

ST JOHN PAYNE CATHOLIC SCHOOL



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

DATE REVIEWED	OCTOBER 2022
RATIFIED BY GOVERNORS	
DATE OF NEXT REVIEW	OCTOBER 2025

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CONTEXT

Through the centuries, the Church has educated young people and adults. Staff and students of St John Payne bear daily witness to Christ and the Catholic way of life. Religious education at the school is in the first instance education in the Catholic Christian faith; students learn about and from the Catholic tradition.

“Religious education is central to the curriculum of the Catholic school and at the heart of the philosophy of Catholic education. Religious education has developed to reflect the particular identity of Catholic schools in England & Wales. It teaches about the faith in the context of a school which proclaims the Gospel, and invites the individual to respond to the message of Christ. Growth in faith and knowledge helps the child to respond to the call to holiness and understand the fullness of what it is to be human. For some, Religious education will also be received as evangelization and for some, catechesis.”⁽¹⁾

Religious education enables students to build their sense of identity, and to flourish as citizens in a diverse society. Students learn about other faiths and beliefs, promoting respect and understanding.

Religious Education is conducted as a partnership with parents, the first educators of their children in faith. The role of St John Payne is to support the work begun in homes, parishes and primary schools, to help children explore and develop their faith as they journey through adolescence.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AS A CURRICULUM SUBJECT

The aim of RE is to produce *“religiously literate, engaged young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills appropriate to their age and capacity to reflect spiritually, think ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life”*⁽²⁾

RE is the core of the Core curriculum, taught, developed and resourced with the same commitment as any other subject. Its Core status sees it allocated 10% curriculum time across KS3&4, with 5% in KS5.

RE has its own content and assessment, covering areas such as God’s self-revelation, the Church, celebration, and life in Christ. Subject matter promotes respect for others and builds understanding of other cultures and beliefs. It is assessed by public examination and inspected by the diocesan education department. It is an important contributory factor to the passing on of the community’s faith.

The RE curriculum is fully compliant with the Religious Education Curriculum Directory (3-19) (2022) and all more recent instructions. The GCSE at St John Payne is also fully compliant with Edexcel A Religious Studies. Assessment adheres to diocesan guidelines, and we currently use the age-related standards directed by Brentwood Diocese education department.

⁽¹⁾ Religious Education Curriculum Directory (Bishops’ Conference 2012) p3

⁽²⁾ Religious Education Curriculum Directory (Bishops’ Conference 2012) p6

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The Diocese will support all Catholic schools in their delivery of the requirements of the Curriculum Directory and other norms of the Bishops' Conference. Diocesan policy relating to schemes of work and programmes of study encourages schools to utilise whichever resources best suit.

- At St John Payne we have developed a bespoke KS3 RE curriculum which focuses on the strands of the Curriculum Directory: Revelation, the Church, Life in Christ & Celebration.
- At KS4, students study Foundational Catholic Theology in Paper 1, Applied Catholic Theology in paper 2, and Judaism in Paper 3.

WIDER INFLUENCE

The Chaplain & RE department enjoy a symbiotic, reciprocal relationship that sees students grow in faith, knowledge and liturgical literacy through worship, retreats, assemblies and action for social justice. Students develop an understanding and appreciation of diversity within the social, moral, spiritual and cultural curriculum, to which the RE department contributes significantly.

See also collective worship policy.