



# Holy Rood

## CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL





# Welcome

## Dear Parents/Carers

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Holy Rood Catholic Primary School. We are a two-form entry, split site primary school in Swindon, with our EYFS and Key Stage 1 children based at Groundwell Road and our Key Stage 2 children a short walk away at Upham Road. At Holy Rood, our school vision is simply captured in three words: 'Belong, Learn, Achieve'. With Christ at the centre of everything we do, our vision for our school is that it is a happy, nurturing, safe and encouraging place where everyone feels welcome and valued.

We welcome children from all backgrounds and faiths and are proud of our inclusive ethos. With strong values and morals, we believe our school helps to shape children to confidently know and believe in themselves for their future. Being part of a Catholic school is distinctive and from the minute you step through the door you will feel part of our family. It is a place where achievement is expected and commended, where behaviour is good, where everyone is kind and caring and where all children are celebrated as individuals, striving to achieve their full potential and flourish in God's world. You may have never considered a Catholic school for your child; however, come and see for yourself what we have to offer and join our vibrant, passionate and ambitious team on our exciting journey.

Your child will leave our school equipped for life-long learning, with the courage and resilience to always aim high and believe in themselves, achieving the very best they can. I look forward to welcoming you to Holy Rood; visits to the school are warmly welcomed so that you can experience our lovely school first-hand and my door is always open should you wish to discuss any aspect of our work.

**Miss N Fry** – Head Teacher

## School Values

<b>TERM 1 – Love and Prayer</b>	 
<b>TERM 2 – Courage and Compassion</b>	 
<b>TERM 3 – Confidence and Respect</b>	 
<b>TERM 4 – Honestly and Responsibility</b>	 
<b>TERM 5 – Fairness and Loyalty</b>	 
<b>TERM 6 – Perseverance and Resilience</b>	 

# School Vision

## Belong

At Holy Rood Catholic Primary School we aim to provide a nurturing and inclusive environment enthused by the Spirit of Christ to enable everyone to make a positive contribution, both to the school and the wider community. We will show love, compassion and respect for others.

A sense of unity will be created by forming relationships that are based on trust, loyalty, forgiveness and acceptance; we will endeavour to act justly and be peacemakers as Christ's disciples, inspired by the Gospel values.

We will encourage a sense of responsibility and help children learn to appreciate God's world around them through reflection, mission, prayer, healing and peace.

## Learn

We resolve to develop a sense of awe and wonder at God's creation for our children - where creativity flourishes and everyone is inspired to learn, demonstrating a curiosity about the world around them.

We will strive to ensure that all of our learners are able to face new challenges with confidence, in a Christian learning environment where informed risk taking and a resilient attitude are welcomed, encouraged and achieved.

Our positive and enthusiastic approach to teaching and learning will motivate every person. Each will know that they are uniquely loved by God. We will continue to enjoy our learning and reflect on our efforts and achievements, inspiring us to always try our best.

## Achieve

The children will be determined in their daily challenges, gaining confidence in their own ability, imagining what they could achieve with continued effort and commitment and working to fulfil the exclusive plan God has for each of them.

By fully engaging in all aspects of school, children will have had the opportunity to go on to become ambitious and competent individuals, always striving to achieve their full potential and positively participating in God's world.



# Our Curriculum

At Holy Rood, we resolve to develop a sense of awe and wonder at God's creation for our children - where creativity flourishes and everyone is inspired to learn, demonstrating a curiosity about the world around them. This is reflected in our curriculum design, where we provide our children with an inclusive learning environment in which to explore, enquire, face challenges and have fun whilst on their learning journey. We have developed a fully comprehensive curriculum framework that meets the requirements of the National Curriculum as well as ensuring coverage and progression of key skills, knowledge and vocabulary. High importance is also placed on additional curriculum enhancements, which ensure the personal and social development of pupils through a wide range of 'Holy Rood 42' additional experiences and opportunities.

***“Teachers deliver a challenging curriculum with a strong focus on pupils’ vocabulary and language.”***  
*(Ofsted, May 2022)*

Our school values and mission statement are intertwined and well embedded within our curriculum; every child at Holy Rood embarks on a learning journey in a Catholic school community with an instilled sense of belonging, where they are recognised and valued as unique individuals. With regular opportunities for reflection, including during

collective worship, we place a high focus on developing children's moral, spiritual, social and cultural understanding (including British Values) alongside physical development, well-being and mental health.

***“Pupils are proud to attend Holy Rood Catholic Primary School. They flourish in the school’s warm and inclusive ethos.”*** *(Ofsted, May 2022)*

In all that we teach, we place a particular focus on language and vocabulary development, following clear pathways of progression and using a variety of resources and learning styles to enable children to secure and deepen their conceptual understanding. We strive to ensure that all of our learners are able to face new challenges with confidence and a 'can do' attitude, providing children with the opportunities to make links in their learning and build on skills previously learnt. We also work creatively to provide our children with real-life experiences, ensuring there is a purpose in which to embed their learning, as well as encouraging the children to enquire and ask their own questions which help to form the direction of their future learning.

We continuously monitor and review our curriculum, further developing the delivery and effectiveness of its design, with our children at the heart of our decision making.



## English

We follow a 'Talk4Writing' approach to teaching English at Holy Rood, covering six main genres a year and focussing on children learning key language patterns and structures orally to help broaden their vocabulary, as well as the grammatical skills needed to create effective written pieces. Each main unit follows the three-step cycle of Imitation, Innovation, Invention, alongside specific grammar, target and editing lessons where needed. Short burst writing tasks also provide children with the opportunity to revisit previously taught genres in a different context.

### **Imitation**

Children explore and learn a model text, using story maps, key word actions and feature finding so that they know the tools they need to create an effective version of their own.



### **Innovation**

Children write a new version of the text, changing certain elements of the model, one section at a time. Shared and guided writing is used to support and challenge the children appropriately.



### **Invention**

Children apply all of the skills they have learnt to write their final 'hot' piece, writing for a purpose created by some form of new and exciting stimulus.

## Reading

At Holy Rood, we strive for all of our pupils to be confident, fluent readers who have a good level of comprehension and understanding, ready to access the secondary school curriculum.

We aim to instil a real love of reading by exposing the children to a number of high-quality texts, across a variety of genres, which they read and listen to, as well as discuss with their class teachers and peers.

Our whole-class guided reading lessons at Holy Rood place a high importance on vocabulary, as well as focussing on the key skills needed to become confident, fluent readers who have a good level of comprehension and understanding:



## Phonics

Phonics is taught every day in Early Years and Key Stage One, as well as in Year 3 when the children transition in to Key Stage Two. We follow a structured and systematic phonics progression at Holy Rood, in order for children to become successful fluent readers by the end of Key Stage One. We believe this is achievable through strong, high quality, discrete phonics teaching that is embedded across the curriculum. We encourage the use of segmenting and blending so that decoding skills provide a sound foundation for reading, writing and spelling. As children progress in to Key Stage Two, our whole-class spelling lessons at Holy Rood place a high importance on building on children's prior phonic knowledge to enable them to make informed spelling choices through experience and exposure to words so that they can become independent and accurate spellers.

*"The school's phonics programme is well planned. Staff teach phonics skilfully. They make detailed checks on pupils' progress. If pupils fall behind, staff act quickly to give them extra support. (Ofsted, May 2022)*

## Maths

At Holy Rood, we believe that mathematics is an important, creative discipline that helps us to understand and change the world. We want all pupils at Holy Rood to experience the beauty, power and enjoyment of mathematics and develop a sense of curiosity about the subject.

Our maths planning is based on the National Curriculum statements and we use Can Do Maths to give us our small manageable steps for daily teaching. Challenge is visible throughout the whole maths session, where children are asked to reason and prove their understanding at a deeper secure level.

What does our implementation of mathematics look like at Holy Rood, on a daily basis?

Mathematics Lessons: Teach Up Daily – 45 minutes	
'Learning Together'	'Support & Challenge'

Maths On Track Meetings: Keep Up Daily – 25 minutes
Deliberate Practice Sessions Arithmetic/Intervention/Practice

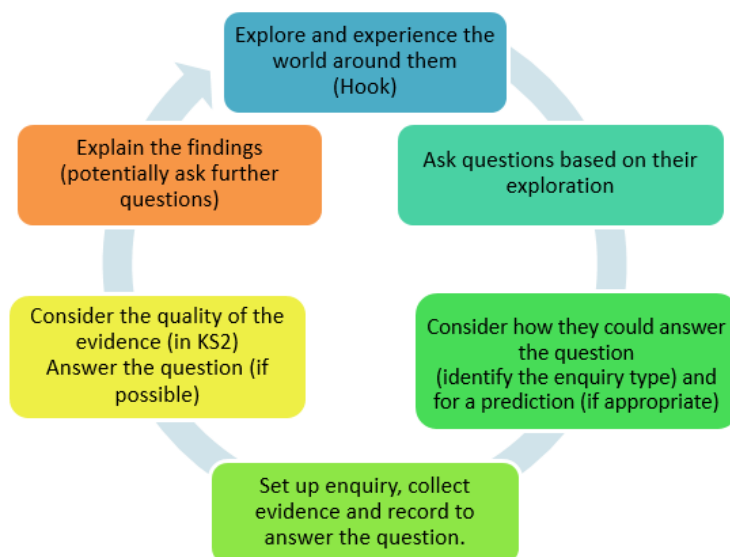
Using a teaching for mastery approach, each maths lesson will incorporate the 'Fab Four' components to ensure each session has one 'KITE' so that all children will fly:

- ❖ **Key Learning Point**
- ❖ **Intelligent Practice**
- ❖ **The answer is only the beginning**
- ❖ **Examples and non-examples**

## Science

At Holy Rood, we understand how important science is in everyday life and we are committed to growing our children's

science capital. We follow a cyclical investigation design which underpins our investigation planning, with children focussing on a specific element of the cycle during lessons:



We want all pupils to have the opportunity to be exposed to first-hand experiences that allow them to develop their scientific skills, knowledge and overall appreciation and understanding of the world around them. We encourage and nurture our pupils' natural excitement and curiosity through appropriate stimulus, exploration and questioning which is embedded in lessons with a focus on rich, well-modelled scientific vocabulary and concepts.

## Foundation Subjects

Foundation Subjects at Holy Rood	
<b>Enquiry Subjects</b> History, Geography, Art, Design & Technology	<b>Our wider curriculum</b> PE, PSHE, Computing, Music French

We provide children with a curriculum for foundation subjects that is engaging, imaginative and purposeful. Our curriculum provides children with a broad base of experiences and the vocabulary with which to discuss them. We ensure an appropriate level of challenge so that children are aspirational and can see wonder and possibility in their learning. We take an enquiry-led approach, with a termly 'Big Question' which children aim to answer

through their learning in **history, geography, art and design technology**. Our planning is led by the children's own curiosity and wonderings and we offer a wide range of practical opportunities to meet the needs and interests of all learners. Other foundation subjects are taught following high quality, specialist schemes of work:

- **Computing** – Purple Mash & Project Evolve
- **PSHE** – Jigsaw
- **PE** – PE Passport
- **Music** – Charanga
- **MFL** – Rising Stars French

Our enquiry and wider curriculum gives children the opportunity to discover, nurture and develop talents for creative and practical subjects. Children leave Holy Rood with the experience, skills and confidence they need, not only for further study, but also for their roles as young people in our modern world.

*“Leaders are ambitious for pupils. They have redesigned the curriculum...Subject leaders have carefully considered what pupils need to learn and when in each subject.” (Ofsted, May 2022)*

To find out more about our curriculum offer at Holy Rood, please visit our school website:

<https://www.holyroodcatholicprimary.co.uk/curriculum-2/>

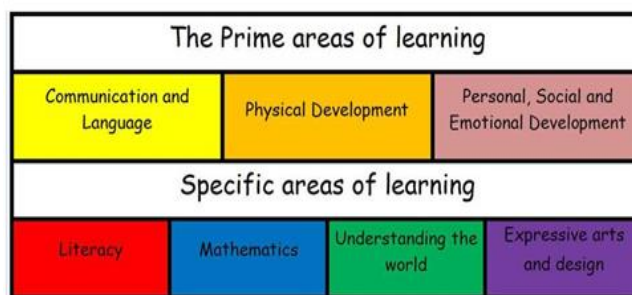
## Early Years

At Holy Rood Catholic Primary School, we greatly value the importance of the early years foundation stage (EYFS) in providing a secure foundation for future learning and development.

We seek to provide:

- **Quality and consistency**, so that every child makes good progress and no child gets left behind.
- **A secure foundation** through learning and development opportunities which are planned around the needs and interests of each child and are assessed and reviewed regularly.
- **Partnership working** between practitioners and parents.
- **Equality of opportunity** and anti-discriminatory practice, ensuring that every child is included and supported.

There are seven areas of learning and development that must shape education programmes in EYFS settings. These are split into two sections – prime and specific; however, all the sections are interconnected and important.



At Holy Rood Primary School, we believe children learn best through real experiences and active learning. We know children learn at their highest level when at play; therefore, we do not make a distinction between play and work. We provide a daily routine for the children, which provides for teacher directed, teacher initiated and child initiated learning opportunities. We support children's learning throughout the child initiated and planned play activities and in doing so, we ensure children have opportunities to engage and thrive in all aspects and areas of learning.

*“Children settle into early years quickly and happily. They learn to listen, share and take turns. Strong classroom routines and expectations are taught throughout the school.” (Ofsted, May 2022)*

# Catholic Community

## Religious Education

At Holy Rood Catholic Primary School, we recognise and value every individual as special and unique in the image and likeness of God. Religious Education at Holy Rood respects and promotes each child's innate capacity for awe, wonder, reverence and spirituality. It is our intention that children will enjoy their RE lessons and allow them to feel a sense of belonging to our school community. Through Religious Education, our children learn about their unique place within the home, school and parish. We welcome children from all backgrounds and faiths and are proud of our inclusive ethos. With strong values and morals, we believe our school helps to shape children to confidently know and believe in themselves for their future.

***“Pupils’ attitudes reflect the school’s well-established values of fairness, compassion and loyalty. They believe that everyone is ‘completely welcomed’ and treated equally.” (Ofsted, May 2022)***

Religious Education is a core subject and we follow the diocesan 'God Matters' scheme of work enabling all children to develop their knowledge and understanding of Catholic faith and life, how this can be taken into their own lives whilst evaluating and analysing religious beliefs and practice.

We also teach the children about other world religions during the academic year. They are encouraged not to simply learn facts about other religions, but also reflect and gain insights from them.

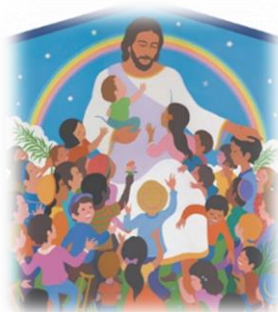
## Chaplaincy

Chaplaincy is the way help and encouragement is offered to staff and pupils as they try to fulfil their respective roles within the school community. We recognise and appreciate the role played by staff, parents, priests, governors, pupils and their families as we try to fulfil the aim of being a community which has Jesus at the heart of all we do.

Our Chaplaincy Team tries to foster the Christ-centered Catholic ethos of the school and share it with members of our wider school community through a variety of liturgical and spiritual opportunities. We support and encourage all pupils and staff in their faith journey.

The aims of the Chaplaincy Team are:

- To deepen prayer - we will try and help everyone get closer to God.
- To enable Communion – we will try our best to make sure that everyone feels a part of the school and the church community and knows that God loves and cares for them.
- To strengthen mission – we will make sure we help others, especially those who are not as lucky as we are and showing others what it means to be a person of Faith.
- To support in leading Collective Worship.



## Celebration of the Word

Celebration of the Word in our school follows the structure detailed below:

- **Gathering** - how we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet/reflective music, lighted candles, statues, sign of the cross, focus and examination of conscience).

- **Word** - a reading from the Scriptures (or another suitable source), breaking the word (sharing a reading taken from the Bible), time to reflect on this and prayers to fit into the theme.

- **Action** - a ritual movement that everyone can join in with, that fits with the theme (gestures such as shaking hands, holding hands, lighting a candle, prayers, responses to prayers).

- **Mission** - the sending out from the celebration, giving the children something to hold onto from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives.

The children in Key Stage 2 lead their own weekly Celebration of the Word classes using the format above. They work in small groups to plan, lead and deliver their own worships based either on the weekly Gospel reading or linked to a Liturgical event. They are encouraged to think about the meaning of the Gospel, a way in which they can come together to show this within their worship and also how they can encourage others to live out the message in their own lives.

*“Leaders have developed a well-thought-out programme for pupils’ personal development. Pupils learn about other families, faiths and cultures... There are many opportunities for pupils to contribute to school life, for example by leading collective worship.”*  
(Ofsted, May 2022)

There are occasions we believe are prayerful and joyful – a time when our uniqueness as a Catholic school is both highlighted and celebrated.

Parents and parishioners are invited to celebrate mass with the children in the parish church at these times. We also provide opportunities for non-sacramental liturgies and celebrations. Major feasts and some Saint’s days are also celebrated. We aim to provide all children with opportunities for reflective discussion and prayer.



# Well-being of pupils

## Pastoral Care

At all times, we endeavour to maintain a healthy and safe environment for your child to live and learn in. We recognise the importance of good pastoral care, and also the issues of security. Our staff are able to manage minor accidents and illnesses and we will always contact you if we consider that your child is too unwell for lessons, or if there is something that is of concern to us.

## Safeguarding

At Holy Rood, safeguarding children is enshrined in all school policies and practice. We take seriously our responsibility to protect, safeguard and promote the welfare of the children and young people in our care. We believe in creating and maintaining a healthy, safe and enjoyable learning environment for all children.

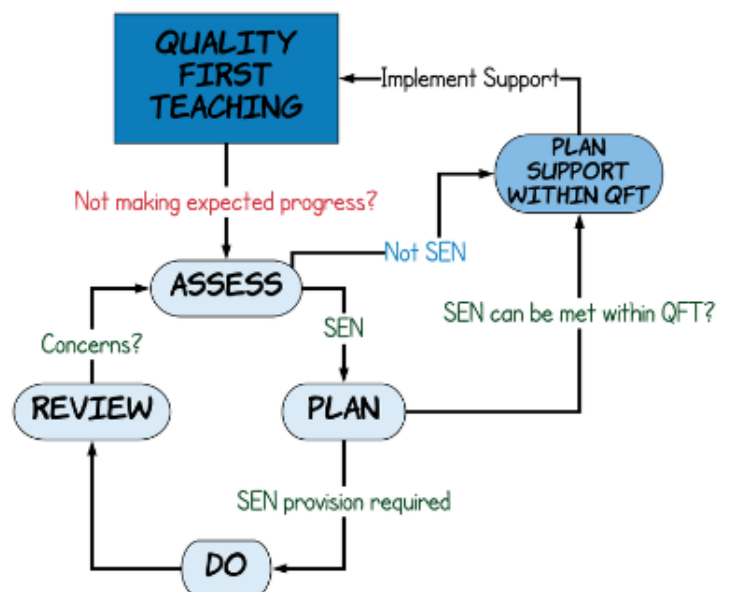
Our staff and governors are committed to safeguarding and contribute to multi-agency working to keep our pupils safe.

*“Procedures to keep pupils safe from harm are strong. Leaders know pupils and their families well. Staff are vigilant to signs of abuse and neglect. Leaders’ records are detailed. Staff are trained well and are knowledgeable about the risks pupils may face.  
(Ofsted, May 2022)”*

## SEND

We believe that every child should have the opportunity to achieve the highest of standards. By taking into account individual needs, life experiences and delivering a broad and balanced curriculum, we are able to strive for high expectations. We want all pupils of all abilities to be able to harness their potential by providing the best possible education. Regardless of ethnicity, age, disability, gender or background, we promote the individuality of our children and actively seek to remove any barriers to learning and participation.

Provision for all of our children begins with Quality First Teaching. For those children who may have been identified as requiring additional support, we use the ‘Assess, Plan, Do, Review’ process. This ensures that all children have access to the support necessary to engage in a full curriculum and make good progress.



## Attendance

All children have the right to an education based on equality of opportunity and Holy Rood, in partnership with parents, carers and other parties, implement measures to encourage regular school attendance and reduce rates of absenteeism.

We know that there is a direct link between a child's attainment, progress, social skills and attendance. A child's success at school is likely to be affected negatively if their attendance is poor. Those who do not attend regularly may fall behind in their learning, leading to underachievement, both academically and socially.

Holy Rood Catholic Primary School recognises the crucial role parents and carers play in promoting good school attendance. We therefore seek to provide professional, quality information and advice, communicated frequently by telephone, texts, newsletters and parents' evenings.

If your child is absent from school, please notify the school office by 9.00am. Should your child have a medical or dental appointment, or have to leave school early for any reason, please email the office with a copy of the appointment letter.

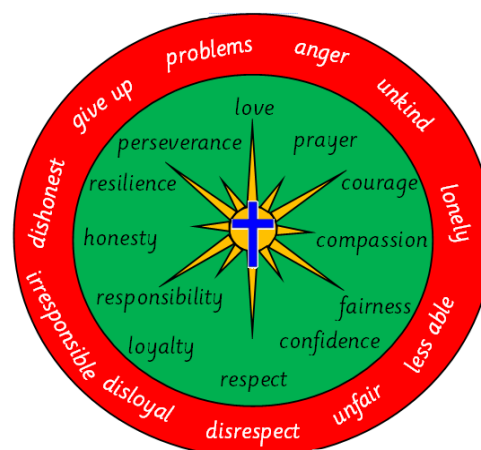
## Holidays

As part of the on-going drive to improve the attendance levels in all schools, Swindon Local Authority actively discourages parents and carers from taking children on holiday during term time. Holidays taken in term time will not be authorised unless there is an exceptional circumstance for doing so, for example a bereavement.

## Behaviour

At Holy Rood, all members of staff are always ready to listen to children's concerns. We build time within the school day for reflection and follow a nationally recognised program (Jigsaw) for personal, social, health and economic education. We ensure that we have an experienced pastoral lead whose role includes providing support for emotional well-being when needed.

Generally, we have a practical approach to everyday situations in school which children can follow. A simple way of identifying typical negative and positive emotions and behaviours is to colour code them, considering them in Red (for danger) and Green (go ahead with care) zones.



When we demonstrate Green Zone behaviour towards another person, they are very likely to feel safe, believe that we will help them and that they are important to us. At Holy Rood Catholic Primary School, we expect everyone to behave in this way, linked intrinsically to our Gospel based values.

*“Adults’ expectations of pupils’ behaviour are consistently high. In lessons, pupils are attentive and work hard.” (Ofsted, May 2022)*

“ We believe that a strong partnership between home and school is vital in enabling your child to have the best possible foundation for learning. It is our wish that parents and carers will always feel valued and welcomed; we want to form clear links with our families so that you can continue to effectively support your child’s learning at home. We actively encourage you to share your child’s achievements with us and place high importance upon our home reading records to celebrate and share your child’s progress, both at home and at school. We value the insight you give us into the experiences and skills your child has at home with you and your family and very much look forward to celebrating these with you. ”

**Holy Rood Catholic Primary School**

**EYFS/KS1:** Groundwell Road • Swindon • SN1 2LU

**KS2:** Upham Road • Swindon • SN3 1DH

 01793 523802

 [admin@holyroodprimary.co.uk](mailto:admin@holyroodprimary.co.uk)

 [www.holyroodprimary.co.uk](http://www.holyroodprimary.co.uk)

