



RE Curriculum



Intent: At St Swithun's Catholic Primary School, Religious Education lies at the very heart of our curriculum and school community. Rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ and the mission of the Catholic Church, RE nurtures pupils spiritually, morally, socially and academically, enabling them to grow in faith, understanding and compassion. Our curriculum follows the God Matters programme from the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth alongside the new Religious Education Directory, To Know You More Clearly, ensuring that pupils develop both secure religious knowledge and a lived understanding of faith.

We aim for pupils to:

- Develop a deep understanding of the Catholic faith, scripture and traditions
- Recognise their own dignity as people created and loved by God
- Reflect on how faith influences beliefs, choices and actions
- Engage thoughtfully with ultimate questions about meaning, purpose and truth
- Develop respect and understanding for people of all faiths and backgrounds
- Become compassionate, reflective and active members of society

Through carefully sequenced learning, pupils encounter:

- Scripture and Gospel teachings
- Catholic beliefs and practices
- Prayer, worship and liturgy
- Catholic Social Teaching
- Other faiths and worldviews

At St Swithun's, RE is not simply taught as a subject; it is lived throughout the daily life of the school. Our curriculum encourages pupils to make meaningful links between faith and everyday life, helping them to understand how they can live out Gospel values within their communities and the wider world.

Implementation: At St Swithun's, Religious Education is delivered through a progressive and engaging curriculum that develops knowledge, understanding, spirituality and theological thinking from EYFS to Year 6. Our RE curriculum follows the God Matters scheme provided by the Diocese of Portsmouth and is carefully sequenced to ensure progression in both knowledge and disciplinary understanding.

Units are organised around key themes including:

- Creation
- Prayer, Saints and Feasts
- Advent and Christmas
- Revelation
- Sacraments
- Lent, Holy Week and Easter
- Pentecost
- Catholic Social Teaching

Children revisit key concepts and teachings throughout their time at school, enabling them to deepen understanding and make increasingly sophisticated theological links. They are encouraged to engage with scripture critically and reflectively, making connections between biblical teachings, Catholic traditions and modern-day life.



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Our teaching approach ensures that pupils actively think, question and reflect as theologians through:

- The use of Big Questions and theological enquiry to drive learning
- Explicit teaching of scripture, Catholic teachings and key vocabulary
- Opportunities for discussion, debate and reflection
- The use of images, artefacts, prayer and liturgy to deepen understanding
- Retrieval practice to revisit and embed key knowledge

Scripture, Prayer and Reflection

Scripture is central to all RE learning. Pupils regularly:

- Read and explore Bible passages
- Reflect on the meaning of scripture
- Discuss how Jesus' teachings can guide their lives

Prayer and reflection are embedded throughout lessons, providing opportunities for:

- Silence and contemplation
- Personal response
- Collective worship and liturgy

Children are encouraged to develop a personal relationship with God while also understanding the communal nature of faith within the Church.

Adaptation and Inclusion

Adaptation is embedded throughout the RE curriculum to ensure all pupils can access and engage with learning:

- Scaffolded scripture tasks and reflection prompts
- Simplified and adapted versions of scripture where appropriate
- Vocabulary banks and sentence stems to support theological writing
- Visual resources, role-play and storytelling to support understanding
- Opportunities for collaborative learning and discussion

Our pupil-centred approach ensures every child feels valued, included and able to contribute meaningfully to RE learning.

Catholic Life and Wider Opportunities

RE is enriched through the wider Catholic life of the school, including:

- Celebration of Masses and liturgies
- Prayer and collective worship
- Links with the parish and wider Catholic community
- Charitable work and Catholic Social Teaching projects
- Opportunities to live out Gospel values through action and service

And all our pupils are encouraged to understand that faith is lived through:

- Compassion
- Service
- Justice
- Respect for others



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Catholic Social Teaching in Religious Education

Catholic Social Teaching is woven throughout the RE curriculum at St Swithun's and underpins the life of the school community. Through scripture, prayer and theological reflection, pupils explore the principles of dignity, solidarity, stewardship, participation and the common good. Children are encouraged to recognise the importance of serving others, standing up against injustice and caring for God's creation. Through opportunities for charity work, reflection and discussion, pupils learn that faith is not only something to believe, but something to live out through compassionate action and service to others.

Impact: By the time pupils leave St Swithun's Catholic Primary School, they will:

- Have a secure understanding of Catholic beliefs, scripture and traditions
- Be able to make links between faith and everyday life
- Reflect thoughtfully on moral, spiritual and theological questions
- Show respect and understanding for people of different faiths and backgrounds
- Use theological vocabulary accurately and confidently
- Demonstrate empathy, compassion and a commitment to the common good

Pupils leave St Swithun's as reflective, respectful and spiritually aware individuals who understand their value as children of God and their responsibility to contribute positively to the world around them.