

St Mary's Catholic Academy



Religious Education Policy September 2025

"Put Christ at the centre of everything it does by integrating Gospel values and the teachings of the Catholic Church into every aspect of learning, teaching and the totality of school life."

Christ at the Centre, A2.1



Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi-Academy Trust

1. Our Mission Statement

As a member of St. Mary's Academy, everyone is valued for their uniqueness and is encouraged to,

"...walk hand in hand with God, loving Him, loving each other and loving ourselves, doing our best with the gifts God has given to us to make the world a richer place."

2. Our Vision

St Mary's Catholic Academy aims to be a vibrant and prayerful Catholic community, centred on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. We seek to be a place where faith is not just taught but lived, and where all members of our school family can encounter Christ in their daily lives. Through a rich and engaging curriculum, we aim to nurture the whole child - spiritually, intellectually, and personally—so that they are prepared to live purposeful lives and contribute positively to society.

3. Statement of Intent

The Governors and staff of St Mary's Catholic Academy are committed to an inclusive education that minimises barriers to learning and participation. Inspired by the Catholic Bishops' Conference, we believe that our duty is to care for all, especially those who may be socially, academically, physically, or emotionally disadvantaged. Each child is a unique creation of God with unique needs, and our curriculum and policies reflect this belief.

4. Equal Opportunity Statement

The governors and staff at St Mary's believe in providing equal opportunities for all individuals, ensuring respect and consideration regardless of race, colour, creed, gender, disability, or personal circumstances. We are dedicated to opposing any form of prejudice or discrimination that undermines this principle for both adults and children within our school.

5. Rationale

Religious Education is central to the life and purpose of St Mary's. It is the foundation of our entire educational process, expressing and exploring the Christian vision of the human person. Religious Education is not merely a subject but the core of our curriculum, inspiring and bringing together every aspect of our school's life.

All pupils have the right to a comprehensive Religious Education that enables them to engage with life's deepest questions in the light of the Church's faith. This equips them to understand the reasons for the hope within them (1 Peter 3:15). We recognise the diverse backgrounds of our pupils and ensure our teaching reflects this, upholding our commitment to inclusion and equal opportunities.

6. Aims and Objectives

Our intent at St Mary's is to offer a knowledge-rich, broad, and ambitious Religious Education curriculum. This curriculum builds upon the knowledge and understanding of all children, drawing on the principles of Catholic Social Teaching and the teachings of the Religious Education Directory (RED).

Our curriculum aims to:

- Promote knowledge and understanding of Catholic faith and life.
- Foster an understanding of faith's response to the ultimate questions of human life.
- Develop skills to engage critically and reflectively with religious belief and practice.

The objectives are to:

- Develop knowledge of the mystery of God, Jesus Christ, the Church, and central Catholic beliefs.

- Cultivate an appreciation of Catholic belief and its impact on personal and social behaviour.
- Encourage study, investigation, and reflection.
- Foster appropriate attitudes, such as respect for truth and for the views of others.

7. Religious Education in the Classroom

RE is a core subject within our curriculum, requiring 10% of the taught weekly time for each Key Stage. It contributes to the spiritual and intellectual formation of all pupils, whether they are Catholic or not. The curriculum seeks to deepen understanding of the faith, enabling pupils to grow in their knowledge of Catholic teachings and practices.

8. Programmes of Study

At St Mary's Catholic Academy, we follow the new Religious Education Directory (RED) throughout Nursery to Year 6.

The aims of our RE curriculum are:

1. To engage in a systematic study of the mystery of God and the teachings of the Church.
2. To deepen pupils' religious and theological understanding.
3. To present an authentic vision of the Church's moral and social teaching.
4. To give pupils an understanding of other religions and worldviews.
5. To develop critical faculties to connect faith and life.
6. To stimulate a desire for personal meaning.
7. To relate RE knowledge to other subjects.

In line with the Church's appreciation for other faiths, we formally teach about other religions and worldviews five times a year. This allows pupils to engage in respectful dialogue and learn from the beliefs of others, reflecting our commitment to living out our Christian faith in a multicultural and multi-faith society.

9. Process of Teaching

Our teaching process is guided by the Catechism of the Catholic Church's structure of understand, discern, and respond, and the six knowledge lenses of the RED programme: hear, believe, celebrate, live, dialogue, and encounter. These lenses provide a systematic and progressive approach to the study of Catholicism and other religions.

The curriculum is divided into six branches, each with a core theme related to Revelation, Scripture, or life in the Church, aligned with the school year's half-terms:

1. Creation and Covenant
2. Prophecy and Promise
3. Galilee to Jerusalem
4. Desert to Garden
5. To the Ends of the Earth
6. Dialogue and Encounter

10. Lessons

Each RE lesson at St Mary's follows a consistent pattern to ensure it is knowledge-rich and supports both intellectual understanding and spiritual reflection. Each lesson includes:

- Feedback from the previous lesson
- Retrieval of prior learning
- A prayer focus
- New learning content
- Independent tasks to embed learning
- Opportunities for self-assessment

11. Feedback

Feedback is provided in a timely manner, in line with the school's Feedback Policy. It is designed to have a direct impact on pupils' learning, with both written and verbal feedback provided as appropriate, alongside whole class feedback. Pupils self-assess their learning, and teachers also assess pupils' knowledge to highlight progress. Key religious vocabulary are corrected to age-appropriate expectations.

12. Assessment and Monitoring

Pupils are assessed against the expected end of age-phase outcomes from the Religious Education Directory. Each component begins with a title page listing these outcomes and providing space for both pupil and teacher assessment.

The school uses "driver words and phrases" to guide pupils' thinking and outcomes, such as "Recognise," "Explain," "Compare," and "Reflect." At the end of each unit, pupils' performance is judged as: working towards expectations, working within expectations, working at expectation, or working above expectations.

Each component ends with a knowledge capture task that allows pupils to demonstrate their learning from the half-term. Teachers use their professional judgment to assess whether a child is working below, towards, at, or above the expected standard.

13. The Role of the Religious Education Leader

The RE Leader at St Mary's provides leadership in the implementation of the Religious Education curriculum and the development of the Catholic life of the school.

The responsibilities include:

- Leading the Catholic identity, life, and culture of the school.
- Facilitating the development and implementation of RE policy.
- Providing a vision for quality teaching and learning in RE.
- Liaising with pastors and communicating with parents.
- Promoting a culture of continuous improvement in RE.
- Managing RE resources and budget.
- Giving witness to the teachings of the Gospel.
- Continuing personal, professional, and leadership development.

This policy is monitored by the Religious Education Leader. It is evaluated and reviewed

annually by the school Governors

Reviewed: September 2025

RE Lead: Susan McDonald