

Dear Parent

We are excited to share some important news about Religious Education. Starting in September 2026, all Catholic primary schools in England and Wales will follow a new Religious Education Directory, published by the Bishops' Conference. This directory outlines the key knowledge that must be taught as part of the religious education curriculum.

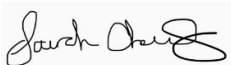
In preparation of this change, His Grace, Archbishop Bernard, has asked the Diocesan Education Service to write a new curriculum that will be used by all primary schools within the Archdiocese of Birmingham when the directory comes into effect. We are pleased to inform you that our school has been chosen to join a pilot group of schools trialling this curriculum.

By taking part, we will be able to provide valuable feedback to the Diocesan Education Service before all schools start teaching the curriculum from September 2026. This is an exciting opportunity for our school to help shape the future of religious education for the whole diocese and provide your child with the most up-to-date curriculum available. During the trial, pupils will continue to learn about the Church's liturgical year, but this will sometimes be different to normal. Therefore, if your child talks about a liturgical season at a seemingly unusual time, please be assured that this is because your school is piloting the new curriculum. This unusual timing will only remain for the following twelve months and only affects the academic classroom subject of religious education. Our school will continue to observe the Church's usual cycle of seasons and feasts at their proper time in the celebration of Catholic life and mission and its prayer and worship.

The Diocesan Education Service wish to pass on their sincere thanks to our staff and pupils for piloting the new curriculum and hope it inspires interesting conversations within and beyond the classroom.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Mr S.G. Bell Director of Education



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