St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School

Religious Education Policy

Approved: September 2026

Next Review Date: September 2028

Mission, Vision and Aims

At St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School, we are a faith-filled community inspired by the life and example of our patron saint. Guided by Christ and rooted in the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church, we nurture every child so that they may grow in faith, love and learning.

Mission Statement

"Inspiring Lives."

Inspired by the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, and following the example of St John Henry Newman, we seek to *inspire lives filled with faith, hope and love*.

We aim to provide an exceptional Catholic education that enables every child:

- to embrace all possibilities and flourish in their learning,
- to deepen their personal relationship with God,
- to live out the Gospel values in service to others,

  and so to become compassionate, thoughtful and responsible members of society.

Vision

Our vision is for every child at St John Henry Newman to encounter Christ daily and to be inspired to live their faith with joy and courage. We aspire for all pupils to achieve academic excellence, develop spiritual depth, and grow into confident, caring individuals who make a positive difference in the world.

We will achieve this through high-quality teaching and learning, strong community partnerships, and an environment where Gospel values shape every aspect of school life.

Our Core Values

- Faith in Action – Christ at the centre of all we do: prayer, worship, service.
- Love and Respect – Forgiveness, empathy, inclusion and kindness.
- Learning for Life – Curiosity, creativity, perseverance and aspiration.
- Community and Stewardship – Caring for one another and for God's creation.

Aims

We aim to educate the whole child — spiritually, morally, academically and socially — through the example of Christ and the inspiration of St John Henry Newman.

Faith and Spirituality

We teach Christian values and invite all children to build their lives upon them. We aim to be an inclusive family, inspired by the Gospel, where prayer, worship and service are central to daily life.

Aspiration

We nurture creative, resilient and curious learners who seek challenge, strive for excellence and use their gifts in the service of God and others.

Innovation

We encourage independent thinking and creativity through a rich and engaging curriculum that allows children to explore, question and express their faith in meaningful ways.

Diversity

We celebrate the uniqueness of every individual as made in the image of God. We promote respect, appreciation and understanding of the beliefs, cultures and gifts of all.

Teaching and Learning

Religious Education lies at the heart of the curriculum at St John Henry Newman. It is a core subject taught with academic rigour and spiritual depth, helping pupils to know, understand and live out their faith.

Our RE curriculum reflects the Religious Education Directory (RED) for Catholic Schools and follows the Diocesan Primary Religious Education Curriculum, ensuring continuity, progression and depth of understanding.

- 10% of curriculum time is dedicated to the teaching of RE in Key Stages 1 and 2.
- Planning ensures a systematic presentation of the Catholic faith appropriate to each child's stage of spiritual and intellectual development.
- Links are made between faith and daily life, encouraging pupils to apply Gospel values in their thoughts, words and actions.

Learning experiences are varied and engaging, encouraging children to think deeply and respond personally through:

- Art, music and drama
- Storytelling, scripture and poetry
- Discussion, reflection and prayer
- Digital media, research and collaborative projects
- Involvement with CAFOD and other Catholic charities

Other Faiths
Each year, pupils learn about other world faiths—Judaism and Islam—to develop respect, tolerance and understanding of different religious traditions.

Sacramental Preparation
Children are supported in preparing for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion through close partnership with the parish. These important milestones are celebrated with the school community through Masses and liturgies.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting
Assessment in RE ensures that all children make progress in both their knowledge of the faith and their spiritual development.

- Assessment is both formative and summative, using descriptors from the Bishops' Conference Department for Catholic Education and Formation.
- Teachers' assessments are collated and analysed by the RE Leader to inform planning and identify strengths and areas for development.
- Pupils engage in self and peer assessment to reflect on their learning and spiritual growth.
- Annual reports to parents include a summary of progress and personal development in RE.

Assessment information is passed to the next teacher and to secondary schools on transition, ensuring continuity and progression.

Monitoring and Evaluation
The RE Leader, supported by the Headteacher, is responsible for leading, monitoring and evaluating all aspects of Religious Education and the Catholic life of the school. This includes:

- Monitoring the quality of teaching and learning
- Reviewing the quality of collective worship and prayer
- Ensuring appropriate curriculum coverage and assessment
- Providing resources and professional development for staff

Monitoring is carried out through lesson observations, work scrutiny, pupil voice, and review of displays and prayer areas. Findings are shared with staff, the Headteacher and the Governing Body to ensure ongoing development and excellence in RE.

Conclusion
At St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School, Religious Education is central to our mission to Inspire Lives. Through our curriculum, worship and daily witness, we strive to form children who not only learn about Christ but come to know Him personally — and, like St John Henry Newman, seek to live out His truth in heart and action.