



Intent

At St Edmund's, we believe that 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 that are lived out in the daily life of our Catholic school. Within this vision, Religious Education is very much a journey of formation involving every member of the school community, together with a pupil's family and parish community. For those not already engaged in the journey of faith Religious Education may be the first opportunity to hear the Good News of the Gospel.

The outcomes of Religious Education is Religiously literate young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills - appropriate to their age and capacity - to think spiritually, ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of Religious commitment in everyday life.

[Cardinal Vincent Nichols- Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools]

Implementation

The content of our Religious Education comes from the Curriculum Directory, provided by the Bishops Conference of England and Wales.

To help with planning and ensuring the Curriculum Directory is accessible to the children, we use a range of planning tools including the Come and See scheme of work, the Margaret Carswell resources, CAFOD and any other relevant materials. Each term the children cover three topics and we send out a newsletter explaining what each child will be covering and how each parent can support us in this very special part of a child's Catholic education.

10% of the curriculum time each week is devoted to the study of RE. The whole school studies the same broad topic at the same time with the RE Lead and class teachers ensuring that there is progression among the year groups. Each term the children will cover three topics matched to the liturgical calendar. The children will also study Judaism in the autumn term and different year groups will study a different world faith in the summer term

Teachers have a strong subject knowledge and are creative and experienced in adapting these plans to meet the needs and interests of their class and to ensure lessons are practical and well-resourced with religious artefacts and objects and have a diverse range of learning outcomes. For example, R.E lessons involve drama, art, research, debates, computing skills and food technology. Trips to religious places of worship are organised to contextualise children's understanding and to cement their learning. There are regular RE CPD in schools and using other agencies such as the Diocese. For those new to Catholic education the RE Lead runs an inductions programme to ensure that they fully understand how to support their pupils within RE lessons

In R.E lessons, children engage with challenging questions about meaning and purpose in life and belief in God. They learn about how their faith should impact their daily life and how this should be reflected in how they treat others.

Teachers are able to adjust their teaching to their pupils need by conducting pre-topic assessments. This allows them to target any gaps in their knowledge to ensure that they can reach the expected standard for their year group.



Evidence

- *The content of the religious education curriculum fully meets the requirements of the Religious Education Curriculum Directory. (Section 48 Inspection 2018)*
- *The learning environment across the school underpins and enhances pupils learning experience. (Section 48 Inspection 2018)*
- *Teachers have good subject knowledge and are wholly committed to religious education. (Section 48 Inspection 2018)*
- *Staff are extremely well supported to further enhance their knowledge and expertise in religious education. (Section 48 Inspection 2018)*
- *Religious education has a high profile. Pupils explain very clearly the importance of faith. They know much about Christianity (OFSTED 2017)*

Impact

In the most recent Section 48 inspection (January 2018) the school received a grade of good for the Classroom Religious Education and outstanding for Catholic Life.

RE is a core subject at St Edmund's and the resources and time allocated to it reflect this. This dedication to RE ensures that the outcomes for the children are in line with the other core subjects.

KS1 Data

Year	No. in cohort	WTS		EXS		GDS	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
2019	59	11	17%	41	69%	7	12%
2020	60	6	10%	48	80%	6	10%
2021	60	6	10%	54	90%	0	0%



KS2 Data

Year	No. in cohort	WTS		EXS		GDS	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
2019	60	2	3%	43	72%	7	25%
2020	60	10	17%	44	73%	6	10%
2021	59	8	14%	51	86%	0	0%



Due to lockdown disruption, the curriculum was not able to be taught in its entirety.
The Upper Thames Deanery decided to not award any GDS as a result of this.





This dedication to RE lesson enables our children becoming religiously literate and enables them to have the tools to explore their own personal relationship with God. Time is given in lessons for the children to explore their own spiritual development throughout the different topics.

If you were to walk into R.E lessons at St Edmund's, you would see:

- Children participating in meaningful discussion and debate about challenging questions in a safe and secure environment that respects and values all beliefs and viewpoints
- Children learning and expressing themselves through drama, conversation, art or writing
- Religion coming to life for children through images, resources, artefacts or food tasting.
- Children putting their religious learning into real life contexts
- Teachers with confident subject knowledge helping children to overcome misconceptions
- Both teacher and children having time to spiritually reflect on their new learning
- A relevant display displaying key words and vocabulary to support the children through the current RE topic
- Scripture and church tradition being used to explain our Christianity has developed

Evidence

- *Outcomes for pupils are broadly in line with other core subjects (Section 48 Inspection 2018)*
- *The school fully meets the 10% of curriculum time as required by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. (Section 48 Inspection 2018)*
- *Pupils get a good start to their learning in Early Years. The environment is stimulating and provides a rich resource for learning. (Section 48 Inspection 2018)*
- *Pupils are interested and enjoy their learning in religious education and are happy to talk about their faith. (Section 48 Inspection 2018)*

Expectations by the end of EYFS

		3-5
Knowledge and Understanding (“learning about”)	Developing Knowledge and Understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to and talk about religious stories and respond to what they hear with relevant comments. • Sing songs; make music and dance to express religious stories. • Use a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function to express religious stories. • Represent their own ideas, thoughts and feelings about religious stories through design and technology, art, music, dance and role play. • Develop their own narratives and explanations of religious stories by connecting ideas or events to the scripture source used. • Read and understand simple sentences from scripture or from their own religious stories • Share religious stories they have heard and read with others. • Write simple sentences about religious stories using phrases or words which can be read by themselves and others. • Listen, talk about and role play similarities and differences between themselves and others, and among families, church communities and church traditions. • Listen, talk about and role play similarities and differences in relation to places they have read or heard about family, church communities and scripture stories. • Listen, talk about and role play how people behave in the local, national and universal church community. • Listen and talk about key figures in the history of the People of God. • Listen and talk about religious signs and symbols used in worship, including the celebration of the Sacraments. Use religious signs and symbols in role play.
	Making Links and Connections	
	Historical Development	
	Specialist Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decode key religious words appropriate to their age and stage of development. • Use key religious words appropriate to their age and stage of development.
Engagement and Response (“learning from”)	Meaning and Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answer ‘how’ and ‘why’ questions about their experiences and in response to religious stories or events.
	Beliefs and Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show sensitivity to others’ needs and feelings. • Talk about how they and others show feelings. • Confidently speak in a familiar group and talk about their ideas. • Express themselves effectively, showing awareness of listeners’ needs. • Give their attention to what others say and respond appropriately. • Talk about their own and others’ behaviour and its consequences. • Talk about past and present events in their own lives and in the lives of family members. • Know that other children don’t always enjoy and share the same feelings and are sensitive to this.
Analysis and Evaluation	Use of Sources as Evidence	•
	Construct Arguments	•
	Make Judgements	•
	Recognise Diversity	•
	Analyse and Deconstruct	•
Stretch and Challenge		Children should be given the opportunity to fully explore the answer to the questions that arise from discussions even if they do not relate to current topic. Children can have the opportunity the sources of our faith e.g. what Bible stories are the basis of the belief that we are studying.



Expectations by the end of KS1, LKS2 UKS2

	5-7	7-9	9-11	
Knowledge and Understanding (learning about)	Developing Knowledge and Understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognise religious stories Retell, in any form, a narrative that corresponds to the scripture source used Recognise religious beliefs Recognise that people act in a particular way because of their beliefs Describe some of the actions and choices of believers that arise because of their belief Recognise key figures in the history of the People of God Describe the life and work of some key figures in the history of the People of God Recognise key people in the local, national and universal Church Describe different roles of some people in the local, national and universal Church Recognise religious signs and symbols used in worship, including the celebration of the Sacraments. Describe some religious symbols and the steps involved in religious actions and worship, including the celebration of the Sacraments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retell a narrative that is accurate in its sequence and details and that corresponds to the scripture source used. Describe, with increasing detail and accuracy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a range of religious beliefs the life and work of key figures in the history of the People of God different roles of people in the local, national and universal Church religious symbols and the steps involved in religious actions and worship, including the celebration of the Sacraments those actions of believers which arise as a consequence of their beliefs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Show knowledge and understanding of a range of scripture passages that corresponds to the scripture source used. Show knowledge and understanding of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a range of religious beliefs the life and work of key figures in the history of the People of God what it means to belong to a church community religious symbols and the steps involved in religious actions and worship, including the celebration of the Sacraments those actions of believers which arise as a consequence of their beliefs
	Making Links and Connections		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make links between: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> beliefs and sources, giving reasons for beliefs beliefs and worship, giving reasons for actions and symbols beliefs and life, giving reasons for actions and choices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Show understanding of, by making links between: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> beliefs and sources beliefs and worship beliefs and life
	Historical Development			
	Religious and Specialist Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use religious words and phrases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use a range of religious vocabulary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use religious vocabulary widely, accurately and appropriately
Engagement and Response (learning from)	Meaning and Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Say what they wonder about Ask wondering questions about all of the areas of study and recognize that some questions are difficult to answer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask and respond to questions about their own and others' experiences and feelings about each of the areas of study, in relation to questions of meaning and purpose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compare their own and other people's responses to questions about each of the areas of study, in relation to questions of meaning and purpose
	Beliefs and Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talk about their own feelings, experiences and the things that matter to them Ask and respond to questions about their own and others' feelings, experiences and things that matter to them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make links to show how feelings and beliefs affect their behaviour and that of others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Show understanding of how own and other's decisions are informed by beliefs and moral values
Analysis and Evaluation	Use of Sources as Evidence		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use a given source to support a point of view 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use sources to support a point of view
	Construct Arguments		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Express a point of view 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Express a point of view and give reasons for it
	Make Judgements		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Express a preference 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrive at judgements
	Recognise Diversity			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognise difference, comparing and contrasting different points of view.
	Analyse and Deconstruct			
Stretch and challenge	Children should be encouraged to make links between their faith and their own life through questioning or extension tasks	Children should not only be expected to express a preference but also arrive at a judgement. They should recognise different point of view about matters	Children should be able to explore the historical development of the Christian faith.	

Catholic Life of the School

St Edmunds always has had a strong tradition of Catholic life since it was founded by the Edmundian Brothers and put into the care of the Sisters of Mercy in 1939. The Eucharist is central to our school life and all major celebrations are marked with a school Mass. At St Edmund's we believe religious education is not limited to an RE lesson but permeates everything that we do.

Major liturgical celebrations are marked in a unique St Edmund's way while still maintain the traditions of the Catholic faith. Examples of these celebrations are as follows:

- Beginning of Term Mass
- St Edmund's Feast Day Mass
- Christmas celebrations and Carol Concerts
- Candlemas service
- Ash Wednesday service
- Washing of the Feet assembly
- Easter Passion
- May Procession
- Leavers Mass



Each year the school incorporates special events such as the 'Year of Mercy' and 'Year of the Word' this links the children to their Catholic brothers and sisters around the UK and around the world.

At St Edmund's we participate in lots of different charitable appeals. Children understand that, as a Christian community, we must look after those in need. Most of our charitable appeal ideas come from the children and are administered by the MiniVinnie Society.



Evidence

- The school motto, 'Together we learn and grow through worship and celebration' permeates life at St Edmund's school. *(Section 48 Inspection 2018)*
- The extent and wealth of prayer and worship enriches the pupils' spiritual formation in the Catholic tradition. *(Section 48 Inspection 2018)*
- The Church's call to action for justice is illustrated by the Mini Vinnies and the School Council who look for ways to ensure that school life is fair. Social teaching is evident and often discussed leading to actions such as food distribution at Harvest time, Peace One Day project and a shared homeless project shared with the local secondary school. Children are proud and articulate about the projects they support such as cancer research, NSPCC and HCPT as well as Cafod. Through the regular assemblies and fundraising initiatives, the children understand that as a Catholic, Christian community there is a collective responsibility to be of service to the local community and in the wider world. *(Section 48 Inspection 2018)*

Pupil Voice – Quotes from Questionnaire

- It is very nice to learn about RE because we learn what Jesus did for us. (Year 2)
- We loved planning our own collective worships. (Year 3)
- I really enjoyed the Mass with the Bishop. (Year 3)
- It can be hard but, when you finish it, it comes out really nicely. (Year 4)
- I really enjoyed taking part in the Mary's Meals Appeal. (Year 4)
- I like going to the prayer garden and saying prayers. (Year 1)
- I really enjoy planning collective worship. (Year 1)s
- We enjoy learning different Bible stories. (Year 2)
- I really like learning about different saints. (Year 4)
- RE this year has been more challenging because we go deeper into our faith. (Year 4)



Parent Voice – Quotes from Questionnaire

- We cannot fault the Catholic education or life of the school. It's excellent.
- The religious education our children receive at St Edmund's is outstanding. They are helped to make right choices in a loving and nurturing way.
- I am very pleased with how the school teach and provide Catholic faith.
- Please keep your amazing working going.
- My three children have attended this school and they have grown in their faith and love within and out of school. An excellent school!
- I see huge progress in my son's knowledge about RE.
- Very friendly and amazing school!
- I am very happy with the excellent Catholic education my child receives.
- My children have high quality education with the nurturing support of the Parish.
- We love how St Edmund's places Christ at the centre of our child's education.
- St Edmund's School is amazing in all aspects. Teachers are brilliant in what they do. My children have never been happier.



Main Focus for Academic Year 2021 - 2022:

- To continue up-levering RE learning objectives and tasks so that they are in line with the new RE standards framework.
- To reintroduce child-led worship after the coronavirus pandemic