

Religious Education at St Rose's

Parent Curriculum Information

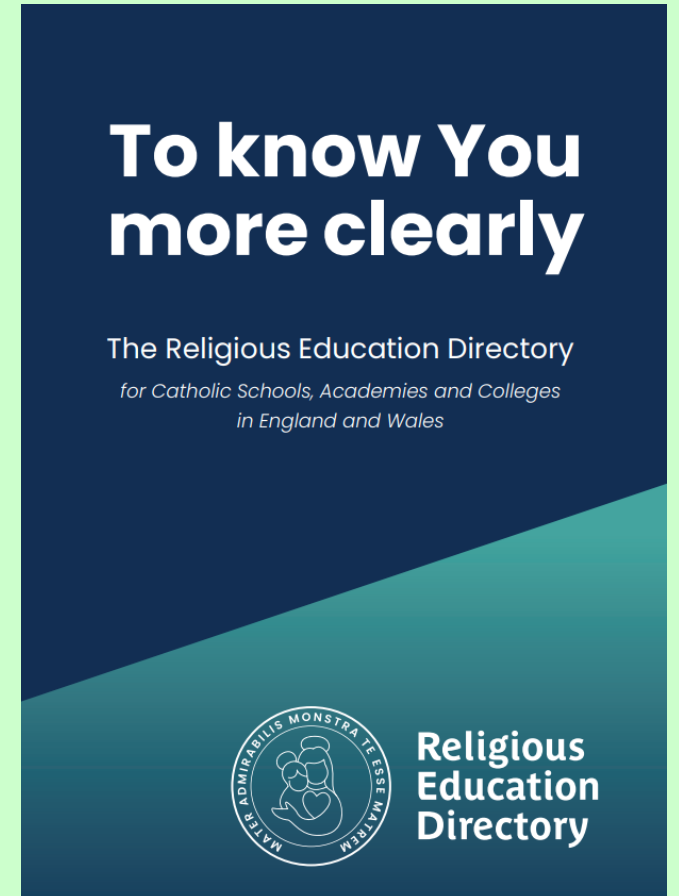


Purpose of Religious Education in Catholic Schools

- Catholic schools exist to help children grow as disciples of Jesus and to experience life in all its fullness.
- RE is at the heart of the curriculum, supporting children's spiritual, moral, and cultural development.
- Parents are the first educators in faith; schools support and build on this role.

RE curriculum at St Rose's

- The Religious Education Directory serves as a vital resource for Catholic schools, helping parents understand the core values and teachings their children will receive in religious education. It emphasises the importance of faith development in young learners, fostering both spiritual growth and moral integrity.
- Parents are encouraged to be active participants in this journey, supporting their children's understanding of God's love and the teachings of the Church. As the Directory states, *"Parents, as the first educators of their children, have the right and the duty to guide their children towards the discovery of God."*



Structure of the Curriculum

The Catholic curriculum is explored through four knowledge lenses:

Hear – Scripture and what God reveals.

Believe – what the Catholic Church teaches.

Celebrate – prayer, liturgy and the sacramental life.

Live – how faith shapes the way Christians live.

Dialogue and Encounter broaden children's learning through respectful engagement with other Christians, religions and worldviews.

Structure of the Curriculum

- The six curriculum branches are:
- Creation and Covenant,
- Prophecy and Promise,
- Galilee to Jerusalem,
- Desert to Garden,
- To the Ends of the Earth, and
- Dialogue and Encounter.

Early Model Curriculum for Infants

- Pre-school, Nursery & Reception (EYFS): RE is taught through stories, prayer, play, role-play, art, music, movement, wonder and first-hand experiences. Children begin to know that God made and loves them, meet Jesus through Scripture and learn simple prayers and signs.

Year 1 (Age 5–6): The overarching theme is revelation – the different ways people come to know God. Children move from Creation to Jesus, his life, death and Resurrection, and then to the Holy Spirit and the Church.

Year 2 (Age 6–7): Children revisit the same six branches at greater depth, making stronger links between Scripture, Catholic belief, prayer, sacraments and Christian living.

End of Key Stage 1 Outcomes

- By the end of Year 2, children will:
- Know and retell key Bible stories (e.g., Creation, Jesus' miracles, and parables).
- Understand that God created the world and invites us to care for it ("stewardship").
- Learn about the life of Jesus, Mary as Mother of God, and the role of the Apostles.
- Be introduced to the sacraments, especially Baptism and Reconciliation, as signs of God's love and forgiveness.
- Recognise how Christians prepare for Christmas (Advent) and Easter (Lent).
- Begin to reflect on making good choices, saying sorry, and understanding God's forgiveness.
- Show respect for people of other faiths by learning about Judaism and Islam (e.g., the Sabbath, Passover, Ramadan).

Approach to Teaching

- Lessons are rooted in Scripture, prayer, and the Catholic tradition.
- Children are encouraged to **wonder, reflect, and respond**, not just to memorise.
- Creative methods are used – art, music, drama, and storytelling – to help children experience awe and wonder.
- The curriculum highlights Catholic Social Teaching (care for the poor, dignity of every person, stewardship of creation) in age-appropriate ways.

How children learn in RE

The curriculum develops knowledge and the skills to think about and respond to it.

UNDERSTAND

- Know, remember, retell and explain what has been taught.
- Use religious vocabulary accurately.
- Make simple connections between Scripture and belief.

DISCERN

- Think carefully about meaning.
- Ask questions and notice different interpretations.
- Explore art, music, actions and ideas linked to faith.

RESPOND

- Reflect on what learning means for them.
- Express ideas and feelings appropriately.
- Consider how learning may shape actions and choices.

1. Creation and Covenant

God creates, loves and calls people into relationship.

Nursery & Reception

- God made and loves each person and created a wonderful world.
- Children learn to give thanks, care for Creation and recognise belonging to God's family.
- Prayer, the Sign of the Cross and Baptism are encountered in age-appropriate ways.

Year 1

- Creation in Genesis; all that is comes from God, our Father.
- Prayer helps people draw close to God; children meet the Our Father and Creed.
- Stewardship: God's gift of Creation brings responsibility to care for the world and one another.

Year 2

- Noah and God's covenant; the rainbow as a sign of God's promise.
- Baptism welcomes people into the Christian family; sacraments are signs of Jesus' love.
- Children distinguish Old and New Testament and deepen stewardship through psalms and Creation.

2. Prophecy and Promise

Advent, God's promises and the birth of Jesus.

Nursery & Reception

- Mary says 'yes' to God and Jesus is born in Bethlehem.
- Children hear the Nativity story and learn about waiting and preparing during Advent.
- They encounter the crib, angels, shepherds and simple prayers to Mary.

Year 1

- Annunciation, Visitation, Birth of Jesus and visit of the shepherds in Luke.
- God sends Jesus because he loves us; Mary has a special role.
- Children hear/join the Hail Mary and the opening of the Gloria.

Year 2

- Prophets such as Isaiah, Zechariah and John the Baptist prepare people for Jesus.
- Jesus is Emmanuel – 'God with us' – and light in the darkness.
- Children explore the Advent wreath, Magnificat and how Christians prepare and share Christ's light.

3. Galilee to Jerusalem

Who Jesus is and what his words and actions reveal about God.

Nursery & Reception

- Jesus welcomes children and cares for people.
- Children meet Gospel stories, including the feeding of the crowd, and learn Jesus' command to love.
- They begin to understand that Jesus came for everyone.

Year 1

- Presentation, Jesus in the Temple, his mission, call of disciples and Zacchaeus.
- People recognise Jesus as the Son of God and 'light to all nations'.
- Following Jesus means sharing Good News and caring especially for those in need.

Year 2

- Baptism of Jesus, temptation, miracles and parables deepen understanding of Jesus.
- Jesus teaches forgiveness and turning back to God; miracles reveal his power and care.
- Children connect prayer, Baptism, good choices, saying sorry and forgiveness.

4. Desert to Garden

Lent, Holy Week, forgiveness and the Resurrection.

Nursery & Reception

- Lent is a time to prepare and care for others.
- Children encounter Palm Sunday, Jesus' death and the joy that Jesus rose again.
- Signs and symbols include purple, palms, the cross, an Easter garden and new life.

Year 1

- Lent includes prayer, fasting and helping others.
- Palm Sunday, Last Supper, Crucifixion and the empty tomb form the Holy Week story.
- The key message is that Jesus' story does not end in death, but Resurrection.

Year 2

- Holy Week is revisited and linked to Jesus' forgiveness at the Crucifixion.
- Lent is a time of reconciliation and restoring relationship with God.
- The Easter Vigil introduces light, the Easter candle and baptismal water; Reconciliation is introduced simply.

5. To the Ends of the Earth

The risen Jesus, the Holy Spirit and the mission of the Church.

Nursery & Reception

- Jesus returns to the Father and the Holy Spirit comes at Pentecost.
- Children hear about the first Christians sharing, praying and caring for one another.
- They begin to see the Church as a family and community.

Year 1

- Children revisit the Resurrection, then learn about Ascension and Pentecost.
- The Holy Spirit gives the apostles courage to share the Good News.
- Fire, wind, prayer, art and music help children explore Pentecost.

Year 2

- Ascension and Pentecost are revisited with greater depth, alongside Saul/St Paul.
- Children learn about the fruits of the Spirit such as love, joy, peace, patience and kindness.
- They see how the Holy Spirit helps Christians live and share the Good News.

Parent-friendly summary: "The same branch is revisited each year, so knowledge is layered and deepened rather than taught once and forgotten."

6. Dialogue and Encounter

Catholic identity, respectful dialogue and learning about others.

Nursery & Reception

- Children learn to listen respectfully and notice similarities and differences.
- They encounter people and traditions in their community through stories, artefacts and experiences.
- The emphasis is dignity, welcome and respectful curiosity.

Year 1

- Children explore what it means to be Christian, the parish and the cross/Sign of the Cross.
- They learn that Christianity is a worldwide faith.
- They begin a focused encounter with Judaism, including belief in one God, Torah and Jewish life.

Year 2

- The Good Samaritan supports the question: 'Who is my neighbour?'
- Children see examples of Christians working with others for the common good.
- Judaism is explored in greater depth, including Shabbat/Sabbath, synagogue and lived Jewish practice.

Parent-friendly summary: "The same branch is revisited each year, so knowledge is layered and deepened rather than taught once and forgotten."

What progression looks like by the end of Year 2

KNOW

- Retell and sequence key Scripture.
- Use a growing bank of religious vocabulary.
- Recognise links between Scripture, Catholic beliefs, prayer and sacraments.

THINK

- Ask and answer questions.
- Talk about meaning in stories, symbols, art and prayer.
- Make simple connections across their learning.

LIVE & RESPOND

- Reflect on care for Creation, forgiveness and service.
- Recognise how Christians put faith into action.
- Show respect when learning about other religious traditions.

Parents as partners in faith and learning

ASK

- What Bible story did you hear?
- What did you learn about God or Jesus?
- What new religious word can you explain?

NOTICE

- Notice the liturgical seasons, churches, crosses and signs of faith.
- Talk about Creation, kindness, forgiveness and service.
- Welcome children's questions and moments of wonder.

SHARE

- Pray together if this is part of family life.
- Share family and cultural traditions.
- Speak respectfully about people whose beliefs or traditions are different.

Other religions

Children are taught to be secure in their Catholic identity while learning to listen respectfully to others.

In Key Stage 1, the RED gives particular attention to Judaism because Jesus was born and lived within the Jewish community and the Hebrew Scriptures are integral to Christian belief.

Prayer and Liturgy

- The Prayer and Liturgy Directory is a guide for parents to understand how Catholic schools integrate prayer and worship into daily life.
- It outlines the role of prayer in nurturing children's spiritual growth and fostering a sense of community through participation in the Church's liturgical celebrations. The Directory encourages parents to support their children's prayer life at home and help them develop a deep, personal connection with God. As it states, *"Liturgy and prayer are essential ways in which children come to know, love, and serve God."*

To love You more dearly

The Prayer & Liturgy Directory
*for Catholic Schools, Academies and Colleges
in England and Wales*



**Prayer &
Liturgy
Directory**

Why Prayer and Liturgy Matter

- Prayer and liturgy are **at the heart of Catholic school life**.
- They help children:
- Grow in friendship with Jesus.
- Learn how to pray in different ways.
- Experience the beauty of worship together.
- They link **home, school, and parish** as one faith community.

What Do We Mean by...?

- **Prayer** – lifting hearts and minds to God (can be quiet, spoken, sung, creative).
- **Celebrations of the Word** – assemblies or services centered on Scripture.
- **Liturgy** – formal worship of the Church (e.g. Mass, Reconciliation).

Types of Prayer & Liturgy St Rose's

- **Daily prayer** in classrooms (morning, lunchtime, home time).
- **Seasonal prayers** (Advent, Lent, Easter, Harvest).
- **Celebrations of the Word** (assemblies with Scripture and prayer).
- **Mass** (with adapted structures for young children).
- **Traditional prayers** (Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be).

Prayer & Liturgy at St Rose's

- Children are taught the correct way to make the sign of the cross during prayer
- They say a morning prayer at the start of the day,
- A prayer before lunch,
- A prayer before home time
- Children are invited to make the sign of the cross
- They are taught the correct responses to Bible readings and responses in Mass

Masses and Liturgies at St Rose's

- We celebrate Mass regularly throughout the year. Each year group will also attend Mass at our local parish in Boxmoor, at least once during the school year.
- Father David also regularly visits the school and the children in class.
- We have weekly Gospel assemblies and liturgies to celebrate important times, e.g. Welcome back to school, Harvest, the beginning of Advent, etc.
- We have daily prayer leaders who lead their class in prayer (morning, lunch & end of the day).
- We have Celebration of the Word sessions once a week which are a time for children to be still, quiet and calm to listen to the word of God.
- Prayer can also be spontaneous and children are invited to pray whenever they feel it appropriate. Many pupils like to use our 'Prayer Garden' for quiet moments to reflect.

Masses and Liturgies 2026 -2027

Here are the current planned dates:

- **Welcome Mass** – Tuesday 15th September 2026 at 2:15pm – in school
- **Harvest Liturgy** – Friday 2nd October 2026 at 2:15pm – in school
- **Epiphany Mass** – Wednesday 6th January 2027 at 10am – in Church (we will need parent helpers needed to help us walk there from 9:30am there and back please)
- **Ash Wednesday Service** – Wednesday 10th February 2027 at 11am - school hall
- **Lenten Liturgy** – Wednesday 24th March 2027 at 2:15pm – in school
- **Easter Liturgy** – Friday 16th April 2027 2:15pm – in school
- **Month of the Blessed Virgin Mary Liturgy** – Tuesday 4th May 2027 at 2:15pm – in school
- **Year 2 Leavers' Mass** – Tuesday 13th July 2027 at 5:00pm - in Church (year 2 families only)