

ST ALPHONSUS RC PRIMARY SCHOOL

RE POLICY DOCUMENT

Reviewed February 2026

RE POLICY STATEMENT – Reviewed February 2026

At St Alphonsus RC Primary School, we believe that God is the focus for everything we try to do. We have a **shared vision** of where we believe the school is headed, and this is based upon our “**community of faith**”. By this we mean that all members of our school community have a common goal, a common purpose, a common faith. Our school community, at St Alphonsus, includes everybody involved in the social, moral, spiritual, cultural and educational development of the children.

The partnership between HOME, SCHOOL and PARISH is vital, and we strive constantly to deepen these links. We also recognise the limitations that school has as far as Religious Education and the development of our children. The school alone cannot produce fully committed members of the church and this is why the partnership between home, school and parish is essential.

THE RELIGIOUS AIMS OF THE SCHOOL

To provide a rich, stimulating curriculum that includes the National Curriculum, but is distinctive in that it reflects the teachings of the Catholic Church. This is provided within an atmosphere of controlled freedom where children are motivated and challenged in order to reach their individual potential.

Promoting an atmosphere of reconciliation within which differences are resolved with patience and understanding so that each new day brings a fresh start - “To be like Jesus”.

To provide opportunities for celebration, prayer, daily worship and reflection in implicit and explicit ways.

To provide children with the language of religious experience - a “literacy” in religious activities, places, stories, symbols and rituals, people and objects, through a range of teaching styles.

To provide a systematic presentation of the Christian event, message and way of life.

To prepare children for the participation in, and appreciation of, the sacraments.

To foster the development of positive self-concepts and to encourage the children to be thoughtful, spiritual, enquiring, tolerant and responsible citizens.

To develop co-operation between home, school and parish based on mutual respect and support.

To enable each child to appreciate human achievements in art, humanity, science, technology and literature.

Objectives

We intend to achieve these aims through the following objectives:

Providing a living, worshipping community through regular school Masses/Class Masses/Prayer Services; supporting the Sacramental Programme and opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We will continue our tradition of supporting both local (Francis House, Rainbow Trust; St. Joseph's Penny, Cornerstone) and national (NSPCC) charities.

We will make all members of staff aware of the school's Mission Statement and the school's aims. We will lead by example in our relationships with each other.

We will develop a whole School Behaviour Policy which will lead to reconciliation. We will promote this atmosphere at every opportunity and through the development of a Home/School Contract.

We will give each child the opportunity to become literate and numerate. We recognise that each child has particular and unique talents and we will provide a wide variety of strategies and activities to enable each child to be the best they can be.

We will fully implement the R.E. curriculum outlined in the Education Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools and Colleges in England and Wales. This will be achieved through the creative use of 'Come and See' R.E. schemes as well as other resources including Caritas in Action. Staff will carefully select resources from both schemes as well as other resources to provide the best possible creative R.E. lessons to engage all learners.

We will ensure pupils engage with 'Big Questions' across the curriculum and are continually challenged to think at a deeper and higher level.

THE RE PROGRAMME

The syllabus is based on the 'Religious Education Curriculum Directory' for Catholic Schools. It provides a clear framework for effective, systematic and rigorous teaching and learning, at least equal to that of other curriculum areas.

The syllabus incorporates attainment targets: learning about the Catholic faith (AT1) and learning from the Catholic faith (AT2). These are set out in the form of specific learning objectives for each module.

RESOURCES

RE resources are stored centrally in the hall stock cupboard. Each class has its own prayer focus area and crucifix as a focus for worship. Sets of hymn books are stored in individual classes within Key Stage 2.

RE resources are evaluated annually and will include a full audit of RE resources and staff training needs. This information, as well as plans for assemblies and prayer group, are filed in the RE central resource cupboard.

THE CURRICULUM POLICY STATEMENT

St Alphonsus is a voluntary aided Catholic primary school set in an environment which reflects the Christian Gospels and Teachings of the Catholic church.

SEX AND RELATIONSHIP SOCIAL EDUCATION

Sex and Relationship Education is incorporated into Religious programmes of work that relate to the age and degree of maturation of the children. The scheme 'Life to the Full' is used within school and a themed topic is taught every half term and highlighted in books and displays. Teachers are asked to answer questions honestly within the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. All children will be encouraged to refer to their parents for further information.

PRAYER, WORSHIP AND LITURGICAL CELEBRATION

Prayer, Worship and Liturgical Celebration are central to our Catholic tradition. At St Alphonsus' we actively encourage children to pray beyond the daily acts of worship. We provide the opportunity for children to gather in prayer twice a week at Religious Assemblies and "Good News" Assemblies. Prayer focus areas are also situated in all classrooms so that reflection and worship are an integral part of the school day.

RE ASSESSMENT

At St Alphonsus RC Primary School, we believe that the assessment must contain the philosophy that it is ultimately for the good of each child. Assessment contributes to the focus of the school's aims. Lessons in Religious Education are assessed through observation and knowledge where skills and concepts are recorded. We follow Salford Diocese's recommended Assessment in R.E.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The monitoring of Religious Education is the responsibility of the Head Teacher and the RE Co-ordinator (all are responsible to the Governors for the development of Religious Education throughout the school).

Monitoring and evaluating RE is to be achieved in a variety of ways:

- Regular professional discussions with staff concerning progress of groups and individuals
- Classroom observation and working alongside colleagues (mainly by the Head Teacher or RE Co-ordinator) to help identify strengths and weaknesses and to provide support to individual members of staff as appropriate. This will be recorded on the St Alphonsus Lesson observation form.
- Regular auditing of resources.

- ❑ Reviewing of assessment outcomes to evaluate the quality of learning in RE across the school.
- ❑ Checking that appropriate opportunities raise multicultural and gender issues are created and taken.
- ❑ Ensuring that the time spent on the teaching of curriculum RE is in line with the requirements prescribed by the Bishops of England and Wales.
- ❑ Scrutiny of RE Lesson plans
- ❑ Co-ordinator feedback to staff, Senior Management Team and Governors (as appropriate).
- ❑ Sampling/analysing pupils' work.
- ❑ Identifying staff training needs.
- ❑ Monitoring will take place in line with the school's Monitoring and Evaluation Policy.

MANAGEMENT AND CO-ORDINATION

Each teacher from Nursery to Year 6 has a copy of the Salford Diocesan half termly plans appropriate to their year group and revised syllabus where appropriate.

Ten percent of the school timetable is allocated to Religious Education. Collective worship takes place every day. Staff development is provided with INSET, courses and guest speakers.

RELIGIOUS DIMENSION OF THE SCHOOL

As a Catholic school, St Alphonsus fulfils the legal requirements for education with an "overall religious perspective" as a faith community.

At St Alphonsus the Sacramental Programme, religious assemblies, liturgical services, thanksgiving services and charity work contribute greatly to the school as a catholic community.

RELATIONSHIP WITH WHOLE SCHOOL DOCUMENTS, POLICIES AND STATEMENTS

R.E. is strongly related to all the School policies and documents in all areas of the curriculum.

The spiritual, moral and cultural development of each child is catered for through their own individual needs. Equal opportunities is the concern of all those involved with the school and we promote the development of caring attitudes to people of all communities.

Behaviour within the School is firmly based upon the quality of relationships sought with children, parents and staff reflecting the Mission Statement values of love, respect and reconciliation.

We have a 'Good News' Assembly each week when presentations of good work certificates are made, and where sporting achievements are recognised and praised along with other outside activities.

Children's work is displayed in classrooms and pupils have individual work books.

AUDIT OF RE RESOURCES AND TRAINING NEEDS

Name	Year	Resources	Training Needs