



Emmaus Church of England and Catholic Primary School



*"We are friends journeying with Jesus in faith, hope
and trust as we live, love and learn together."*

R.E. Handbook

September 2026

Our Mission Statement

**“We are friends journeying with Jesus in faith, hope and trust
as we live, love and learn together.”**

Our intent is driven by our Mission Statement above. We believe in supporting children to develop a moral compass based on the Gospel Values. Our four core values, Hope, Trust, Friendship and Love are promoted in Religious Education lessons and in all areas of school life. We believe that our Christian values help our children to know themselves, learn to reflect on their experiences, explore the questions of how to live and treat others, and so reach a set of beliefs by which to guide their lives.

As a joint denominational church school, the traditions of the Church of England and Catholic Church are valued and affirmed in Religious Education lessons and during worship by the whole school community. We are committed to the formation and well-being of the whole person and our RE lessons are dedicated to supporting our children’s spiritual, moral, emotional, intellectual, social and physical development.

As a Voluntary Aided School, the management of Religious Education is a distinctive role of the Governors and Head teacher. Religious Education at Emmaus is in accordance with the Trust Deed and with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England and Catholic Church. The Governing Body as a whole is responsible for determining the nature of Religious Education provided at the school.

The Aims of R.E. at Emmaus

The outcome of excellent Religious Education is religiously literate and consciously engaged young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills – appropriate to their age and capacity – to reflect spiritually, and think ethically and theologically, and who recognise the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.

At Emmaus Church of England and Catholic Primary School, Religious Education is viewed as a subject for all children – a collaborative activity, which respects and promotes the child’s innate capacity for wonder, awe, reverence and imagination. Through this approach, we aim to help our children to recognise and appreciate the religious and spiritual dimensions of life.

- ❖ We aim to lead our children into a deeper understanding of the Church of England and Catholic traditions and where appropriate, other religious traditions and worldviews, and the ways in which they seek to express the significance of human life.
- ❖ We aim to provide exceptionally high quality Christian Education enabling each child to experience learning, personal development, a sense of community and worship.
- ❖ We aim to teach Religious Education in a way that reflects the Christian nature of the foundation of the school. Emmaus is a Voluntary Aided School and is based on Christian values, in which the traditions of the Church of England and Catholic Church are valued and affirmed by the whole school community.

- ❖ We aim to encourage all members of our school community to adopt all the Gospel values and in particular love, trust, hope and friendship, which are our chosen core values.
- ❖ We aim to encourage all members of our school community to 'travel together with Jesus' as a companion and role model.
- ❖ We aim to build a strong community that includes School, Home and both Parishes; from St Cuthbert's Church of England Parish and Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Catholic Parish.

The Objectives of R.E. at Emmaus

The following objectives enable us to achieve our aims:

- ❖ To develop knowledge and understanding of the mystery of God and of Jesus Christ, of the Church of England and Catholic Church and of the central beliefs which Christians hold.
- ❖ To develop awareness and appreciation of Christian belief, understanding of its impact on personal and social behaviour and of the vital relationship between faith and life.
- ❖ To provide a broad and balanced curriculum, using the new Catholic model curriculum 'To know You more clearly' and 'Come and See' curriculum, supplementing with Church of England information, to ensure our lessons are relevant to both Catholic and Anglican children.
- ❖ To use materials and links with other faiths and traditions, including worldviews, accurately and sensitively.
- ❖ To ensure that parents are kept informed regarding the RE curriculum that their children are learning, each half term.
- ❖ To support the continued development of School, Home and Parish links by involving all in a range of school community activities, worship services and Celebrations of the Word.
- ❖ To develop appropriate skills, for example the ability to listen, to think critically, spiritually, ethically and theologically, to acquire knowledge and organise it effectively, to make informed judgements.
- ❖ To foster appropriate attitudes, including respect for truth, for the views of others, awareness of the spiritual, of moral responsibility, of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life and especially the challenge of living in a multicultural society.
- ❖ To promote the gospel values through example and encourage all individuals to look to the Gospel Values and our Mission Statement when dealing with any situation in school.
- ❖ To encourage all members of our community to think about how Jesus would re-act to situations and remind ourselves often that 'we are His hands and feet.'

The Religious Education Programme

To fulfil our aims and objectives, we are currently continuing our transition from using 'Come and See' as a scheme of work, to following the Religious Education Directory, 'To Know you more clearly,' as a model curriculum. In line with guidance from Liverpool Archdiocese, we started in Early Years (Nursery and Reception), gradually implementing this from Year 1 to Year 5. Year 6 teachers will attend training in the summer term 2027 and then begin teaching in September 2027. All classes supplement this Catholic curriculum with additional Anglican information to ensure entitlement for children attending joint denominational church schools is adhered to.

The 'To know You more clearly' model curriculum (Nursery to Year 5)

Overview of content

The Curriculum Structures

Six Branches

The model curriculum has six components called branches. Each one has a core theme and invites pupils to learn about an aspect of Revelation, Scripture, life in Christ, and life in the Church, and to discern what their learning means academically and experientially enabling them to see, judge, and act through a deeper knowledge of the Christian faith.

Branch 1 Creation and covenant: 'The heavens are telling the glory of God' (Ps 19:1)

- ❖ In this branch, pupils will encounter the God who creates and calls a people.
- ❖ They will explore revelation of the Christian belief that all that is, comes from God, the Creation accounts in Genesis, and scientific explanations of the process of Creation.
- ❖ They will explore the call of God and his covenantal relationship with his people first through Abraham and Moses, then through the narrative of the Old Testament.

Branch 2 Prophecy and promise: 'In many and various ways, God spoke to our ancestors by the prophets' (Heb 1:1)

- ❖ In this branch, pupils will learn that the prophets speak of God reaching to his people, calling them back into a relationship with him.
- ❖ In this branch, pupils will explore the Christian understanding of the teaching of the prophets as they point to the fulfilment of God's promise in a messiah, Jesus Christ.
- ❖ They will explore the expectant waiting for the Messiah through the Advent season and how this speaks to Christians today as they wait for Christ.
- ❖ Pupils will encounter the story of the nativity of Jesus and the mystery of the incarnation.

Branch 3 Galilee to Jerusalem: 'God's only Son, who is at the Father's side, has made him known' (Jn 1:18)

- ❖ In this branch, pupils will experience the ministry of Jesus, the Word of God.
- ❖ They will learn about the life of Jesus and his revelation of the Kingdom of God through parables, encounters, miracles, and teachings.
- ❖ They will learn about the call of the disciples and the nature of being a follower of Jesus.

Branch 4 Desert to garden: 'Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day' (1 Cor 15:3)

- ❖ In this branch, pupils will study the season of Lent and its culmination in the events of Holy week.
- ❖ They will learn about the Paschal Triduum at the heart of the Catholic Church's Liturgy and life.
- ❖ The title of this branch points both to the liturgical journey from the desert of Lent to the Garden of Resurrection, but also to the Paschal journey from darkness to light, barrenness to fruitfulness, death to life.

Branch 5 To the ends of the Earth: 'Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit' (Mt 28:19)

- ❖ In this branch, pupils will study the events that flowed from the Resurrection and Ascension in the coming of the Holy Spirit and the work of the apostles and early Church.
- ❖ They will also learn about the Catholic Church today as the apostolic Church and how its liturgy and structures flow from the early Church.

Branch 6 Dialogue and encounter: 'For "In him we live and move and have our being"' (Acts 17:28)

- ❖ In this branch, pupils will learn how Christians work together with people of different religious convictions and all people of goodwill towards the common good, respecting the dignity of all humanity.
- ❖ They will also encounter other pathways of belief drawing on the teaching of the Church about intercultural dialogue.

Knowledge Lenses

These set out the object of study for pupils, they indicate what should be known by the end of each age phase. They divide the content of the programme of study into four systematic subsections for the study of Catholicism, which we supplement with additional Anglican information.

The four knowledge lenses are:

- Hear
- Believe
- Celebrate
- Live

There are two additional lenses for the study of religions and worldviews:

- Dialogue
- Encounter

These lenses are the focus of Branch 6 in every year group.

The Sacraments

Sacraments are taught within and across branches. Pupils encounter scripture and what the Church teaches about scripture and what this means for a life lived in Christ as part of the Catholic faith. Information on Anglican teaching is also shared with children, to enable comparisons to be made; similarities and differences are identified.

The approach taken encompasses a variety of teaching and learning styles, which enable the needs of individual pupils to be met through a broad and balanced, cross-curricular, creative lessons.

Ways of Knowing

These set out the skills that pupils should be developing as they progress through their curriculum journey. The three ways of knowing are: understand, discern, and respond.

Ways of Knowing		
Understand	Discern	Respond
See	Judge	Act
What will I see and hear to help me understand?	How will I discover more?	What can I do now?

At the end of each branch and lenses the children will:

- ❖ Understand
- ❖ Discern
- ❖ Respond

Come and See Curriculum (Year 6)

The aim of this programme is to explore the religious dimension of questions about life, dignity and purpose within the Catholic tradition. Links are made with the pupils' own experiences and with the universal experience of other faith traditions.

An overview of Content **Concepts**

Central to the programme is Christian belief in Jesus Christ, Word and Revelation of God. Each term a basic question – belief about the mystery of life is explored within the Catholic faith tradition.

Autumn	Where did I come from?	Life	Creation
Spring	Who am I?	Dignity	Incarnation
Summer	Why am I here?	Purpose	Redemption

Themes

The basic question ~ belief for each term is explored through three kinds of themes:

Community of Faith ~ Church themes:

Autumn ~ Family ~ Domestic church

Spring ~ Community ~ Local church

Summer ~ World ~ Universal church

Celebration in Ritual ~ Sacraments

Autumn ~ Belonging ~ Baptism/Confirmation

Spring ~ Relating ~ Eucharist

Summer ~ Inter-relating ~ Reconciliation

Way of Life ~ Christian Living themes:

Autumn ~ Loving ~ Advent/Christmas

Spring ~ Giving ~ Lent/Easter

Summer ~ Serving ~ Pentecost

Schools now deliver the six learning focuses from the section called Reveal, across four weeks. This is the heart of the process where knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith is revealed through the Word, in Scripture, Tradition, doctrine, prayers, rites and Christian living. The teacher and the children together discover the Christian understanding of the mystery of the Trinity; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They explore the mystery of human life as revealed in the person, life and gospel of Jesus Christ. Anglican information also supplements this curriculum to ensure entitlement for children attending joint denominational schools is adhered to.

Planning

At Emmaus, Nursery to Year 5 teachers deliver six branches from the 'To know You more clearly' curriculum, one per half term. In Year 6, the children study nine topics from the 'Come and See' curriculum, three per term, plus two other faiths.

Long Term Planning

We follow the programmes as set out in the 'To know You more clearly' model curriculum (Nursery to Year 5) and the 'Come and See' curriculum (Year 6).

Medium Term Planning

To know You more clearly - The R.E. Lead provides teachers with planning for each branch from the Archdiocese of Liverpool and resources, which are placed in year group folders on school's shared drive.

Come and See – The R.E. Lead provides teachers with topic planning from the Archdiocese of Liverpool, which are stored on school's shared drive.

Short Term Planning

Teachers plan their activities using the Archdiocesan plans provided. They date and highlight what is being delivered in each class. Year group teachers work collaboratively to choose and organise the activities that will be delivered to ensure coverage of the 'Ways of Knowing' statements.

Time Allocation

The Bishops of England and Wales recommend that 10% of curriculum time be allocated to the teaching of Religious Education. At Emmaus, EYFS teachers organise their timetables according to the needs and requirements of the Early Years Curriculum. To Know You More Clearly is taught within school's Nursery and Reception classes through teacher led inputs, followed by guided and independent activities as part of continuous provision, to support the children's learning and understanding of Religious Education. EYFS, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 teachers ensure that R.E. lessons are delivered for 10% of their timetables. In Key Stage 1 teachers deliver R.E. for 2 hours and 15 minutes and in Key Stage 2 teachers deliver R.E. lessons for 2 hours and 30 minutes. Timetables are monitored by the R.E. Lead to ensure coverage time is correct in every class.

Assessment

Expected outcomes are a synthesis of the content outlined in the Knowledge Lenses and the skills described in the Ways of Knowing. Each age phase has a prescribed set of outcomes that indicate what pupils are expected to know, remember and be able to do using the language of the Ways of Knowing and applying it to the discrete knowledge within each lens. Each branch and year group has its own discrete expected outcomes which are used to assess the children's progress.

In our school, assessment takes place formatively within lessons and is used to ensure children are supported to understand learning objectives and produce work that demonstrates this. Work is adapted to enable all learners to make progress within the branches/topics. A wide range of opportunities for children are available so they can engage in creative and critical thinking (discern) and personal reflection (respond) and to make meaningful connections between scriptural texts (hear), Catholic and Anglican beliefs (believe), prayer and liturgy (celebrate), and the relationship of faith to life (live). Assessment establishes what pupils know, understand and can do. It celebrates growth and achievements and enables further progress. It does not assess faith or the practice of faith. It does emphasise a wide range of achievement.

Summative assessment takes place at the end of each branch when teachers use their knowledge and findings to allocate a standard to each child. If a child has achieved the expected outcomes, they are at the expected standard for that branch. At the end of each term, moderation takes place so that year group teachers can agree the awarded standards for the identified children. Work is shared with the teaching team and SLT using a visualiser and standards awarded are agreed. Paperwork is completed and signed. This is stored by the R.E. Lead.

Tracking Data and Recording

At Emmaus, teachers allocate a standard to each child at the end of a term on Insight, school's core subject data tracking system. The R.E. Lead analyses this data termly for each class, year group and the whole school to track and monitor progress of children and identified groups. Findings are shared with SLT and teachers during staff meetings. An overview identifying data headlines is disseminated and discussed to support the identification of target groups/children. All information is also shared with Governors during termly Spiritual Dimension Group meetings, presented by the R.E. Lead.

Teachers use this information in September to identify a target group of children below the expected standard to support during lessons to aim to achieve the expected standard. These children are tracked by the R.E. Lead and progress is shared.

Reporting

Parents are informed of children's progress at Parents' Meetings, informal/formal discussions and parents receive a written report at the end of each academic year. Parents are informed of their child's achievements and opportunities for development are highlighted. The R.E. Lead writes R.E. newsletters to all parents every half term to inform them of branches and topics to be covered, together with year group specific learning and activities. Prayers to share at home and key dates linked to Christian celebrations/feast days, other religions and cultural events are also included. Spiritual Life newsletters are also written and sent to parents at the end of each term to share religious/special services, Parish links, and prayers from religious leaders.

Evaluation of Learning

Evaluation is continuous and is used to inform future planning and to examine the opportunities that are provided for children to explore and better understand their experiences linked to learning objectives. Teachers evaluate the children's responses, which can be verbal, written or part of a display. Children are encouraged to share their learning during class discussions and with their families at home. They share their work in books explaining their experiences and identifying what they did well/could improve on.

Evaluation of Teaching

The R.E. Lead completes learning walks or lesson observations as identified on school's yearly timetable. Displays, assessments, planning, pupils' voice and children's books are also used to monitor teaching. Strengths and areas to improve are identified and shared with staff.

Staff Development

Staff receive updates and information from courses attended by the R.E. lead. Continued professional development is offered in house through support from the R.E. Lead. Pat Peel and David Thorpe deliver training in staff meetings to ensure we are achieving our joint denominational faith school entitlement. All staff and Governors are invited and take part in whole school religious services and prayers are shared during Friday morning staff briefings. All staff are invited to attend mass at the end of each term, at school.

Staff Induction

Early Career Teachers and newly appointed staff are given the relevant 'To know You more clearly' or 'Come and See' planning and the School's Religious Education Handbook. The R.E. Lead provides any necessary guidance and support relating to the teaching and delivery of Religious Education. Supply staff follow the short term planning left by the class teacher or provided by the partner year group teacher. In classes, teachers share lesson planning and activities with support staff to ensure they are aware of lesson expectations and understand all tasks.

Staff communication

During staff meetings and weekly staff briefings, the R.E. Lead shares information and updates. Emails are also sent out to all staff as necessary, to share messages and give key information. The R.E. Lead is always available to give support, ideas and advice. Meetings with individual/year group teachers are arranged as needed. Half termly R.E. newsletters are shared with parents to disseminate information on the R.E. learning and activities taking place in classes. Termly Spiritual Life newsletters are also sent to parents to share the prayer life, services and celebrations of the school.

Staff Members

Teachers responsible for teaching the R.E. Curriculum.

Year Group	Teachers' Names and responsibilities
Nursery	Mrs T Caulfield (Nursery Lead)
Reception	Mrs S Millington (RWI Lead) and Mrs S Gaied (EYFS Lead)
Year 1	Miss G Fitzgerald (P.E. Lead) and Mrs N Edwards (Art Lead)
Year 2	Miss S Walker (Music Lead) and Mrs T Martin (P.S.H.E. Lead)
Year 3	Mrs J Buckland and Mrs K Cooper (Shared D.T. Leads)
Year 4	Miss S Dickson (R.E. Lead), Mrs M Murphy and Miss S Williams (Shared English Leads)
Year 5	Mrs E Cannon (Science Lead) and Miss K Baxendale (Eco Lead)
Year 6	Miss S Dickinson (French and History Lead) and Miss C Farrelly (Geography Lead)
PPA Cover	Mrs C Yates (Deputy Head) and Mrs A Jabakhanji (H.L.T.A.)

Teaching Resources

Each class has these resources:	<p>Access to 'To know You more clearly' curriculum or 'Come and See' curriculum.</p> <p>Branch resources/topic resources on the shared drive.</p> <p>A Good News Bible</p> <p>Other Bibles</p> <p>A cross/crucifix</p> <p>A golden box and resources</p> <p>LED candles and different lights</p> <p>Flowers</p> <p>Small items for children to hold</p> <p>A Willow Tree figure</p>
Other resources include:	<p>Access to God's Story and Church's Story resources</p> <p>Collective Worship additional items – lights, stories, pebbles, etc</p> <p>Prayer books</p> <p>Personal teachers' items</p> <p>Resources on other faiths</p> <p>Table covers</p>

The R.E. Lead purchases, organises and evaluates resources using the budgets allocated for R.E. and Collective Worship.

Relationship of Religious Education to the whole curriculum

Religious Education plays a central and vital part in the life Emmaus Primary School. At the heart of this, lies the Christian vision of the human person. This vision is expressed and explored in Religious Education. Therefore, R.E. is never simply one subject among many, but the foundation of the entire educational process. The beliefs and values studied in Christian education at Emmaus inspire and draw together every aspect of the life of the school. Staff are committed to classroom R.E. because all children in our care have the right to receive an overall Religious Education which will enable them, in the light of faith, to engage with the deeper questions of life and find reason for the hope which is within them (Peter 3:15).

Cross curricular Links

There are many opportunities for cross curricular links using the To Know You More Clearly branches. Activities at all key stages can include work undertaken in Art, Technology, Music, Language, Dance and Drama. Whenever cross curricular links are being undertaken it is essential to remind children of the religious theme being covered. Information Technology will be used when appropriate and in ways which will enhance the work produced by the children and develop IT skills. Geography and Science can enable children to develop a lively appreciation of God's world. It is important to explore and implement a range of cross curricular opportunities for the children in response to their own gifts and talents.

Collective Worship and Celebrations of the Word

At Emmaus, our Collective Worship policy clearly states how important worship opportunities are to all stakeholders. Services to celebrate specific holy days and dedicated events involve the whole school community. Clergy from our two local parishes (Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Catholic Church and St Cuthbert's Anglican Church) attend and take active roles throughout the year. Our Parish relationships are one of our many strengths.

In classes and services, pupils are encouraged to take an active and meaningful role in worship. They often plan Celebrations of the Word for their class group. This includes helping to prepare the worship table, selecting music, lighting candles, leading prayers, sharing reflections, and participating in spoken responses. Through this involvement, pupils grow in confidence, develop leadership skills, and gain a deeper understanding of worship and its purpose.

Our worship aims to be inclusive, invitational, and inspiring. All pupils and staff are welcomed to participate in ways that are comfortable for them, regardless of background or belief. Through Worship, we seek to create a nurturing environment in which all members of the school community can explore spirituality, reflect on values, and consider the big questions of life. Each Key Stage celebrates Christmas (on a two year rota) with a special assembly or production based on relevant religious themes that vary in format. See Collective Worship Policy for further details.

Promoting Spiritual Development

At Emmaus Primary School, opportunities are provided for pupils to develop their spirituality by reflecting on their own and others' experiences, acquiring self-knowledge, thinking about their own beliefs, values and aspirations, making personal responses to questions about the purpose and meaning of life. Spiritual development is not the same as religious development, though Religious Education and Worship will play particularly important roles in our joint denominational school.

At Emmaus, we deliver this through:

- Implementation of 'JIGSAW' a PSHE whole school programme (see PSHE policy for more information)
- 'Journey in Love' RSHE programme (RSHE policy for more information)
- Weekly Whole School Collective Worship
- Daily Class Collective Worship
- Access to ACES intervention programme for specific children
- Year 6 Worship groups
- Prayer spaces

Promoting Moral Development

School promotes moral development through a clear code of behaviour where high personal standards are expected, and children are given opportunities to think about issues concerning right and wrong.

At Emmaus, we deliver this through:

- An agreed whole school Behaviour Policy
- Implementation of 'JIGSAW' a PSHE whole school programme (see PSHE policy for more information)
- 'Journey in Love' RSHE programme (RSHE policy for more information)
- Weekly Whole School Collective Worship
- Daily Class Collective Worship
- Access to ACES intervention programme for specific children
- Year 6 Worship groups
- Prayer spaces

Links with Parents

At school, staff recognise parents as the first educators of their children, and as such, work together to support their children's progress through the school. R.E. and Spiritual Life Newsletters keep parents up to date on their children's learning and their prayer life at school, as well as sharing prayers for families to use together at home. Families are encouraged to attend Mass each Sunday through reminders in school newsletters. Parents are welcomed into school for special assemblies and religious celebrations. Starting this academic year, parents will be invited in for Celebrations of the Word based on our Christian values being covered each half term. This will be done on a class basis in the hall.

Parish Links

All at Emmaus are extremely fortunate to have strong links with our two local parishes, St Cuthbert's Anglican Church and Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Catholic Church. Clergy members from both parishes attend and lead sections of our whole school services on holy days or special events. Visits to both parishes are undertaken by classes linked to their R.E. work and members of the clergy also come into school to see and work with the children on a number of tasks, including the Sacraments.

Sacramental Preparation

The celebration of the Sacraments is central to the Catholic and Anglican Faith traditions. Developing the pupils understanding of the Sacraments occurs as a result of a variety of experiences. The Sacraments are an integral part of the 'To know You more clearly' and 'Come and See' programmes. Each year the children explore a different aspect of Baptism, Reconciliation, Confirmation and the Eucharist. At Emmaus, The Catholic Religious Education Curriculum is taught with supplementary information on the Sacraments in Anglican Churches, to ensure children can compare them naming similarities and differences.

Children in Year 4 will be prepared for the Catholic Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist in Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Catholic Parish. Children in Year 5 and Year 6 will be prepared for the Anglican Sacrament of Confirmation in St Cuthbert's Church of England Parish. Sacramental Preparation is a three-way partnership between parents, parishes and school. Staff at Emmaus support these holy events through dissemination of information, and attendance during the sacraments. Celebratory photographs are shared through school's website.

Community Links

Emmaus Primary School strives to promote itself within the local and wider community. Charities that are supported include CAFOD, St Andrew's Food Bank, The Whitechapel Centre, Save the Children and Young Minds. Recently Emmaus has been approved to begin undertaking the Live Simply Award (July 2026) and are currently forging links to be more involved in Parish activities, the Croxteth Estate, litter picking in our local area and many more activities involving a new range of charities. Through school's action plan, relationships with parents, families, the two parishes, the local community and wider world will be developed and strengthened. School's website will include further information on our action plan as it develops.

Self-Evaluation Document

The school's most recent Self-Evaluation Document is available from the Headteacher.

School Development Plan

The school's current action plans for R.E. and Collective Worship are available from the Headteacher.

Evaluation of Religious Education Handbook

The R.E. Handbook is reviewed and updated annually by the R.E. Lead.

September 2026

To be reviewed in September 2027.