

Here in the St. Polycarp's Family we follow in the footsteps of Jesus through playing, praying, loving and learning together.

# St Polycarp's Catholic Primary School



## Religious Education Policy

2023 – Deb Walker  
Review Date: Spring 2026

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## Religious Education

*'To know you more clearly'.*

## Prayer and Liturgy

*'To love you more dearly'.*

# Mission Statement

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we follow in the footsteps of Jesus,  
through playing and praying,  
loving and learning together.



This policy should be read in conjunction with the, SEND, Equal Opportunities, Assessment and Marking policies.

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## **Intent**

Primarily the purpose of Religious Education, in the Catholic School, is to make Christ known and to assist parents in their role as primary educators of their children. Through Religious Education we aim to make the person of Jesus Christ known and loved, and to place Him and the teachings of the Church at the centre of school life. Children are encouraged to contribute to the Catholic life of the school and to have a good understanding of the school mission via the promotion of Catholic Social Teaching.

'For all children Religious Education is a proper subject in its own right in the school's curriculum. It is a rigorous academic discipline, and as such it is to be taught, developed and resourced with the same commitment as any other subject. For those already engaged in the journey of faith, Religious Education will be catechesis, and for some children Religious Education will be evangelisation, the first opportunity to hear the good news of the Gospel.'

*(Religious Education Curriculum Directory-RECD) Now RED-Religious Education Directory*

## **Our Philosophy**

It is the policy of St. Polycarp's to produce "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." (RECD) RED In St. Polycarp's, this will be achieved through Catholic Religious Education which is 'not simply one subject among many, but the foundation upon which the entire educational process is founded'. - Bishops' Conference of England and Wales Religious Education in Catholic Schools, 2000, n.4.' It is about forming the human person and equipping him or her to live life to the full.'

## **Implementation**

This will be achieved in St. Polycarp's school through:

- The new Religious Education Directory for Years EYFS, 1 and 6
- The 'Come and See' RE programme for Years 2,3,4 & 5.
- A planned programme of liturgical celebrations
- Class, Key Stage and whole school worship
- Regular visits to church for both mass and experience
- Class and private prayer
- Educational visits and visitors
- Class and school displays
- Opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Catholic social teaching
- Charitable work

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## **Delivery and Teaching of RE**

Our RE is delivered in line with the requirements laid out by the Catholic Education Service (CES) in the Religious Education Curriculum Directory for England and Wales (2012/2023). Teachers will 'plan and teach schemes of work that are engaging and accessible so that all pupils may progress appropriately in their knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith.' (Curriculum Directory pg 5 2012) *At the Bishops and Arundel and Brighton Diocese directive, we are in a period of transition between using the 2023 RED "To Know You More Clearly" model curriculum and the RECD 2012 which states we must use "Come and See".* Children are encouraged to engage with the difficult questions of meaning and purpose which everyone must face will enable them to think critically about their own questions of meaning and purpose. Religious education also offers the children a sense of self-worth through their experience of belonging to a caring community and an awareness of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life. At St Polycarp'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.

**The RED (Religious Education Directory)** is Scripture based. It follows the story of Jesus, and it is an invitation to Know Him more clearly.

It allows children to get to know Him, to journey with Him through His life, death, and resurrection. The RED is taught through six curriculum branches: Creation and Covenant; Prophecy and Promise; Galilee to Jerusalem; Desert to Garden; To the ends of the earth; Dialogue and Encounter. In each lesson, children explore their learning through four knowledge lenses: Hear/Word; Believe/Creed; Celebrate/Liturgy; Live/Life.

**The 'Come and See' programme** follows an RE syllabus based on the three themes based on the documents of Vatican Council 11: Church, Sacrament and Christian Living. We are committed to providing the children with the rich and varied learning opportunities that will help them to be able to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith.

## **Challenge and Support**

RE is by its very nature a challenging subject; at first, we listen to important religious stories and messages. Then we understand, apply, and analyse ideas. We actively encourage discussion as the primary route to challenge, asking children to Add, Build or Challenge ideas and opinions in a respectful manner. Philosophy and ethics are explored.

As a school we are committed to scaffolding tasks appropriately to allow all children to reach their potential.

## **Catholic Life**

Pupils are taught to understand, value and contribute to our Catholic Life and Mission. We embed feelings of belonging, being valued and mutual respect. Members of other faiths, as well as Non-Catholics, are valued and celebrated.

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### **Assessment**

The RE Curriculum and Assessment Co-ordinator will track the progress of sample children from each class, termly. Class teachers will enter assessment data for all children on Arbour termly. This data will be analysed by the RE Curriculum and Assessment Co-ordinator termly to check progress across terms and from year to year. Class teachers will be given targets and notes of children or groups of children to monitor. End of year summer data will be compared with end of Key Stage data for English.

After completing a formal assessment, teachers moderate across Year Groups and record each child's level using Arbour, in line with assessment in Maths and English. Year group teachers meet termly to moderate their levelling. Whole school moderation will take place. Data is analysed and actions are then taken to support children to learn more deeply.

Informal assessments will take place using a variety of different assessment methods throughout the school, including discussions, marking, displays, pupil's work and presentations, role-play, concept, and mind maps. Children will also have opportunities for self-assessment and peer assessment to support their own learning strategies.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Planning, assessment, teaching and learning, children's work, focal areas, display and resources are all monitored throughout the school year by the RE Co-ordinator.

This policy is monitored by the RE Co-ordinator. It is to be evaluated and reviewed every 3 years.