



St Robert Southwell Catholic Primary School

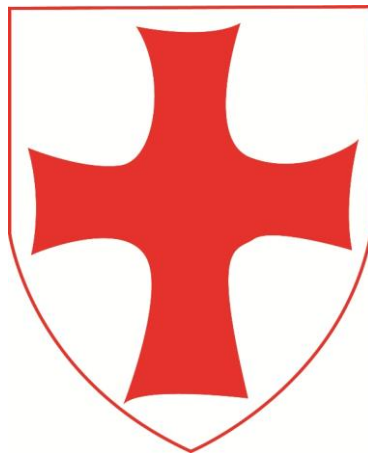
Aiming for Excellence - Being the Best We Can Be

St. Robert Southwell Catholic Primary School

A school in the trusteeship of



Diocese of Westminster



Religious Education Policy

Approved by staff: April 2026

Adopted by Governors: April 2026

Next Review: March 2028

Responsible Person: Sinead Lay

Assistant Headteacher for RE and Catholic Life of the School



St Robert Southwell Catholic Primary School

Aiming for Excellence - Being the Best We Can Be

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to create an educating Christian community which reflects the values of the Gospel within the traditions of the Roman Catholic Church;

- a community which will develop the whole person
- a community which works closely with parents and parish
- a community which values each child as a unique individual with particular gifts and needs
- a forward-looking community which serves its members and the wider society
- a community in which we will lead those in our care to grow in their faith whilst benefiting from an enriching education.

Summary:

Following Jesus' footsteps and inspired by St Robert Southwell we work hard, aim high and treat everyone with honesty and gentleness

Vision Statement

Aiming for Excellence – Being The Best We Can Be

- At School, At Home and in the Community
- Developing children who achieve well, are confident and are happy
- Young people who live their faith positively and contribute to the common good

Wellbeing & Mental Health Vision

To support everyone's wellbeing and mental health, so that they can be the best they can be, are happy together, resilient, ready to learn and succeed.

- Empowering everyone in the community to be emotionally literate
- Enabling stakeholders to develop strategies to manage their emotional wellbeing and mental health.



Rationale of Religious Education.

- Religious Education is central to the educative mission of the Church.
*'At the heart of Catholic education lies the Christian vision of the human person. This vision is expressed and explored in Religious Education.'*¹
- In a Catholic school, at the core of the core, is Religious Education, for the sake of which Catholic schools exist in the first place.²

The Aims of Religious Education

- To nurture each child as a unique individual, helping them to grow in faith, hope and love and to respond to God's call in their lives.
- To engage in a systematic study of the mystery of God, of the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, the teachings of the Church, the central beliefs that Catholics hold, the basis for them and the relationship 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 world views 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 curriculum³

Outcome of Religious Education

The outcome of Religious Education is religiously literate and 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 are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.³

¹ Religious Education in Catholic Schools, Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, 2000, para 4

² Religious Education Directory 2023, p13

³ Religious Education Directory 2023, p6



Religious Education at the heart of the curriculum

- Religious Education is the core of the core curriculum and is to be the source and summit of the whole curriculum.
- Religious Education is an academic discipline with the same systematic demands and rigour as other disciplines.
- Religious education is to be delivered within a broad and balanced curriculum, where it informs every aspect of the curriculum. Every other subject is to be informed by religious education and have a strong relationship with it.
- In each year of compulsory schooling, religious education is to be taught for at least 10% curriculum time within each repeating cycle of the regular school timetable.

Programme of Study:

As a Catholic school, St Robert Southwell Catholic Primary School is required to comply with the Religious Education Directory (2023). The RED 2023 provides a model curriculum which this school follows from Nursery to Year Six.

Curriculum Structure

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 world 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](#)

Assessment, Monitoring, Recording and Reporting

- Assessment of standards is carried out against the Expected Outcomes in RED 2023.
- Assessment moderation / standardisation takes place in school amongst colleagues, at deanery meetings and at diocesan meetings.
- Monitoring of teaching and learning in Religious Education takes place in line with our monitoring of all subjects through an annual curriculum review day which includes: a curriculum review presentation by the subject lead; book scrutiny; lesson observations and pupil voice.
- Progress and achievement is recorded and tracked in line with other core subjects, termly.
- Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to Governors annually in line with other core subjects.
- Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to parents/carers each year in line with other core subjects.



St Robert Southwell Catholic Primary School

Aiming for Excellence - Being the Best We Can Be

Leadership of the subject:

Sinead Lay, Assistant Headteacher, is the RE Lead that has responsibility for leading, managing and supporting the delivery of Religious Education and the continuous professional development of teachers in Religious Education.

There is a nominated link governor with responsibility for school improvement. Staff are also supported by the Parish Priest.

Right of Withdrawal

Religious Education is a core subject in this Catholic school and is central to the life and mission of the school. However, parents have a statutory right to withdraw their child wholly or partly from Religious Education and from collective worship. This right is set out in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

Parents do not have to provide a reason for exercising this right. Any request for withdrawal should be made in writing to the Headteacher and will remain in place unless the request is withdrawn by the parent.

The school will make appropriate arrangements for the supervision of pupils who are withdrawn, in line with legal requirements. If pupils are withdrawn from religious education, schools have a duty to supervise them, though not to provide additional teaching or to incur extra costs.

Policy Review:

This policy will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed by Miss Honor Beck, Headteacher and Miss Sinead Lay, Assistant Headteacher for R.E and updated every two years.