



RE POLICY 2026-2027

That all may have life - life in all its fullness

Our Mission Statement

The aim of our school is excellence in education in accordance with the teachings of the church.

We recognise that everyone is unique and has something to offer and we seek to develop each child's potential in a learning community where all are respected. We want every child to achieve and experience success.

Working in partnership with children, their parents, our parish and the wider community, we promote Christ's teaching as found in the Gospel so that 'all may have life, life in all its fullness'.

We aim to ensure this is done by;

- Praying together
- Living and working together as a loving, caring and forgiving community
- Valuing the experience and diversity of every person in our community
- Encouraging the children to achieve of their best – mentally, emotionally and spiritually
- Helping all in our community to experience the joy of learning and working together

Rationale

As members of our Catholic community, we believe that Christ is at the heart of all learning. We recognise that, in the widest sense, all our members are learners; pupils, parents, teachers, support staff, governors, visitors to our school. We aim to provide a safe, stimulating and challenging environment wherein all are valued and respected and able to fulfil their potential in the acquisition of being 'religiously literate'.

As a good Catholic school, we believe that here at St Margaret Clitherow, we are fulfilling the educational mission of the Catholic church to:

- Assist the Church in its mission of making Christ known to all people
- Assist parents with the education and formation of their children
- Strive to be of service to society

Compliance with the Religious Education Directory

'At the heart of that mission is good religious education' (The Religious Education Directory RED) 2023)

1. The Religious Education Directory includes the programmes of study approved by the Bishops' Conference for the various age groups.
2. Catholic schools are required to comply with the Religious Education Directory (full compliance is expected in primary schools from September 2026).

Aims Religious Education

Our faith reflects all that we do at St Margaret Clitherow.

In our religious teaching at St Margaret Clitherow we hope:

- To engage in a systematic study of the mystery of God, of the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, the teaching of the Church, the central beliefs that Catholics hold, the basis for them and the relationships between faith and life
- To enable pupils continually to deepen their religious and theological understanding and be able to communicate this effectively
- To present an authentic vision of the Church's moral and social teaching to provide pupils with a sure guide for living and the tools to critically engage with contemporary culture and society
- To give pupils an understanding of the religions and worldviews present in the world today and the skills to engage in respectful and fruitful dialogue with those whose worldviews differ from their own

- To develop the critical faculties of pupils so to bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture
- To stimulate pupils' imagination and provoke a desire for personal meaning as revealed in the truth of the Catholic faith
- To enable pupils to relate the knowledge gained through religious education to their understanding of other subjects in the curriculum

Outcomes of Religious Education

The outcome of excellent religious education is religiously literate and consciously engaged young people who have the knowledge, understanding, and skills appropriate to their age and capacity- to reflect spiritually, and think ethically and theologically, and who recognise the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.

Purposes

To achieve consistently high-quality learning and teaching in RE, in all classes which enable all children to attain their full potential

To ensure a shared understanding of the expectations we have regarding the quality of learning, teaching, behaviour, and the environment for RE in all classes and throughout the school

To ensure quality provision that is appropriate to all children's needs, is fully inclusive and has regard to equality of opportunity

To make clear the role of pupils, teachers, teaching assistants, parent helpers and subject leaders in the learning and teaching process

To provide a tool by which children are assessed in their RE work

To provide a tool for School Self-Evaluation and a framework for monitoring

To provide support and guidelines

Leadership of the subject

Benedicta Ajala is the RE lead for Religious Education and has responsibility for leading, managing and supporting the delivery of Religious Education and the continuous professional development of teachers in Religious Education.

Guidelines:

Role and Status of RE Co-ordinator

The RE co-ordinator who has the responsibility to lead and develop Religious Education throughout the whole school. Like all leaders, the RE Co coordinator contributes to the annual School Development Plan.

The Religious Education Directory 2023 replaces 'Come and See' in all year groups from September 2026

The Religious Education Programmes of Study

'To Know You More Clearly' Year EYFS – Year 6

The model curriculum has six components, known as branches, which map helpfully onto the six half-terms of the school year. Five of these have a core theme which invites pupils to learn about an aspect of Revelation, Scripture, life in Christ, and life in the Church, and to discern what their learning means academically and experientially enabling them to see, judge, and act through a deeper knowledge of the Christian faith. The Encounter & Dialogue branch involves the study of other religions, encountering other pathways of belief drawing on the teaching of the Church about intercultural dialogue.

Detail of the curriculum can be found here: Religious Education Directory 2023

https://cdn.prod.websitefiles.com/67165df208d9e689b4d32648/6790d625ddc265c20ed18dbb_RED_To_Know_You_More_Clearly_web_version.pdf

The Programme of Study for RE has a framework with four structural elements:

- **Knowledge Lenses**

The content of the programme of study comprise of 6 knowledge lenses of HEAR, BELIEVE, CELEBRATE, LIVE AND DIALOGUE AND ENCOUNTER

- **Ways of Knowing**

These are the skills that pupils will develop as they progress through the curriculum and are known as UNDERSTAND, DISCERN AND RESPOND

- **Expected Outcomes**

Each age phase has a prescribed set of expected outcomes that indicate what pupils are expected to know, remember and be able to do. Through this, we assess pupils both formatively and summatively

- **Curriculum Branches**

These correspond to the six half-terms of the school year and are re-visited each year so that pupils deepen their understanding of CREATION AND COVENANT, PROPHECY AND PROMISE, GALILEE TO JERUSALEM, DESERT TO GARDEN, TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH, DIALOGUE AND ENCOUNTER

The time allocated to RE

At St Margaret Clitherow, 10% of the taught curriculum is clearly timetabled for the teaching of RE, as recommended by the bishop's conference. This excludes Collective Worship.

EYFS and Key Stage 1- 2 hours per week

Key Stage 2- 2 ½ hours per week

Long Term Medium Term and Weekly RE Planning

We have a whole school approach to the delivery of the scheme that identifies the topics relating to each theme following the Catholic RE programme **Source to Summit: Lighting the Path**.

Learning Environment for RE

The RE focal point is a prominent display area in the classroom. It is a focal point for both worship and a scaffold for RE learning. The following requirements are expected in each classroom:

RE Display: Key vocabulary, Topic title, and the structure of the Knowledge Lenses – HEAR, BELIEVE, CELEBRATE, LIVE AND DIALOGUE AND ENCOUNTER

- The crucifix, the Bible, liturgical artefacts, the seasonal drape and a candle are positioned on the table. KS1 and KS2 set prayers are displayed
- The RE display should remain current and free from clutter

Assessment in RED

Assessment, Monitoring, Recording and Reporting

- Assessment of standards is carried out against the Expected Outcomes in RED 2023 across the school.
- Assessment moderation / standardisation takes place in school amongst colleagues and at diocesan moderation meetings.
- The RE Lead will provide assessment exemplars for each Year group that have been shared by Diocese of Southwark Education Service.
- Monitoring of teaching and learning in Religious Education takes place in line with the school's Teaching and Learning policy.
- Progress and achievement is recorded and tracked in line with the school's Assessment policy, details of which are contained in the Teaching and Learning policy.
- Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to parents/carers annually in line with other core subjects.

By the end of each unit an overall judgement will be made based on the three age – related 'Ways of Knowing' skills.

Ways of Knowing are skills for life, not simply for the RE classroom

UNDERSTAND (questions to help you remember and explain) teaching.

Understand the Church's moral and social teaching.



DISCERN (questions to help you wonder)

By the end of this unit of study, pupils will be able to talk and think critically and creatively about what they have studied.



RESPOND (questions about what you feel and do)

Providing a space for children to explore possibilities as they develop their own world view.



OTHER FAITHS

As a school community we are aware that we live in a multi-cultural society and as such are committed to raising awareness of other world faiths and have a responsibility to promote and encourage ecumenism.

Our school has a role to make the children aware of the diversity of peoples and cultures in the world family.

TEACHING RE TO CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

"The purpose of education for all children is the same; the goals are the same. But the help that individual children need in progressing towards them will be different."

(Warnock report)

At St Margaret Clitherow we believe in the value of each individual and throughout our teaching seek to help and support children to fulfil their unique role in the community. Individuals learn at different rates and in different ways and it is our responsibility as teachers to recognise, celebrate and utilise such differences. We work to provide opportunities for children to achieve their academic, social emotional and spiritual potential. Differentiated lessons are carefully planned, and may include the use of writing frames, shared/guided writing, ICT and TA support to ensure all pupils reach their full potential.

SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATION OF RECONCILIATION

As a general principle the children will first celebrate the sacrament in Year Three (April, May) in accordance with Rite II. The celebrations take place in the parish church of St Pauls, Thamesmead and other feeder parishes to the school. The aim is that the children, with their families will experience and celebrate the joy of being forgiven.

Whilst the children celebrate their First Sacrament of Reconciliation during Year Three, throughout their time at St Margaret Clitherow the children will continue to develop their understanding of this sacrament. As the children grow older they learn to accept more responsibility for their actions and their understanding of right and wrong is much deeper.

THE EUCHARIST

We hope to build upon the children's own experience of attending Mass and seeing their families receiving the Eucharist. Throughout their time at St Margaret Clitherow the children will be developing an understanding of the Mass, which deepens, as they get older.

Masses are celebrated either at St Paul's Church or within school throughout the year on Holy Days, Feast days and other special occasions. Class masses are also celebrated in church and the Year Six children celebrate Mass with their families at the end of the school year.

Usually the children will celebrate the Eucharist for the first time in June of Year Three. Preparation for First Holy Communion takes place within the parish of St Paul's and any of our neighbouring parishes where children attend Mass. The school choir support the sacramental celebration which is usually held in June.

MORAL EDUCATION

Personal and moral education while sometimes taught as a discreet subject is also taught as part of school life.

It is the aim of our school, that the children will learn how to behave in a responsible manner, to learn to take responsibility for their own actions and to come to know the difference between right and wrong. Our behaviour policy seeks to promote self-discipline and focuses on positive behaviour management.

Children are encouraged to think independently and to make responsible choices as they progress through the school. The core British Values are displayed throughout the school. Our School Council, with representatives from Year One to Year Six provides an opportunity for the children to earn rights and privileges through responsibility, and to be involved in decision-making regarding school issues.

Our 'Golden Rules' is displayed throughout the school in every class and reflects our Mission Statement and the Gospel values that guide us in all that we do. Members of staff lead by example by dealing fairly, firmly and compassionately with all the children that they come into contact with during the day.

Through our RE programme and all that we do in school, we aim to deal with issues regarding moral conscience and encourage the children to have a Christian attitude to others regardless of race, colour or creed. We try to foster respect, understanding and appreciation of differences.

SPIRITUAL EDUCATION

At St Margaret Clitherow our school ethos seeks to promote spiritual education in all that we do. We believe that our moral teaching helps to promote the children's spiritual development. The work carried out through our many enrichment opportunities across the curriculum will further the children's spiritual development, alongside collective worship opportunities offered in school. Through all our teaching, we try to draw attention to the spiritual dimension where children are encouraged to appreciate new elements such as appreciation of beauty and wonder at new experiences.

Our school endeavours to provide a learning environment for the child that is both safe and stimulating. Displays throughout the school celebrate children's work. School outings, educational visits provide the children with new experiences and help them to consider themselves in relationship to their community, their environment and each other.

Catholic Social Teaching

At our school, Catholic Social Teaching (CST) is not treated as an isolated topic, but as the lived expression of our faith, woven directly into the heart of our Religious Education curriculum. In complete alignment with the Archdiocese of Southwark Diocesan Policy for Religious Education and the new **Religious Education Directory (RED)** using the diocesan-approved Lighting the Path framework, we ensure our pupils encounter the Gospel message as a call to active global citizenship. Our RE curriculum empowers children to recognise Christ in one another and develop a robust moral compass. Through structured RE lessons, child-led prayer and liturgy, and purposeful cross-curricular links, we guide our pupils to move from theological understanding to practical orthopraxy, inspiring them to serve the common good and actively transform their local and global communities

The children are encouraged to practise their faith in real and practical terms. For example, during Lent the children are encouraged to give alms and to raise money for CAFOD and to raise money for local charities at other times of the year. Each Harvest the school aims to support a local charity, and each year we try to support a Macmillan Fundraiser.

LINKS WITH HOME, SCHOOL AND PARISH

Father Richard (St Paul's Parish Priest) celebrates Mass in St Paul's Church on Holy days, Feast days and other special occasions, and at the start of every new term. He also celebrates class Masses termly.

Parents are invited and encouraged to attend class Act of Worship and class liturgy in school and any Masses in church, as well as special celebrations such Harvest Service, Reconciliation service and Christmas productions across the Key stages.

Parents are informed about the RE programme via termly RE newsletters, via class curriculum maps and through parents' meetings (which take place twice a year). During the Autumn and Spring Parent's meetings, the pupil's RE books are shared with the parents and carers. Parents are often asked to contribute personal familial resources to support topics. Parents are invited to attend our Act of Worship which very often reflect many liturgical celebrations.

Religious Education is reported on in detail in the end of year report for both Key Stages.

RESOURCES

Each class has access to religious education resources and other resources, such as bibles, statues, books, posters, pictures, teacher resources, faith boxes and artefacts are stored centrally.

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

A daily act of worship takes place either in class or as a whole/part school gathering in the school hall. Each Act of Worship is linked to the Liturgical year; the British Values; the topics from 'To Know You More Clearly' and current affairs relevant to the children. Each teacher is responsible for planning his or her own Act of Worship. This may encompass a variety of approaches, including the use of stories, Scripture, drama, music, picture, children's own work, prayer and hymns. The Head teacher draws up a rota for class Act of Worship.

Wednesday - Whole School Act of Worship following the Liturgical year.

Thursday - Class Act of Worship throughout the year that may also follow the Liturgical year.

Each term every class will have the opportunity to celebrate Mass at St Paul's Church or a liturgy together with their parents and families. Children prepare and read the Bidding Prayers and Teaching staff support and scaffold children to prepare and read the scripture for the Mass or Liturgy. Children from KS2 often perform altar serving duties at Mass.

The whole school with parents and families celebrate Mass on Holy days of obligation and feast days special to our school. Whole school Mass is also celebrated at the beginning of each new term. The children of Year Six celebrate a Leavers Mass at the end of the summer term. All parents, carers and families are invited and encouraged to join these celebrations.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

The RE lead and the head teacher is responsible for monitoring the standards of children's work and the quality of teaching and learning. The subject leaders support colleagues in the teaching of RE by giving them information about current developments in the subject and updating resources regularly.

The RE leads, along with the SLT monitor the teaching and learning and RE, through:

- Moderation of books
- Learning walks- Displays and focal areas
- Discussions with children
- Lesson observations
- Planning and book scrutiny
- Assessment moderation

Policy Review: Reviewed September 2026

This policy will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed by the Headteacher and SLT and updated every two years.