy provides opportunities for worship, encounter, spiritual formation and participation in the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church.
- Catholic Life and Mission is expressed through the school's culture, relationships, service, virtues, Catholic Social Teaching and witness.
- The wider curriculum contributes to the formation of the whole person and is taught within a Catholic understanding of truth, beauty, goodness, dignity and human flourishing.
- Prayer and Liturgy is governed by the school's separate Prayer and Liturgy Policy and by the directory To Love You More

Catholic School Pupil Profile

The Catholic School Pupil Profile supports the formation of pupils through paired virtues. These virtues provide a shared language for reflection, character formation and discipleship and are revisited through the life of the school:

- Grateful and Generous
- Attentive and Discerning
- Compassionate and Loving
- Faith-filled and Hopeful
- Eloquent and Truthful
- Learned and Wise
- Curious and Active
- Intentional and Prophetic

Catholic Social Teaching

Catholic Social Teaching is woven through Religious Education and the wider life of St Wilfrid's. It enables pupils to understand that faith calls us to love God and our neighbour, particularly those who are poor, vulnerable or marginalised, and to work for justice, peace and the care of creation.

Key principles include:

- Dignity of the Human Person
- Family and Community
- Solidarity and the Common Good
- Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

- Rights and Responsibilities
- Option for the Poor and Vulnerable
- Stewardship of God's Creation

Pupils are given age-appropriate opportunities to put Catholic Social Teaching into action through service, charitable giving, advocacy, care for creation and participation in the life of the school and local community. The school's commitment to living simply, sustainably and in solidarity with others supports this formation.

Sacramental Preparation

Guardian Angels follows the Birmingham Diocesan Education Service sacramental preparation programme for children preparing to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Sacramental preparation is undertaken in close partnership with parents, families, the parish and clergy so that children understand the sacraments as part of the worshipping life of the Church.

The diocesan sacramental programme is taught in addition to the statutory 10% curriculum time for Religious Education. School-based and parish-based opportunities for catechesis, prayer, retreat, family participation and celebration may enrich this provision, but do not replace the mandatory diocesan programme

Links with Parents, Parish and Community

We recognise parents as the first educators of their children in faith and value the partnership between home, school and parish.

Through regular communication, workshops, liturgies, sacramental preparation programmes and parish celebrations, we seek to strengthen the partnership between families and the wider Church community.

Parents, carers, governors, parishioners and community partners are encouraged to participate fully in the Catholic Life and Mission of the school.