



## **Religious Education Curriculum Intent**

### **School Mission Statement**

**We come together as St. Joseph's family  
To learn, share our faith and do our best to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.**

### **Whole school Curriculum Intent**

Our curriculum is inspired by the words of Oscar Romero, '*Aspire not to have more, but to be more*'. We aim to provide a Catholic Christian education, based on the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, in which the values of the Gospel underpin all aspects of school life. We will provide an environment in which the dignity of each person as a child of God is recognised and developed; and promote the full potential of each child through our curriculum which develops spiritual, academic, social and emotional growth.

In designing our curriculum, we have provided opportunities for our children which are underpinned by three curriculum drivers;

- Communication and Language
- Understanding of the World
- Independence in thought and action
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We celebrate a 'knowledge-engaged' approach to learning, ensuring essential aspects of subject knowledge are learnt, alongside life-long learning skills to enable children to become resilient and independent learners for the future.

### **Subject Intent**

At St Joseph's RC Voluntary Academy, the primary intent of Religious Education is to come to know and understand God's revelation, which is fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ.

All pupils are entitled to be taught about the Catholic faith in the context of a school, which proclaims the Gospel and invites each pupil to respond to the message of Jesus. As each individual responds to this invitation, growth in natural curiosity, faith and knowledge helps the pupil to respond to the call to holiness and develop an understanding of the fullness of what it is to be human. Central to St Joseph's is the belief that in the person of Jesus the deepest meaning of what it is to be human is discovered. Religious Education at St Joseph's will help all pupils to know and experience the meaning of this revelation in their own life.

Religious Education is the foundation of the entire educational process. The teachings of Jesus and the Gospel message underpins and completes the curriculum at St Joseph's; therefore, Religious Education will invite pupils to deepen their understanding of God and "nurture a holy curiosity" (A. Einstein) into all areas of learning as being "the acts and works of the Creator" (St J. H. Newman).

During Religious Education lessons, pupils will acquire an increasing range of religious literacy skills and subject specific vocabulary, which will help promote a deeper understanding of the richness of God's creation and our part in God's plan. Pupils will receive engaging learning experiences, which allows all pupils to witness to their growing faith. Teachers will provide opportunities for reflection and discussion in order for children to become confident in expressing their own thoughts and beliefs. St Joseph's recognise that Religious Education also plays an essential role in the formation and personal develop of each pupil. The moral formation, delivered through Religious Education lessons, will foster the development of personal and social responsibility. Ultimately, this will contribute to the school's desire to promote and work towards the Common Good.

St Joseph's will therefore provide a Religious Education, which studies:

- the mystery of God
- the life and teachings of Jesus Christ
- the teachings of His Church
- the central beliefs that Catholics hold
- the basis for these beliefs
- the relationship between faith and life
- the central beliefs of other world faiths (with a priority given to those represented in our local community)

St Joseph's aim is that through high quality teaching and learning of Religious Education, combined with its integration in other curriculum areas, will result in religiously literate pupils who have the knowledge, understanding and skills to think spiritually, ethically and theologically as well as understanding of how to follow in the footsteps of Jesus in everyday life.

### **Religious Education Curriculum Directory Aims for Religious Education**

- To present engagingly a comprehensive content which is the basis of knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith;
- 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 so that pupils can make a critique of the underlying trends in contemporary culture and society;
- To raise pupils' awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities in order to respect and understand them;
- To develop the critical faculties of pupils so that they can relate their Catholic faith to daily life;
- 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;
- To bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture.