SS Peter & Paul Catholic Primary School

Religious Education Knowledge and Skills Progression

What our children know and can do, from Reception to Year 6 · Lighting the Path · 2026–27

Strand	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Scripture & Revelation	Listens to and recalls Bible stories from Creation to Pentecost; recognises the Bible as a special book.	Retells Creation and Gospel stories; sequences key events and begins to recognise Luke and Acts as sources.	Knows the Old and New Testaments and psalms; retells Noah, prophecy, Gospel and Acts accounts and makes simple links.	Recognises poetic language in Genesis; uses psalms and Gospel accounts and begins to consider authorial choice.	Retells Abraham and Joseph accurately and in context; understands covenant and uses Elijah and John the Baptist to explain prophecy.	Explains covenant through Noah, Abraham and Moses; studies David and psalms in context and links Old Testament promise to Jesus.	Interprets literary forms and authorial intention; links Creation and Fall, John, the Creed and women within salvation history.
Belief & Theology	Knows God made and loves everyone; Jesus is God's Son; the Holy Spirit helps us; Baptism welcomes us into God's family.	Recognises God as Father and Creator, Jesus as Son of God and Good News, and the Church as continuing Jesus' mission.	Explains covenant, prophecy, stewardship and forgiveness; recognises Mary as Mother of God and understands Baptism, Reconciliation and the Holy Spirit.	Explains image of God, human dignity and equality; links Creation to stewardship and understands Sunday, Mass and prophecy.	Understands covenant as foundational for Judaism and Christianity; explains faith, hope and love and the role of prophets.	Explains Sinai, the Commandments, Greatest Commandment, sin, conscience and virtue; links Davidic kingship with Jesus.	Explains original sin, free will, New Covenant, salvation, Baptism and Creed; articulates Incarnation and Mary's place in salvation history.
Prayer, Liturgy & Sacraments	Uses the Sign of the Cross and simple prayers; recognises Baptism, church, Sunday and key Lent and Easter signs.	Uses the Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be; recognises Candlemas, Lent, Easter, Ascension and Pentecost within Church life.	Explains Baptism symbols and actions, Advent and Reconciliation; encounters the Kyrie and Come, Holy Spirit and reflects on prayer.	Describes Sunday Mass, the Liturgy of the Word, lectionary, Creed and intercessions and explains signs, actions and prayers.	Links prayer and trust with faith, hope and love; explains Advent signs and Christian preparation for Christ.	Explains the Rosary and Joyful Mysteries; recognises David as a model of prayer and explores the O Antiphons.	Explains Baptism and the Creed as expressions of faith; interprets the Magnificat and how prayer expresses Christian belief.
Christian Living & CST	Shows care for God's world and others; begins to understand stewardship, human dignity, charity, solidarity and the common good.	Connects care for Creation, giving, fasting, helping others and sharing Good News with following Jesus.	Links stewardship and choices to helping or harming others; explains forgiveness, fruits of the Spirit, neighbour and Christian service.	Links dignity and equality to Genesis and CST; explains stewardship, ecological virtues, justice, fair trade, common good and solidarity.	Explains how faith, hope and love shape choices and relationships and help people become good neighbours.	Explains how commandments, conscience and virtues guide choices; reasons about love of neighbour, dignity, solidarity and common good.	Explains how sin damages relationships and how dignity, equality and stewardship shape Christian action and responsibility.
Dialogue & Encounter	Encounters Jewish Shabbat and Muslim prayer practices; listens respectfully and notices similarities and differences.	Learns about Christian communities and Jewish religious life; asks respectful questions and encounters Torah, mezuzah, Qur'an and calligraphy.	Links Jewish belief, law, worship and life; encounters Shabbat, tzedakah and Islamic beliefs and practices; respects different communities.	To be added when the Year 3 Branch 6 overview is supplied.	To be added when the Year 4 Branch 6 overview is supplied.	To be added when the Year 5 Branch 6 overview is supplied.	To be added when the Year 6 Branch 6 overview is supplied.
Understand, Discern & Respond	Listens, notices, recalls and talks; wonders about stories and symbols and responds through talk, play, art, music and prayer.	Retells and sequences; makes simple connections, asks 'I wonder' questions and reflects on how learning could shape actions.	Retells with detail, sequences, makes simple links, gives a relevant reason and responds thoughtfully to Scripture, art and prayer.	Describes and explains; makes links, gives reasons, suggests meanings, compares signs and asks and answers thoughtful questions.	Uses context, explains links, gives reasons for decisions, compares responses and reflects on how virtues can transform lives.	Interprets Scripture in context; asks 'what if?' questions, discusses viewpoints and links Scripture, belief and Christian action.	Interprets authorial intention and literary form; compares viewpoints, uses sources as evidence and justifies theological judgements.
Religious literacy & theological response	Uses simple religious words for people, places, objects and symbols; retells learning orally and through drawing or role play.	Uses key religious vocabulary in speech and writing; retells with growing detail and talks about meaning.	Uses religious words accurately; distinguishes some Scripture forms and explains simple links between source, belief, worship and life.	Uses wider theological vocabulary; describes beliefs and practices and supports simple explanations with Scripture or Church teaching.	Uses accurate terminology and context; explains links between Scripture, belief, prayer and action in structured responses.	Uses specialist vocabulary; writes structured explanations using Scripture and reasons about moral choices, covenant, prayer and leadership.	Uses precise theological vocabulary; synthesises Scripture, doctrine, Creed and lived faith and constructs reasoned arguments.

Expected standard is the secure floor for each year group. Greater depth is reached when pupils explain, make links, interpret and justify using Scripture, Church teaching and precise theological vocabulary. All pupils access the same ambitious curriculum through appropriate adaptation and scaffolding.