



St. Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School

As **disciples of Jesus**, we grow in **friendship** and in our **love of learning**, and we seek to **care for others**.

"I have called you by your name. You are mine." Isaiah 43:1

Religious Education Curriculum Statement

Intent of the RE Curriculum

At St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School, Religious Education plays a significant part in the spiritual, moral and social development of our pupils. As a Catholic community, we seek to nurture children's knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith and to enable them to encounter God through Scripture, prayer, worship and the lived experience of the Church.

Our Religious Education curriculum is rooted in the **Religious Education Directory (RED)** and is delivered through **Source to Summit: Lighting the Path**. The resource provides a clear and progressive journey from Reception to Year 6, enabling children to develop their knowledge and understanding of Scripture, Catholic teaching and tradition, and the ways in which faith is lived by Catholics today.

The sequence of learning enables pupils to:

- develop a secure and progressive knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith;
- encounter and engage with **Sacred Scripture** and explore how God reveals himself to his people;
- understand the teachings, traditions and practices of the Catholic Church;
- develop their understanding of the liturgical year and the significance of the Sacraments and prayer;
- explore **Catholic Social Teaching** and consider how Catholic beliefs call us to live in love and service of others;
- develop the ability to ask questions, think critically, reflect and formulate thoughtful personal responses;

- develop an understanding of different religious and non-religious worldviews through respectful **dialogue and encounter**;
- make connections between their learning, their own lives and the lives of people in their local, national and global communities.

The curriculum is designed to develop children as **religiously literate, thoughtful and respectful young people**, who are able to engage confidently in conversations about faith, belief and worldview.

Our RE curriculum also reflects our school mission:

"As disciples of Jesus, we grow in friendship and in our love of learning and we seek to care for others."

Through RE, children are encouraged to understand what it means to be a disciple of Jesus and to put their learning into action through friendship, service, forgiveness, justice, compassion and care for others and for God's creation.

Meaningful prayer and worship provide further opportunities for children to encounter God, reflect on Scripture and deepen their spiritual lives. Children are supported in developing their own relationship with Jesus while respecting and valuing the beliefs and experiences of others.

Implementation of the RE Curriculum

Source to Summit: Lighting the Path is the principal resource used to deliver our Religious Education curriculum from Reception to Year 6. It follows the **Religious Education Directory** and covers the mandatory learning outcomes established by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.

RE is a **core subject** at St Swithun Wells and is given a high priority within the curriculum. At least **10% of the curriculum timetable** is dedicated to Religious Education.

Lighting the Path takes children on a journey through the story of God's revelation, with **Sacred Scripture at the heart of learning**. Children encounter the Bible alongside the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church and explore how Catholics around the world live out their faith today.

The curriculum is organised through **six branches**, which provide a coherent journey through Scripture, the story of salvation and the life of the Church:

- **Creation and Covenant** - exploring God's creation, his relationship with humanity and the covenants made with his people.
- **Prophecy and Promise** - exploring the prophets, God's promises and the hope of the coming of the Messiah.
- **Galilee to Jerusalem** - encountering Jesus through his life, teachings, miracles and relationships.
- **Desert to Garden** - exploring Lent, Holy Week, the Passion, death and Resurrection of Jesus.
- **To the Ends of the Earth** - exploring the coming of the Holy Spirit, the growth of the Church and its mission to share the Good News.
- **Dialogue and Encounter** - developing understanding of different religious and non-religious worldviews and learning to engage respectfully with others.

These branches provide a **spiral curriculum**, allowing children to revisit key theological concepts and Scripture with increasing depth as they progress through the school.

Each unit provides a clear learning journey. Children encounter key questions and are given opportunities to explore Scripture, develop knowledge and understanding, ask their own questions, discuss ideas, think critically and reflect on their learning. A range of approaches is used, including discussion, Scripture study, creative activities, drama, reflection, questioning and opportunities for independent response.

Teachers use the **RED learning outcomes and assessment guidance** to support planning, ensure appropriate coverage and identify progression in pupils' knowledge and understanding.

Children are encouraged to make connections between their RE learning and the world around them. Catholic Social Teaching is explored both through the RE curriculum and through the life of the school, enabling pupils to consider how their faith calls them to respond to issues of justice, dignity, peace, care for creation and service to others.

RE is complemented by our rich programme of **prayer and worship**. Through whole-school worship, Celebration of the Word, class worship, prayer partners, teacher-led worship and child-led worship, children are given regular opportunities to encounter Scripture, pray, reflect and develop their relationship with God.

Our strong links with our parish are an important part of the implementation of our RE curriculum. Parish priests and deacons visit the school regularly, supporting children's learning, answering questions and helping pupils to make connections between what they learn in the classroom and the lived experience of the Catholic Church.

Children also have opportunities to encounter faith through the wider life of the Church, including Masses, Sacramental preparation, the liturgical seasons, parish events and opportunities to learn from members of the wider Catholic community.

Impact of the RE Curriculum

At St Swithun Wells, we want every child to leave our school with a **secure and age-appropriate understanding of the Catholic faith**, a strong knowledge of Sacred Scripture and an appreciation of the richness and diversity of religious and non-religious worldviews.

Through *Lighting the Path*, pupils develop the knowledge, vocabulary and skills needed to talk confidently about their learning, ask thoughtful questions, engage in respectful dialogue and reflect on the meaning of faith in their own lives and in the lives of others.

Children increasingly make connections between **Scripture, Catholic teaching, worship and their own actions**. They are able to recognise that faith is not simply something to learn about, but something that can shape how we live and how we respond to others and to God's creation.

Pupils are encouraged to put their learning into action through the life of our school community. They demonstrate the values expressed in our mission by developing friendship, a love of learning and a desire to care for others.

The impact of RE can be seen in pupils' developing knowledge, their ability to reflect and question, their participation in prayer and worship, and the way they engage with others and contribute to the life of our school and wider community.

Our aim is that children leave St Swithun Wells with a growing knowledge and love of God, a deeper understanding of the Catholic faith, and the confidence and compassion to live as **disciples of Jesus who care for others and for our common home**.