

# Religious Education & Collective Worship Policy

For



# All Hallows Catholic School

## Document Control

Date	Version	Changes	Senior Leadership Team Approval	Governing Board Approval
26 May 22	V1.0	Updated for 2022/2023 & approved	D Ragg	Catholic Community Committee
	V1.1	Updated to acknowledge the requirements of the 2023 Religious Education Directory and the 2023 Prayer and Liturgy Directory		
4 Oct 24	V1.2	Updated for 2024-2026, approved	D. Ragg	Catholic Community & Pastoral Care Committee
3 Dec 24	V1.3	Further update for 2024-2026, approved & published	D Ragg	Catholic Community & Pastoral Care Committee

## Review Schedule:

Document Reference [PPL.057](#)

Review Cadence: [Bi-Annually](#)

Next review date: [Dec 2026](#)

## 1. School Vision

Our vision at All Hallows is to form happy, successful students who reach their full potential and leave the school with integrity and moral purpose. We want a whole school experience that everyone would wish for their own children. We put our students at the heart of everything we do, guided by the truth and love of Christ.

## 2. Statutory Requirements

It is a legal requirement that the school provides a Religious Education curriculum and a daily act of collective worship in accordance with the Education Reform Act 1988.

## 3. Rationale

Catholic education is about '*forming the human person, equipping him or her to live life to the full*' (Pope Benedict XVI).

In Catholic schools, Religious Education is central to the school curriculum and collective worship provides opportunities for students to pray and reflect together and to participate in the liturgical life of the Church. Everything we do at All Hallows is rooted in the love of God, shaped by our Christian virtues and values and underpinned by our concern for the common good and the wellbeing of all. In accordance with this aspiration it is the responsibility of all staff to enable our students to develop spiritually and morally as well as academically.

## 4. Religious Education

Religious Education is central to the curriculum of all Catholic schools and is at the heart of the philosophy of Catholic education which is achieved in support of, and in partnership with, parents and guardians, who are the first educators of their children. We nurture our students to become '*religiously literate and consciously engaged young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills – appropriate to their age – to reflect spiritually, and think ethically and theologically, and who recognise the demands of religious commitment in everyday life,*' (Religious Education Directory p.6).

The Aims of Religious Education as stated in the Religious Education Directory are:

1. 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 hold, the basis for them and the relationship between faith and life;
2. to enable pupils continually to deepen their religious and theological understanding and be able to communicate this effectively;
3. to present an authentic vision of the Church's moral and social teaching to provide pupils
  - a. with a sure guide for living and the tools to critically engage with contemporary culture and
  - b. society;
4. to give pupils an understanding of the religions and worldviews present in the world today and the skills to engage in respectful and fruitful dialogue with those whose worldviews differ from their own;
5. to develop the critical faculties of pupils so to bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture;
6. to stimulate pupils' imagination and provoke a desire for personal meaning as revealed in the truth of the Catholic faith;
7. to enable pupils to relate the knowledge gained through religious education to their understanding of other subjects in the curriculum.

At All Hallows, Religious Education is part of the core curriculum and is given prominence in line with its importance at the centre of a Catholic secondary school education. Religious Education is delivered in line with the requirements of the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales:

- 10% of curriculum time at Key Stages 3 & 4 is dedicated to timetabled Religious Education;
- Provision of timetabled non-examination Religious Education for all students at Key Stage 5, constituting 5% of taught curriculum time.

The content of Religious Education is delivered in accordance with the requirements of the Bishops' Religious Education Directory:

- The Key Stage 3 curriculum is structured to incorporate all required content;
- All students follow an approved GCSE course in Religious Studies in Key Stage 4;
- Sixth Form students follow a core RE programme which is delivered within timetabled lessons.

The DfE states that parents have the right to withdraw their children from religious education and/or collective worship. As a Catholic school, All Hallows is obliged to provide Religious Education for all students, therefore we encourage parents to contact the Headteacher in the first instance if they are considering exercising their right of withdrawal.

## **5. Collective Worship**

Collective worship at All Hallows is guided by the principles and requirements of the Catholic Bishops' Prayer and Liturgy Directory 2023 which states that *"...at the centre of a Catholic school, prayer and liturgy must be at the heart of its community life. They are essential to the school's Catholic life and mission."* (Prayer and Liturgy Directory p.6).

There must be a daily act of worship in our school community. All members of staff are responsible for nurturing our shared Catholic values and faith. In accordance with this, every day at All Hallows begins with a prayer, either in form time or in assemblies. Staff are supported in this by the provision of a weekly prayer and reflection sheet and a school prayer book. Religious Education lessons also begin with a prayer, placing the lesson in its rightful context.

The pattern of the Liturgical Year is followed at appropriate times with Masses, liturgies and other acts of worship. Students worship together in the school chapel on regular occasions, for example in house liturgies and days of reflection.

Assemblies are acts of collective worship and as such must always include an appropriate prayer and opportunity for reflection, incorporated into the theme of the assembly. Staff are provided with suggested assembly themes and readings which are in line with the Liturgical Year and the readings of the week, as well as being informed about other key themes that are relevant to the moment in time in the school year.

Staff meetings begin with an act of reflection and/or prayer and staff Masses and liturgies are held at appropriate times, for example at the start of each academic year.

## **6. Key Roles & Responsibilities**

### **The Headteacher**

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that Religious Education and collective worship is carried out in accordance with this policy and is in line with the overall vision and mission of the school.

### **Senior Leader with responsibility for the Catholic Life of the school**

It is the overall responsibility of the Senior Leader with responsibility for the Catholic Life of the school to ensure that Religious Education and collective worship occurs in accordance with this policy. This involves:

- Planning the calendar of liturgical events, with input from the School Chaplain.
- Ensuring that staff delivering assemblies are aware of the school policy and are provided with sufficient guidance and information.
- Ensuring that Form Tutors are aware of the school policy and are provided with guidance and information, including daily prayers.
- Monitoring the provision of Religious Education and Collective Worship.

### **School Lay Chaplain**

It is the responsibility of the School Lay Chaplain to ensure that students are provided with ample opportunities for prayer, reflection and collective worship. This includes:

- Providing Form Tutors with guidance and appropriate prayer materials.
- Organising Masses and liturgies in accordance with the calendar of liturgical events.
- Organising awaydays and reflection opportunities for students in all year groups.
- Leading prayer at appropriate times, for example in staff meetings and during days of reflection.

### **Head of Religious Education**

The Head of Religious Education has overall responsibility for providing students with an appropriate Catholic RE curriculum which is in accordance with the Bishops' Religious Education Directory. This includes:

- Planning and implementing a Key Stage 3 Curriculum which meets the aims and requirements of the Catholic Bishops' Religious Education Directory.
- Planning and implementing a GCSE course which is in line with the expectations of the Catholic Bishops.
- Planning and implementing an appropriate non-examination core RE curriculum for students in the Sixth Form.
- Ensuring that RE lessons begin with a prayer and are delivered in accordance with the aims of the Religious Education Directory (above).