	Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School **Catholic Life, Mission and Religious Education Policy**

Joyfully, unique in Jesus' family, we learn to use our special gifts to love, serve and make the world a better place.

Catholic Life, Mission and Religious Education Policy			
Approval		Board of Governors	
Chairperson	Rachel Cox	**Headteacher**	Simon Lennon
Date of last review	June 2024	**Date of review**	June 2026
Date of next review	June 2028	**Maintenance**	SSD Committee

In exceptional circumstances this policy may be subject to change in accordance with the school's risk assessment (approved by SLT and Governors) which will override current policy guidelines.

'Let the little children come to me…for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these'
Matthew 9:14

Context
"Our school aims to be a sign of God's presence in the world." We do this through our explicit relationships, attitudes to learning and the daily living of our faith in our own Catholic community through the school's gospel virtues, Catholic Social Teaching principles and the development of Catholic Character Education of all.

Roles and Responsibilities
' *For even the Son of Man did not come to be served; He came to serve* 'Mark 10:45, thereby setting an example of servant leadership which is embedded by all leaders in this school.

All stakeholders have, by virtue of agreeing to work in a Catholic school, a responsibility to uphold the Catholic ethos of the school
Governors have, in addition to the three core functions of governing bodies, responsibility for ensuring the Catholic charism of the school reflects the Bishop's vision. Governors are a witness to the gospel and catholic social teaching in setting the vision of the school at every level
The RE Governor works closely with the RE leader to ensure the highest standards are maintained. The RE Governor reports to the FGB on a termly basis
The Headteacher 'is the spiritual leader of the school.' (CES) and has the primary responsibility in promoting the Catholic charism of this school. This policy is central to all decisions made
The School Chaplain promotes the Christ-centered ethos of the school with a special focus on the Eucharist, through providing spiritual care and guidance to pupils, staff, parents and carers. They support pupil and staff formation. The Chaplain has significant responsibility for the faith life of the school which includes promoting social justice within, in our community, and globally
The RE Leader has overall responsibility for the implementation of the catholic life and mission of the school and directs the School Chaplain and Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator in carrying out their role and responsibilities. They are responsible for the implementation of the Religious Education Directory (RED) which includes the programmes of study approved by the Bishops' Conference. They assist colleagues in planning RE lessons effectively to enable each child to achieve to the best of their ability. They are available to advise, support and liaise with colleagues, lead on insets and develop best practice amongst all staff. The RE subject leader attends meetings with other leaders at diocesan and local level, shares information and helps to monitor planning, teaching and learning through the school's self-review
The Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator ensures that prayer and liturgy is organised, led, monitored and evaluated, providing relevant support and resources for staff and pupils where required. They keep updated with best practice and ongoing formation through contact with diocesan advisers and others

Catholic Life and Mission 'To follow You more Nearly'
<u>Identity, charism and vision</u>
The Catholic vision of education is distinctive and the beliefs it holds inspires the whole of the curriculum. Our school Mission Statement is a clear expression of our school's particular charism where we identify as a eucharistically Christ centered school. It is known, lived and witnessed throughout the school.

Staff expectations

At Corpus Christi School, we are the Body of Christ and welcome all, as our brothers and sisters in God's family. We treat our whole school and the wider community with dignity and respect. We respect the race, culture, religion, gender, disability or social background of every child to ensure they fulfil their potential within a proactive, loving and caring environment. Staff, including those of faith, other faiths and none are supported in upholding the Catholic ethos through the school's induction process, Diocesan training and ongoing staff insets and formation. Staff are positive role models for pupils through their interactions which show a witness to the school's Catholic life and mission.

Pastoral care

The school is committed to supporting in particular our most vulnerable pupils and family through the provision of supportive pastoral care for pupils.

The school environment

The environment of the school effectively witnesses the school's charism through explicit signs of the school's Catholic character such as the school chapel, school gospel virtues and role model displays, Catholic Social Teaching principle displays, liturgically themed prayer tables and culturally diverse icons and symbols.

Chaplaincy

The chaplaincy provision is a central and celebrated aspect of the life and mission of the school supporting the flourishing of every member of the school community through Liturgy (the formal act of the Church), Liturgical Prayer (following the structural patterns found in the liturgy) and prayer.

Faith in Action

The school has strong links with Corpus Christi St Vincent de Paul Conference with the Mini Vinnies (Y3-5) representing the school. The Oscar Romero Faith in Action Committee (Y6) supports the school Chaplain in planning Celebration of the Word as well as promoting social justice through awareness and fund raising activities for local and international charities.

Prayer and Liturgy 'To love You more Dearly' (this is outlined in detail in **The Prayer and Liturgy Policy**).

In Catholic schools all prayer is celebrated in the Catholic tradition but the fruits of the celebration are open to people of all faiths and none, prayer is a space for all to reflect.

The school has a dedicated Chaplain to support children's spiritual and holistic development. Children are given the opportunity to experience personal, private prayer, sharing of thought and expressions, communal and spontaneous prayer within Celebration of the Word and during any relevant opportunity which presents itself during the school day.

Within the Prayer and Liturgy Policy the elements of **Liturgy, Celebration of the Word** and **Prayer** in our school are detailed and these are

Religious Education Curriculum 'To Know You More Clearly'

Religious education is the core of the core curriculum and is to be the source and summit of the whole curriculum. It is delivered within a broad and balanced curriculum, where it informs every aspect of the curriculum. In our school we have a catholic approach to the curriculum.

Our curriculum is illuminated by the Gospel through the following:

- It is both implicit and explicit (virtue 'caught - taught - sought') through a whole school approach from EYFS to Year 6
- It is based on our ten School Gospel Virtues, taught across a two year cycle, linked to the Liturgical Calendar
- Each year group focus on one virtue each half term, taught explicitly as an in-depth study to foster critical thinking
- Virtues which are explored through a range of literature using biblical, historical and real-life events based sources and stimulus eg. stories, fables, news events, film and songs.
- Lessons which include role model study (diverse representation)
- Opportunities for critical reflection to develop Virtue Reasoning
- Gospel Virtue Home Learning sheets shared each half term with parents/carers.

<u>Catholic Character Education (CCE)</u>
An explicit programme of Catholic Character Education, based on our school Gospel Virtues, will be taught and actively promoted to enhance our provision in this subject. Catholic Character Education seeks to foster the formation of all stakeholders, through a shared vision, that allows all to reach their full potential for the good of society. Catholic Character Education will be taught as part of RSHE provision, as well as within RE, Collective Worship and reinforced throughout teaching and learning and in all aspects of school life.

Alongside our Catholic approach to the curriculum and our explicit teaching of CCE pupils will also receive 2.5 hours of religious education weekly.

<u>Our Aims in Religious Education</u> as outlined in the RE Directory (2023) are:

- 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 holds, and 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 skills to engage in respectful and fruitful dialogue with those whole worldviews differ their own
- to develop the critical faculties of pupils so to bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and better 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 curriculum.

Outcome of religious education:
The outcome of excellent religious education is religiously literate and consciously 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 recognise the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.

Programme of study: **Religious Education Directory - Catholic Education Service**
The programme of study has a framework with four structural elements:

- **Knowledge Lens:** set out the object of study for pupils and indicate what should be known by the end of each age -phase. The first lens is 'Hear', second lens is 'Believe', third lens is 'Celebrate', the fourth is 'Live', fifth lens is 'Dialogue' and the sixth lens is 'Encounter'.
- **Ways of Knowing:** set out the skills that pupils should be developing as they progress through their curriculum journey. (Understand, Discern, Respond). In our school we use the language 'See, Choose, Act)
- **Expected Outcomes:** for each age-phase there are a prescribed set of outcomes that will indicate what pupils are expected to know, remember, and be able to do, using the language of the ways of knowing and applying it to the discrete knowledge within each lens.
- **Curriculum Branches:** the model curriculum presents six curriculum branches linked to the six terms of the school year.

The six curriculum branches:

- Creation and covenant
- Prophecy and promise
- Galilee to Jerusalem
- Desert to garden
- To the ends of the Earth
- Dialogue and encounter

Lesson planning and implementation
All lessons will be planned in accordance with the model curriculum. Each year group follows the same unit of work at the same time. The units are taught by class teachers and explored by the children at levels appropriate to each age group. The topics are all closely related to the Scriptures. Most topics are taught in subject-specific lessons, but are integrated into other curriculum areas as and when appropriate, according to the age range of the children. Planning should contain wonder and awe where children experience moments where they look at and comment on the astonishing things in nature and everyday life.
RE lessons will be observed by the RE leader and SLT on a regular basis, books will be monitored in line with policy. Governor link visits will be organised at least twice annually.
Assessment is in line with new age related expectations and levels are electronically entered onto the school's tracking data. The record of achievement for parents annually contains a specific section for progress in Religious Education. RE data is reported to Governors three times yearly at SSDc and FGB.

Time Allocation
In accordance with the recommendation of the Bishops of England and Wales, a minimum of 10% of school time is given to the teaching of R.E. that is two and a half hours weekly. In addition to this the children attend and take part in hymn practices, daily Celebration of the Word, Masses and assemblies. Time is also given to special liturgical services to celebrate Easter and Christmas (Carol Service, Nativity play).

Monitoring and Evaluation

Catholic schools are inspected under the Catholic Schools Inspectorate Framework for Inspection (2022). Inspection is every five years and a global judgement on how effective the school is in providing Catholic education is given at the end of the inspection.
The following are the three main areas of focus:

- Catholic Life and Mission
- Religious Education
- Collective Worship

Each area is viewed in the context of pupil outcomes, provision and leadership. An overall judgement of Outstanding, Good, Requires improvement or Inadequate is given. The school must be fully compliant with the curriculum requirements laid down by the Bishops' Conference and have fully responded to the areas for improvement from the previous Catholic school inspection.

The Governing Body will ensure in conjunction with the Headteacher, RE Lead and Chaplain that the school's self evaluation (CSED - Catholic School's Evaluation Document) is updated on a regular basis. This will be done initially with the RE Governor and RE Lead and then shared at the SSDc meeting at least twice a year.

Induction of New Teachers in the Teaching of RE at Corpus Christi
As part of the induction programme for all teachers new to the school, which includes an introduction to our ethos and the catholic approach to the curriculum will then have an induction meeting with the RE Subject Leader to discuss the specific teaching of RE in this school and the catholic life. New teachers are supported throughout the year by RE lead, School Chaplain and other staff members as well as receiving additional diocesan training.

Resources
Each class has a copy of the RE Directory and RE folder on google drive. Other resources include a wide selection of Bibles, appropriate to different year groups, posters, pictures and artefacts, and a variety of books for teachers and pupils.

Links to other policies:
Catholic Approach to the Curriculum Policy
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy
RSHE Policy