

Our Lady of the Wayside's Religious Education Curriculum

General information	
Curriculum Champion	Mrs Donna Upton
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Our aspirations and aims for Religious Education at Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic School Our curriculum intent

As Catholic Primary educators, we are passionate about religious education.

At Our Lady of the Wayside, religious education is central to the life of our school. We base our teaching on a curriculum of hope for the future which aims to educate our children, not just to become religiously literate in preparation for the next stage of their education, but also live out our mission statement by striving to share our gift of faith. As disciples of Jesus, we are learning how to build the Kingdom of God and be the leaders of tomorrow, so we can be the change we want to see in the world.

Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic School, as a school within the Archdiocese of Birmingham, use the Diocese's own curriculum strategy from Foundation (Nursery) to Year 6 called 'Learning and Growing as the People of God.' (often referred to as 'The Strategy').

The Strategy was written using the learning outcomes provided in the Bishop's Conference document the *Curriculum Directory* as a basis. The Strategy provides teachers with a range of suggested cross-curricular activities which can be adapted to suit the learning needs of the children in order for them to explore the Catholic faith and achieve the learning outcomes. There is a strong emphasis on pupils engaging with and responding to questions of life in the light of religious teaching.

This flexible approach enables teachers to incorporate their own creative teaching ideas into the delivery of the Strategy.

The Strategy is divided into a number of units for each year group, usually twelve, which cover four main areas of study:

- The Liturgical Seasons of the Church's Year: The children find out about the significance of each season, its particular signs and symbols and the different liturgies celebrated in each season.

Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Primary School
Learning and growing together, rooted in Christ

- Scripture: The children study both Old Testament and New Testament Scripture in order to give them familiarity and knowledge of Scripture as well as enabling them to explore and understand how Catholic beliefs are rooted in what Scripture reveals to us.
- The Sacraments: There is a strong Sacramental focus in each year group. The Year 3 and Year 6 curriculum fully prepare the children to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist in Year 3 and Confirmation in Year 6.
- Living as Christians including Prayer: The children learn about what it is to live as Christians today, how the Church is organised from global to parish level and also the opportunities which exist for them to participate in the life of the Church.

When teaching religious education, we are mindful that our children must explore and learn about the social, moral and cultural issues that affect human behaviour. To achieve this, we have threaded the 7 principles of Catholic Social Teaching through our curriculum:

1. Life and dignity of the Human Person
2. Call to family, Community and Participation
3. Rights and Responsibilities
4. Option for the poor and vulnerable
5. The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers:
6. Solidarity
7. Care for God's Creation