St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Religious Education Newsletter

'We Work, We Care, We Pray, We Share'

Autumn 2026

As we begin a new academic year, we are excited to continue our journey with the Religious Education Directory (RED), *To Know You More Clearly*. This programme places Christ at the centre of learning and helps children know, understand and respond to God's love through Scripture, Catholic teaching and meaningful reflection.

This year, Classes 1 to 5 will continue following the RED curriculum. Following guidance from the Archdiocese, Year 6 will continue to follow the Year 5 RED curriculum during Autumn, Spring and Summer Terms until the new Year 6 RED curriculum is launched later this academic year**.** This will ensure pupils continue to receive high-quality Religious Education whilst maintaining continuity with diocesan guidance.

We continue to work collaboratively with local Catholic schools and the Archdiocese to ensure the delivery of engaging, challenging and faith-filled lessons which inspire our children to deepen their relationship with God.

Our School Mission

At St. Joseph's, our mission is at the heart of everything we do. We strive to create a school community where every child is known, loved and valued as a unique child of God. Through prayer, worship, learning and service, we help our children grow in faith and knowledge whilst developing the gifts God has given them.



Red – Religious Education Curriculum

Branch 1: Creation and Covenant -God's Gift to Us

Class 1
- Explore the Creation story in Genesis.
- Understand that people are made in God's image.
- Learn ways to care for God's world and each other.

Class 2
- Learn about Abraham and God's covenant with His people.
- Understand what faith and trust in God look like.
- Explore how God's promises continue today.

Class 3
- Examine the theological meaning of covenant.
- Explore how God's relationship with humanity develops throughout salvation history.
- Consider how Christians live as people of covenant today.

Class 4 *(Following the Year 5 RED curriculum until the Year 6 curriculum is published.)*
- Study the Year 5 Creation and Covenant Branch.
- Develop a deeper understanding of covenant relationships.
- Reflect on personal responsibility as stewards of creation.

Branch 2: Prophecy and Promise - Preparing for Jesus.

Class 1
- Explore how God's people waited for Jesus.
- Learn about key Old Testament figures.
- Understand that Jesus was God's promised gift.

Class 2
- Explore the role of prophets as messengers of God.
- Study Isaiah and other important prophetic figures.
- Understand how prophets prepared people for Jesus.

Class 3
- Analyse prophetic writings in greater depth.
- Study how Jesus fulfils Old Testament prophecy.
- Reflect on Christian hope and expectation during Advent.

Class 4 *(Following the Year 5 RED curriculum until the Year 6 curriculum is published.)*
- Follow the Year 5 Prophecy and Promise Branch.
- Explore prophetic texts and their fulfilment in Christ.
- Consider how Christians are called to bring hope to other

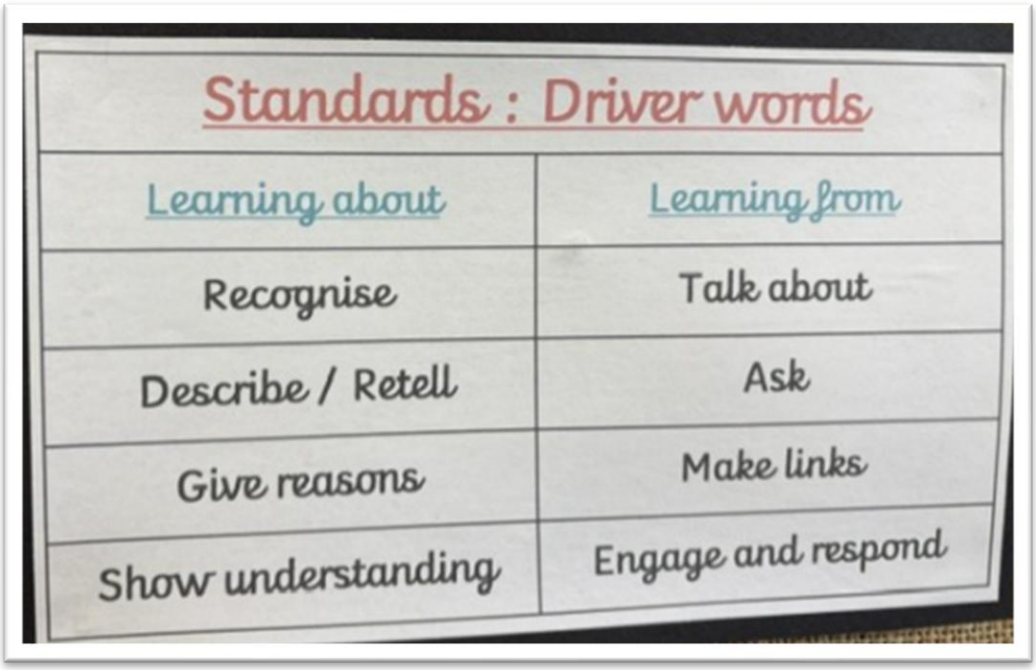


How do we assess Religious Education?

At St. Joseph's, assessment is seen as part of everyday teaching and learning.
Teachers continually check children's understanding through:

- Class discussions
- Retrieval activities
- Written work
- Scripture reflections
- Questioning
- Group tasks
- End of branch assessments
- Children receive regular feedback which helps them understand their next steps in learning.
- Driver Words

One of the ways children know how well they are doing is through the use of **driver words** in lessons and marking. These words help children understand the depth of understanding expected and support them in making progress.



Teachers refer to these driver words when providing feedback and children use them to improve their work and respond to challenges. This helps pupils become more confident learners who understand exactly how they can develop their Religious Education knowledge and understanding.

Catholic Social Teaching



This year we will continue to place a strong emphasis on **Catholic Social Teaching (CST)** across the curriculum.

Catholic Social Teaching helps children understand how our faith calls us to action. It connects Gospel values with everyday life and encourages children to become active citizens who work for justice, peace and the common good.

Throughout the year, children will explore the six key principles of Catholic Social Teaching:

- **Human Dignity -** Every person is made in God's image and deserves love and respect.
- **Family and Community -**We are called to work together and care for one another.
- **Dignity of Work -** Everyone's gifts and contributions have value.
- **Solidarity and the Common Good -** We stand alongside others and work for fairness and justice.
- **Preferential Option for the Poor -**We are called to support those most in need.
- **Care for Creation -** God's world is a gift which we must protect and nurture.

Children will see these principles woven through RE lessons, collective worship, assemblies, charitable projects and wider school life.

The new Religious Education Directory (RED) helps children grow in their knowledge of God and understand how faith can guide their actions and choices. Learning is organised around three key areas:

Creation -God's Gift to Us

Children learn that God created the world and everything in it. They explore how every person is special because they are made in God's image and learn how we can care for God's creation and one another.

Links to Catholic Social Teaching:

- Human Dignity
- Care for Creation
- The Common Good

Incarnation- God is With Us

Children learn about Jesus and discover that God became human to show us how to live, love and serve others. They explore Jesus' teachings and how His example can guide our daily lives.

Links to Catholic Social Teaching:

- Human Dignity
- Family and Community
- Solidarity
- Preferential Option for the Poor

Redemption- God's Love That Heals

Children learn about Jesus' death and resurrection and how God's love brings forgiveness, hope and new life. They explore how Christians are called to be peacemakers and show compassion to others.

Links to Catholic Social Teaching:

- Human Dignity
- Solidarity and the Common Good
- Preferential Option for the Poor
- Rights and Responsibilities

Learning Theology

As part of the RED curriculum, children are introduced to theology, which means thinking deeply about God, faith and the teachings of the Church. Through discussions, Scripture and reflection, children learn to ask questions, explain their ideas and make links between what they believe and how they live.

Together, the RED curriculum and Catholic Social Teaching help our children understand their faith and put it into action, encouraging them to become caring, compassionate and responsible members of God's famil

IMPORTANT DATES THIS TERM

- **October** – Month of the Holy Rosary
- **1 November** – All Saints' Day
- **2 November** – All Souls' Day
- **22 November** – Feast of Christ the King
- **29 November** – First Sunday of Advent and the beginning of the Church's new Liturgical Year
- **6 December** – Second Sunday of Advent
- **13 December** – Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)
- **20 December** – Fourth Sunday of Advent
- **8 December** – Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- **25 December** – Christmas Day, celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ