



St Anthony's Catholic Primary School

An Academy within The Catholic Academy Trust in South Hampshire

*'Children in our heart, Christ at the centre'
'We love, we learn and we live'*



Name of Policy	RE
Reference Number	
Date of e-signoff	November 2025
Headteacher	Katrina Straker
RE Lead Governor	Fr Ansel D'Mello
Date for review	November 2027



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The St Anthony's mission statement is 'Children in our heart, Christ at the centre. We love, we learn and we live.' To live out this mission, we are guided and led by our Catholic ethos that places the Catholic Social Teaching principles of Human Dignity and the Common Good at the heart of our school. We recognise that each of us is unique and loved by God and we are called to lead by example, as Christ did, to show respect and love to every person because each of us is made in the image of God.

**"A good school provides a rounded education for the whole person.
And a good Catholic school, over and above this, should help all its students to
become saints." (Pope Benedict XVI)**

Curriculum Intent:

At St Anthony's, the RE curriculum is built upon the mission of the school and sets out to meet the needs of all children. RE is a core subject with the same academic rigour as our other core subjects.

Intent I (Religious Education across the school)

In the daily living of our Catholic faith, we aim to ensure that religious education and spiritual development permeates every aspect of the curriculum, not just in religious education lessons. This will be rooted in prayer and lived out in the daily life of the school, with links made to Catholic Social Teaching where appropriate. The children are supported through the curriculum to grow in faith, and deepen their relationship with God and each other.

Research Link

Statement of the Bishops Conference of England and Wales Jan 2000

"In the life of faith of the Catholic school, religious education plays a central and vital part. At the heart of Catholic education lies the Christian vision of the human person. This vision is expressed and explored in religious education. Therefore religious education is never simply one subject among many, but the foundation of the entire educational process. The beliefs and values studies in Catholic religious education inspire and draw together every aspect of the life of a Catholic school. We are committed to classroom RE, then, because all pupils must receive an overall religious education which will enable them, in the light of the faith of the hope of the Church, to engage with the deepest questions of life and find reasons for the hope which is within them (1 Peter 3:15). Religious education is, then, the core subject in a Catholic school."

Implementation

Partnership with parents

The church teaches that parents are the primary educators of their children in the Faith and we seek to support them in this role. We welcome parents to become actively involved in the religious life of the school by:

- attending school masses;
- attending carol services, nativity plays and an Easter Passion Play;
- sharing in the Rosary during October and Stations of the Cross during Lent;
- supporting their children in the learning and saying of formal and spontaneous prayer;
- encouraging the children to support our various appeals for the needs of others.

Partnership with the parish

- The school supports the Parish in the preparation of pupils for First Holy Communion (FHC).
- Staff are encouraged to attend FHC celebrations.
- Parishioners are warmly welcomed to school masses.
- The school organises an annual carol service that takes place in St Margaret Mary Church.
- Parishioners are encouraged to take part in the daily life of the school helping out in classrooms, in line with current Safeguarding Regulations.

Partnership with the governors

- The Parish priest is an essential member of our Governing Body.
- The Governing Body will appoint one of its Foundation Governors to be responsible for RE in school.
- The governors are invited to attend all school masses.
- The governors are responsible for monitoring RE within the school.

Partnership with the Diocese

- The School Leadership Team (SLT) are responsible for ensuring that the RE subject leader attends all Diocesan training days.
- The school always contributes to and attends the Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal Mass.
- The Head and Deputy, and Chair of Governors, as appropriate, attend all Diocesan Conferences.
- The Head attends the Southampton Cluster Catholic Heads Group meetings.
- The SLT are responsible for promoting our Catholic secondary schools.

Impact

By the time St Anthony's pupils leave our school in Year 6, they have a strong sense of their own dignity and worth as well as a sense of responsibility for themselves and others. They have developed a robust set of moral values, rooted in the Gospels, which are visible through their actions. This may include a genuine care for God's creation, a desire to help those in need and an ability to forgive and be forgiven.

Moreover, St Anthony's pupils are ready for the deeper reflective challenges they will explore at secondary school.

Intent ii (our Religious Education curriculum)

In line with (and developed by) the Diocese of Portsmouth, Religious Education (RE) lessons at St Anthony's follow the Standards Framework for Primary Religious Education, with reference to the *God Matters* scheme of work. From September 2026, St Anthony's will be transitioning to the *RE Directory: To know you more clearly*, a new curriculum that is being rolled out to Catholic schools across England and Wales. St Anthony's will adopt this new curriculum in line with guidelines and timelines provided by the Diocese of Portsmouth.

The aims of our curriculum are:

- To teach our children that God is a loving and forgiving God.
- To understand that God wants and desires the salvation of every human being. Salvation means each human being attaining the fullness of her/his humanity.
- To deepen our children's knowledge and understanding of Catholic religious traditions, practices and beliefs inspired by Gospel values.

- To teach our children that their faith is something that is lived out every day.
- To encourage our children to search and question in an open manner, to develop their own faith and to deepen their Christian understanding.
- To enable our pupils to be introduced to the background and beliefs of other faiths, so that prejudice and misunderstanding can be overcome from an early age.
- To encourage our children to live out our Christian values and understanding of moral principles leading to the moral integrity and wholeness of each individual person.
- To know that it is our responsibility to care for God's creation.
- To enable each young person to develop a sense of his/her own dignity and worth and have a sense of responsibility for self and others.

Research Link

'For all children religious education is a proper subject in its own right in the school's curriculum. It is a rigorous academic discipline as any other subject. For those already engaged in the journey of faith, religious education will be catechesis, and for some children and young people religious education will be evangelisation, the first opportunity to hear the good news of the gospel.' (Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools, Bishops' Conference of England and Wales 1996).

'Religious Education...is a rigorous academic discipline, and as such it is to be taught, developed and resourced with the same commitment as any other subject.'

(Curriculum Directory. p10)

'The outcome of Religious Education is religiously literate young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills – appropriate to their age and capacity – to think spiritually, ethically and theologically, who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.' **(Curriculum Directory p10)**

Implementation

St Anthony's follows the recommended scheme of work, *God Matters*, published by the Diocese of Portsmouth alongside a more recently developed age-related standards framework for RE that has been developed for Catholic schools nationally.

The programme is divided into ten units that are taught over an academic year following the cycle of the church year. Each class has a programme of study for the age range of each year group.

Unit 1	Creation
Unit 2	Catholic Social Teaching (replacing Prayer, Saints and Feasts)
Unit 3	Advent
Unit 4	Christmas
Unit 5	Revelation
Unit 6	Sacraments
Unit 7	Lent
Unit 8	Holy Week
Unit 9	Easter
Unit 10	Pentecost and Mission.

Where appropriate, RE is to be linked with other areas of the curriculum. Ten percent of curriculum time is allocated to the teaching of RE.

In more detail:

- All unit planning begins with the key scripture for each particular unit, taking into account Supplementary Guidance (agreed by the Diocese) and the age-related standards grid for RE.
- Lessons are carefully differentiated with a broad range of activities so children are not always required to give a written response. Pupils will explore the RE curriculum through art, drama and special visitors. Every child's response to scripture is valued so

differentiation provides opportunities for all children to participate. Our high attaining pupils are regularly challenged with deeper reflective tasks.

- All marking is done in line with the school marking policy.
- The school assesses RE in line with Diocesan guidelines, linked to the age-related standards framework. As age-related attainment descriptors have yet to be released, the school is developing its own internal set of attainment descriptors.
- From Y1 to Y6, children have their own RE exercise book to record their work.
- All parental reports include comments on the pupil's development within RE.

Pupil progress in RE is reviewed 3 times per year by the school's Senior Leadership Team and is reported to the Governors.

Special Educational Needs

The RE programme is presented in ways in which every child may express their own feelings or opinions regardless of age or ability. The use of drama, music, poetry and art as well as writing is provided so that every child can make a valuable contribution to their work in RE.

Impact

St Anthony's pupils are confident in exploring and responding to the Word of God and reflecting on its messages for today's society. Our pupils are knowledgeable and respectful of the beliefs of other faiths and are able to identify similarities between other faiths and Christianity.

Sequence of Teaching:

All unit planning begins with the key scripture and a learning journey is planned that culminates with answering a 'Big Question' towards the end of the unit. Lessons are sequenced using the Standards Framework for Primary RE by beginning with 'Knowledge and Understanding', in which children are introduced to key scripture or religious concepts, and moving to 'Engagement and Response', in which children reflect on how this new knowledge might impact their beliefs and values. By Key Stage Two, lessons are sequenced with a third group of learning intentions 'Analysis and Evaluation', in which children explore points of view and begin to express preferences and judgements.

Each unit also provides opportunities for learning about other faiths but these will be carefully sequenced so they link to the previous lessons to provide an alternative view on a theme. Through answering the Big Question, pupils are given the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of a unit as well as making links to their life and the lives of others. Where relevant, the other faith may therefore be taught before or after pupils answer the 'Big Question'. All units conclude with pupils completing an evaluation of the unit so that teaching can be adapted in the future to improve pupil enjoyment and understanding.

The right of withdrawal from Religious Education:

Parents of pupils are permitted, by law, to request that their child is withdrawn from receiving all or part of religious education and/or Celebration of the Word given at the school and any such request shall stand until such time that a parent's request is withdrawn.

If pupils are withdrawn from religious education, the school has a duty to supervise them, though not to provide additional teaching or to incur extra costs. Due to the resources available in our school, the pupil may remain supervised in the RE classroom but will not participate in the RE lesson. It is the parents' responsibility to provide materials for their child which have clear outcomes and are connected to the faith/philosophy/world view of the parents. The school will supervise the pupil and ensure the work is completed but the assessment of the pupil's work will be the responsibility of the parents.

If parents wish for their child to be moved to another area within the school during the RE lesson, the parents (or a person designated by them) must attend the school site during RE lessons to supervise their child in the school.

The school is able to refuse a request that the pupil study other aspects of the curriculum during times they have been withdrawn from RE as time is already given over to these subjects within the school's basic curriculum. It is important to bear in mind that the parental right to withdraw a child from RE was intended by Parliament to be a 'conscience clause' and not to be used as a general opt-out clause.

Care should be taken not to confuse a request to withdraw a child from RE with a request for absence due to religious observance. The Education Act 1996 provides that a child shall not be taken to have failed to attend regularly at the school, by reason of their absence on a day exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which their parent belongs. In this scenario, the absence will be marked as authorised. Further information can be found in the school's Attendance Policy on the school website.

**WE ARE ALL, AS A CATHOLIC COMMUNITY, RESPONSIBLE FOR THE
EVANGELISATION OF ALL MEMBERS OF OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY.**