



## **Religious Education Policy**

Responsible committee: Pupil Learning  
Ratified by Governing Body: March 2025  
Updated July 2025  
Review Date: Annual or on Diocesan  
advice

### **Mission Statement**

Our mission is to be a happy, caring and compassionate Catholic community where each child's gifts are developed to the full and the foundations for lifelong learning are laid down.

Everyone will be supported, nurtured and inspired to be the very best they can be and to persevere to overcome life's challenges.

With God's help, we will educate our children to live safely and responsibly, to care for His wonderful creation and to live their lives through the example of Jesus and the values of the Gospel.

### **Policy**

Religious Education at St Dunstan's is at the heart of the curriculum. It is based on sound educational principles suited to the age and ability of the children. The programme is supported and enhanced by the School's ethos.

10% of teaching the teaching week is allocated to Religious Education.

In line with Diocesan guidance, the school follows the new RED curriculum (Religious Education Directory for Catholic Schools: To Know You More Clearly).

### **Study of Other Religions**

We live in a pluralistic country with people of different races, cultures and religions; our children live in a fast changing global world which opens them to diversity and challenge. Within our schools we are seeking to educate all pupils, of whatever religion, to be able to live a way of life that integrates their

beliefs with all other aspects of what it means to be human. As a part of this, they must learn to live alongside others who are different and hold alternative views including religious views.

*Paragraph 201. Meeting God in Friend and Stranger 2010, Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales; section 205*

In the RED curriculum, a half term 'Dialogue and Encounter' branch will allow for the study of other faiths. During this half term, pupils are given the opportunity to explore aspects of these faiths through practical activities and, wherever possible, from visits by representatives of other faiths as well as trips to their place of worship.

### **Governors**

Governors acknowledge that parents have a legal right to withdraw their child from Religious Education. However, given the importance of Religious Education in a Catholic school, parents and prospective parents should be made aware of the fact that it can never be confined to 'timetabled slots' but may take place in a variety of contexts other than those which are specifically structured. It is not therefore feasible to withdraw children from every aspect of RE within the school.

Governors will be familiar with the RE guidelines and procedures of the school and be made aware of any changes that take place.

We have a Catholic Life and Mission Governor who works with the Catholic Life and Mission team to stay familiar with the RE and prayer guidelines and to support the Catholic Life of the school.

Our named Catholic Life and Mission Governor is: Mrs Mary Smith

### **Reporting to Parents**

Early in the autumn term for all year groups, as part of the Introduction to Year Group talks, parents are made aware of the RE curriculum. Via the website and newsletter, the half-termly curriculum overview is shared with parents providing them with information about each branch and any other relevant information.

There are parent evenings in the autumn and spring terms when parents have the opportunity to discuss their child's progress and see their child's work and termly Partners in Learning events. A report is sent home during the summer term which informs parents of their child's attainment.