



Tuesday 8th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are pleased to let you know that our school is introducing a new Religious Education teaching resource called *Lighting the Path*. *Lighting the Path* follows the updated Religious Education Directory (RED) for Catholic schools in England and Wales. The programme has been created by a team of experts and practising teachers led by Dr Nancy Walbank, an expert in Catholic education and the lead drafter of the RED, and is published by Oxford University Press.

Lighting the Path is designed to help children explore important questions about life, faith, and belief in a way that is thoughtful, inclusive, and age-appropriate. It supports children's spiritual and moral development and encourages them to think deeply, ask questions, and reflect on their own views and experiences.

How will children learn?

Children will learn through stories, discussion, art, music, and reflection. As well as clear and age-appropriate knowledge and understanding as required by the curriculum, they will be given opportunities to see and respond to art from the worldwide Catholic tradition; to appreciate audio of hymns, songs and prayers; to complete written work on carefully designed activity sheets or in their books; to work as a class to complete interactive activities; and to engage in frequent thoughtful discussion with partners or as a class.

Children will develop the skills that the RED describes as Ways of Knowing – Understand, Discern, and Respond – and be guided in developing these skills throughout by three 'helper' characters in the resources called Uri, Raph and Dena. The programme also fully integrates the knowledge lenses of the curriculum – Hear, Believe, Celebrate, Live, Dialogue and Encounter.

How will children in EYFS learn?

Religious Education in EYFS takes an approach consistent with all learning for very young children: immersion and play-based discovery. Children are first introduced to the concept of religious belief, then encounter vocabulary, hear and play with Bible stories, listen to the language of prayers and hear about lives of people who witness their Christian faith in the Catholic tradition.

What will children learn?

Each half term, children will explore a different theme from the Bible and Catholic tradition. The themes follow the events of the Church's year so children can make links with other parts of Catholic life and mission in school.

Autumn Term

- Creation and Covenant – Children explore Bible stories about how God created the world and made loving promises to people.
- Prophecy and Promise – Children learn how prophets spoke of hope and the coming of Jesus, especially during Advent.

Spring Term

- Galilee to Jerusalem – Children follow stories of Jesus' life and teachings, and how they guide Christian beliefs and actions today.
- Desert to Garden – Children reflect on Lent, Holy Week, and Easter, learning about Jesus' death and resurrection.

Summer Term

- To the Ends of the Earth – Children hear how Jesus' followers began the Church and how Catholics live out their faith today.
- Dialogue and Encounter – Children explore Christianity around the world and learn about other faiths and beliefs, encouraging respect and cooperation.

While the curriculum is based on Catholic teaching, it is designed to be inclusive and respectful of all children, whatever their background or beliefs. It does not assume that children are Catholic or religious, and it encourages open-mindedness and respectful dialogue. Children will also learn about other faiths and worldviews and how people of different beliefs can work together for the common good.

Supporting your child

You don't need to be familiar with Catholic teaching to support your child. The curriculum is designed to be accessible and engaging for all families. If you have any questions or would like to know more, please feel free to speak to your child's teacher or the school's RE lead.

We look forward to sharing this religious education journey with your child.

Kind regards,



Miss Wentworth

RE Lead