



# curriculum for excellence: religious education in Roman Catholic schools

experiences and outcomes

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# Religious education in Roman Catholic schools

## Experiences and outcomes

Learning through religious education enables me to:

- develop my knowledge and deepen my understanding of the Catholic faith
- investigate and understand the relevance of the Catholic faith to questions about truth and the meaning of life
- highlight, develop and foster the values, attitudes and practices which are compatible with a positive response to the invitation to faith
- develop the skills of reflection, discernment, critical thinking, and deciding how to act in accordance with an informed conscience when making moral decisions
- nurture my prayer life as an individual and as part of the school community
- understand and appreciate significant aspects of other Christian traditions and major world religions
- make a positive difference to myself and the world by putting my beliefs and values into action.

## Catholic Christianity

	Early <sup>1</sup>	First	Second	Third	Fourth <sup>2</sup>
<p><b>Mystery of God</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>exploring situations of wonder and mystery in life</li> <li>in the light of the Word of God as expressed in the Christian scriptures and the teachings of the Catholic Church, considering how these situations can affect the way that we understand ourselves, our lives and the world around us.</li> </ul>	<p>I explore God's natural world and I am beginning to see the wonder and awe of this gift in the world around me.</p> <p>RERC 0-01a</p>	<p>I am discovering God's precious gift of life and reflect on how this reveals God's love for me.</p> <p>RERC 1-01a</p>	<p>I examine God's precious gift of life and can reflect and act upon my God-given role.</p> <p>RERC 2-01a</p> <p>I explore the Biblical stories of Creation and I can reflect on how we understand these truths in our modern world.</p> <p>RERC 2-01b</p>	<p>I identify situations of wonder and mystery in life. Having considered the belief that these situations are signs of God's invitation to relationship, I can describe how they affect our awareness of the sacred in our lives.</p> <p>RERC 3-01a</p>	<p>I consider the Catholic belief that the human nature of every person is fundamentally open to God, who calls each person to relationship and fullness of life. I can describe how this affects our awareness of the importance and the presence of God in our daily lives.</p> <p>RERC 4-01a</p>

<sup>1</sup> Please note that the statutory position of religious education relates to schools and not to pre-school centres.

<sup>2</sup> Please see principles and practice paper for description of choice at fourth level.

## Catholic Christianity (continued)

	Early	First	Second	Third	Fourth
<p><b>In the Image of God</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reflecting on the Christian belief that all our lives have meaning and dignity and that our gifts, talents, background, experiences, family and faith can help us to value the vocations which God reveals in our lives.</li> </ul>	<p>I can share my awareness of what makes me a unique child who has been given gifts from God. RERC 0-02a</p>	<p>I know that a loving God has created me and that my uniqueness can develop according to God's plan for me. RERC 1-02a</p>	<p>I know that God wants me to develop my God-given gifts and I have reflected on how I can use them for the common good. RERC 2-02a</p>	<p>I have considered the Christian vision of the dignity of the human person, made in the image and likeness of God. I have reflected upon how this has contributed to my becoming the person I am today. RERC 3-02a</p>	<p>I can describe how the Christian vision of the human person has affected our understanding of the experience of life as a journey towards fulfilment in God. I have reflected on and can describe my sense of vocation in life. RERC 4-02a</p>

## Catholic Christianity (continued)

	Early	First	Second	Third	Fourth
<p><b>Revealed Truth of God</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reflecting on the Christian belief that God, who made us and invites us to fullness of life, is revealed to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit through personal relationships with Him and one another</li> <li>expressing our thoughts and feelings about this and how it affects the way that we understand the inner experiences of our spiritual life, in particular conscience, will and prayer.</li> </ul>	<p>I am aware of God's love for me and His call for me to be close to Him.</p> <p><b>RERC 0-03a</b></p>	<p>I am exploring God's relationship with others and I have reflected on how people's faith has helped them in difficult times.</p> <p><b>RERC 1-03a</b></p>	<p>I can examine God's relationship with myself and others. I have reflected on how the gift of faith can permeate my whole being.</p> <p><b>RERC 2-03a</b></p>	<p>I have examined the way that God is revealed in the lives of key people and events described in the Old Testament.</p> <p><b>RERC 3-03a</b></p>	
	<p>I am becoming aware of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.</p> <p><b>RERC 0-04a</b></p>	<p>I can describe God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit and I have reflected on how God can support me in my life.</p> <p><b>RERC 1-04a</b></p>	<p>I can identify the three persons in the Holy Trinity and I have reflected on how I can honour the Holy Trinity.</p> <p><b>RERC 2-04a</b></p>	<p>I have examined key events in the New Testament where God is revealed as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. I have considered how this affects my understanding of the nature of God.</p> <p><b>RERC 3-04a / RERC 4-04a</b></p>	

## Catholic Christianity (continued)

	Early	First	Second	Third	Fourth
<p><b>Son of God</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reflecting on the Christian belief that God is revealed in Creation in a particular way through special events and people in the unfolding history of salvation, and that this revelation was made complete when God became human in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of Man</li> <li>expressing our thoughts and feelings about this in the light of the words and actions of Jesus</li> <li>reflecting upon the extent to which the words and actions of Jesus can affect the attitudes, values and behaviour of ourselves and others.</li> </ul>	<p>I am familiar with the Christmas story and I know that at Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus the Son of God and Son of Mary.</p> <p><b>RERC 0-05a / RERC 1-05a</b></p>		<p>I know that Jesus is truly divine and truly human and I can acknowledge Him as our Saviour who brings the New Covenant.</p> <p><b>RERC 2-05a / RERC 3-05a</b></p>		<p>I have explored the Christian belief that in Jesus, God enters and transforms human nature, and exists at the centre of all creation.</p> <p><b>RERC 4-05a</b></p>
		<p>I have examined some political, social, historical and religious elements in first-century Palestine and gained an understanding of Jesus' life on earth.</p> <p><b>RERC 1-06a / RERC 2-06a</b></p> <p>I have examined the role of Jesus as a teacher and a healer and I have reflected on how His words and actions influence my own life and the lives of others.</p> <p><b>RERC 1-06b / RERC 2-06b</b></p>		<p>I have researched into the social, political and religious life in Jesus' land 2000 years ago to develop my understanding of Jewish expectations of the Messiah.</p> <p><b>RERC 3-06a / RERC 4-06a</b></p>	

## Catholic Christianity (continued)

	Early	First	Second	Third	Fourth
<b>Son of God (continued)</b>	<p>I am familiar with the Easter story and I understand that God raised Jesus from the dead to be with us.</p> <p><b>RERC 0-07a</b></p>	<p>I have explored the events of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus and I have reflected on the Catholic meaning of eternal life.</p> <p><b>RERC 1-07a / RERC 2-07a</b></p>		<p>Having examined key events during the Ministry, Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus and the beginnings of the Church, I can describe how these events, and the influence of the Holy Spirit, affected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the early Christian communities' understanding of Jesus' nature</li> <li>• His continuing presence and identity</li> <li>• the development of the Church.</li> </ul> <p><b>RERC 3-07a</b></p>	<p>I have reflected upon the centrality and significance of the death and resurrection of Jesus to the Christian understanding of Jesus as Son of God and Son of Man.</p> <p>I can describe how this has affected my own and others' understanding of and belief in Jesus.</p> <p><b>RERC 4-07a</b></p>

## Catholic Christianity (continued)

	Early	First	Second	Third	Fourth
<p><b>Signs of God</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reflecting on the Catholic Christian belief that the Risen Christ is present in the Community of the Church by the power of the Holy Spirit, and that its members are nourished by sharing in the life of the Trinity through the Seven Sacraments</li> <li>understanding that the Sacraments are encounters with Jesus who continues to guide us on our journey of Faith</li> <li>having considered examples of prophetic and missionary church witness, we can describe our thoughts and feelings about the impact that Sacraments and witness can have upon our lives and our world.</li> </ul>	<p>I am aware of being part of a community and I have begun to explore aspects of the local Catholic community.</p> <p><b>RERC 0-08a</b></p>	<p>I know that through the Community of the Church, people can experience God's love and care and I have reflected on how this community celebrates together.</p> <p><b>RERC 1-08a</b></p>	<p>I have explored Christian heritage and my role in the Catholic community and I have reflected on how this role can affect my life.</p> <p><b>RERC 2-08a</b></p>	<p>I have reflected upon the significance of the Sacraments in the life of the community of Faith. I can describe how these provide important encounters with Jesus throughout life.</p> <p><b>RERC 3-08a / RERC 4-08a</b></p>	
		<p>I am exploring the Sacraments of Initiation and Reconciliation and I have reflected on how the Sacraments help to nurture faith.</p> <p><b>RERC 1-09a</b></p>	<p>Through my study of the Seven Sacraments I have developed a deeper understanding of them and I have reflected on how they strengthen my relationships with God and others.</p> <p><b>RERC 2-09a</b></p> <p>I can understand that the Eucharist is 'the source and summit of the Christian life'.</p> <p><b>RERC 2-09b</b></p>	<p>I can describe how my understanding of the Sacraments affects my own and others' understanding of the ways that the Sacraments (especially Eucharist, as the source and summit of Christian life) make Christ present to nourish and support our relationships with God and each other.</p> <p><b>RERC 3-09a / RERC 4-09a</b></p>	
		<p>I have examined the role of the Holy Spirit in my life and in the lives of others.</p> <p><b>RERC 1-10a</b></p>	<p>I can reflect on the Holy Spirit's prophetic influence.</p> <p><b>RERC 2-10a</b></p>	<p>I have explored the belief that the Holy Spirit inspires and empowers the Church to fulfil its prophetic and missionary role in our world today. I have researched into situations which bear witness to this. I can describe how I and others can contribute to this work.</p> <p><b>RERC 3-10a / RERC 4-10a</b></p>	



## Catholic Christianity (continued)

	Early	First	Second	Third	Fourth	
<p><b>Word of God</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reflecting on the Catholic Christian belief that God speaks to all peoples of all times and speaks to us in a distinctive way in the Word of God, expressed in Sacred Scripture and in the Sacred Tradition of the Catholic Church</li> <li>having applied the Word of God to everyday situations in life, we can express our thoughts and feelings about its effects on people's lives.</li> </ul>	<p>I am aware of some Bible stories.</p> <p><b>RERC 0-11a</b></p>	<p>I can share some Bible stories and I can explore how God speaks to us through these stories. I have reflected on how these stories can help me to live a Christian life.</p> <p><b>RERC 1-11a</b></p>	<p>I have studied the structure of the Bible. I can identify the different parts of the Bible and I have explored God's message in these.</p> <p><b>RERC 2-11a</b></p>	<p>To help me understand the message intended by the writers of the Biblical texts I have developed an awareness of literary forms in the Bible.</p> <p><b>RERC 3-11a</b></p>	<p>I have considered the belief that God speaks to us in Sacred Scripture and in Sacred Tradition as expressed in the ongoing life and teaching of the Church. I can describe how these have affected my own and others' understanding of the truth and meaning of life.</p> <p><b>RERC 4-11a</b></p>	
	<p>I know that the Bible is the inspired Word of God and that I should treat it with reverence.</p> <p><b>RERC 0-12a / RERC 1-12a / RERC 2-12a</b></p>			<p>I can describe what I believe Biblical texts say about the way that God spoke to people in the past and how God speaks to people today.</p> <p><b>RERC 3-12a / RERC 4-12a</b></p>		
					<p>I know that a good background understanding of the New Testament is important for living as a Christian today.</p> <p><b>RERC 3-13a / RERC 4-13a</b></p>	

## Catholic Christianity (continued)

	Early	First	Second	Third	Fourth
<p><b>Hours of God</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reflecting on the Christian belief that the People of God respond to God's invitation to communion through Prayer and the Sacred Liturgy of the Church</li> <li>expressing our thoughts and feelings about this and describing how our understanding and experience of prayer and liturgy can affect our lives and those of others.</li> </ul>	<p>I know that when I pray I am speaking to God.</p> <p><b>RERC 0-14a</b></p>	<p>I recognise the importance of personal prayer and communal prayer in the growth of all people's relationship with God. I know a number of traditional Catholic prayers and I have developed an understanding of the meaning of these prayers. I have participated in different approaches to, and experiences of, prayer. I can describe how prayer is an important part of the liturgical and devotional life of the Church. I have reflected on how all of these are different ways of worshipping God.</p> <p><b>RERC 1-14a / RERC 2-14a / RERC 3-14a / RERC 4-14a</b></p>			
	<p>I am aware that Mary is the Mother of Jesus and Our Mother.</p> <p><b>RERC 0-15a</b></p>	<p>I can honour Mary as Mother of Jesus and Our Mother. I can share why we honour her.</p> <p><b>RERC 1-15a</b></p>	<p>I can recognise Mary's significance within the Catholic tradition and I know that celebrating her feast days and praying to God through Mary can enrich my life.</p> <p><b>RERC 2-15a</b></p>	<p>I can explain the place of Mary in the Church's Liturgy and in the prayer life of individual Christians. I can also explain the place of Mary in other Christian traditions.</p> <p><b>RERC 3-15a / RERC 4-15a</b></p>	
	<p>I can share that Sunday is a special day when the Catholic Christian community meets to celebrate Mass.</p> <p><b>RERC 0-16a</b></p>	<p>I know that the Mass is at the heart of Catholic community life and I am developing an understanding of how to participate fully in this celebration.</p> <p><b>RERC 1-16a / RERC 2-16a</b></p>		<p>I can recognise the Mass as both a sacred meal and a sacrifice and I have reflected on what this means for human salvation.</p> <p><b>RERC 3-16a / RERC 4-16a</b></p>	
	<p>I have experienced liturgy as a community event.</p> <p><b>RERC 0-17a</b></p>	<p>I have, through liturgical experiences, reflected on an ability to respond to symbols and take part in rituals in order to worship God.</p> <p><b>RERC 1-17a / RERC 2-17a</b></p>		<p>I have explored the meaning of ritual and symbol within the Sacred Liturgy of the Church.</p> <p><b>RERC 3-17a / RERC 4-17a</b></p>	

## Catholic Christianity (continued)

	Early	First	Second	Third	Fourth
<b>Hours of God (continued)</b>	I can recognise Easter and Christmas as special times for the Christian Community. <b>RERC 0-18a</b>	I know some of the signs and symbols related to Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Advent and Christmastide and I can use this understanding to help me explore the themes of these celebrations. <b>RERC 1-18a / RERC 2-18a</b>		I have considered the liturgical events of Holy Week, Easter, Advent and Christmastide. I can reflect critically on the central importance of the feast of Easter in the Church's Liturgical Calendar. <b>RERC 3-18a / RERC 4-18a</b>	
		I know that the Holy Spirit strengthens my faith and the faith of the saints and I have reflected on how the stories of the Saints can inspire me to live a more Christian life. <b>RERC 1-19a / RERC 2-19a</b>			

## Catholic Christianity (continued)

	Early	First	Second	Third	Fourth	
<p><b>Reign of God</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reflecting on the Ten Commandments and on Jesus' New Commandment</li> <li>responding to the call to grow in holiness as expressed by Jesus in the Beatitudes through being compassionate, just and willing to contribute to the common good</li> <li>examining the need to respond to moral issues in the light of Catholic teaching</li> <li>expressing our thoughts and feelings about how the Church's invitation to build God's kingdom of justice, love and peace can affect us and others.</li> </ul>	<p>I know that God invites us to show love to others.</p> <p><b>RERC 0-20a</b></p>	<p>I know that I have been called by God to grow in love, justice and peace in my relationships with others.</p> <p><b>RERC 1-20a / RERC 2-20a</b></p>	<p>I have reflected on the Ten Commandments and the teachings of Christ. I have acted on Christ's personal challenge to contribute to the creation of a transformed world of Justice, Love and Peace, through the power of the Holy Spirit.</p> <p><b>RERC 3-20a / RERC 4-20a</b></p>			
	<p>I can respond to stories that reflect Christian values.</p> <p><b>RERC 0-21a</b></p>	<p>I have explored the implications of Jesus' command to love God and love my neighbour.</p> <p><b>RERC 1-21a</b></p>	<p>I can recognise how my relationship with God and others can be shaped by the values of Jesus' Kingdom.</p> <p><b>RERC 2-21a</b></p> <p>I recognise the contribution of other Christian Churches to Jesus' Kingdom. I have explored ecumenical action and reflected upon its impact in the world.</p> <p><b>RERC 2-21b</b></p>	<p>I have experienced what it means to be wise and compassionate. I can describe how these experiences have affected my understanding of my value as a person, my awareness of the needs of others and my willingness to contribute to the service of the common good.</p> <p><b>RERC 3-21a / RERC 4-21a</b></p>		
		<p>I have explored the call to forgiveness and reconciliation and have reflected on how this can restore my relationship with God and others. I can put this understanding into practice in my relationship with God and others.</p> <p><b>RERC 1-22a / RERC 2-22a / RERC 3-22a</b></p>			<p>I have considered the need for reconciliation in situations in society.</p> <p><b>RERC 4-22a</b></p>	

## Catholic Christianity (continued)

	Early	First	Second	Third	Fourth
<b>Reign of God (continued)</b>		I know that God has given me the freedom to make choices about the way I live my life. I have reflected on how the decisions of my conscience affect my relationship with God and others. <b>RERC 1-23a / RERC 2-23a</b>		I have developed awareness of the elements essential for making informed decisions and I have examined situations which pose a moral challenge in life. I can describe and explain my response and the responses of others to these situations. <b>RERC 3-23a / RERC 4-23a</b>	
		I have considered ways in which the Catholic Christian community works together to show care for the world and for the needs of all people. I have reflected on the implications of this for my life and that of others. <b>RERC 1-24a / RERC 2-24a</b>		I have experienced opportunities to engage with issues of social injustice. I can describe how Church teaching in this area has affected my response and the responses of others to these issues. <b>RERC 3-24a / RERC 4-24a</b>	

## Other world religions

Scotland in the 21st century is an increasingly multicultural and diverse nation. The curriculum in a denominational school will reflect its particular faith perspective. In Roman Catholic schools it will build on the openness of Catholic schools to other young people regardless of denominations and faiths. In addition to developing their understanding of the Catholic faith, children and young people will also come to an appreciation of significant aspects of major world religions, recognising the sincere search for truth which takes place in other faiths. During the pre-school period and from experiences within their local community, most children will have learned something about other world religions, for example through festivals and celebrations, and teachers will want to build on that knowledge as they gradually introduce learning about other world religions. Other world religions would normally be taught from P3 onwards; however, where appropriate, this can be adapted to meet the needs of a diverse school community.

These outcomes can be met through a consideration of Judaism and Islam in the primary stages (although this can be adapted, where appropriate, to include some other world religions which exist in the school context). This can widen to learning about Buddhism, Sikhism and Hinduism in the secondary stages with fourth level providing some study options in this regard.

	Early	First	Second	Third	Fourth
<b>Beliefs</b>		<p>I am aware that the Jewish and/or Muslim communities believe in God.</p> <p><b>RERC 1-25a</b></p>	<p>I have explored some beliefs of the Jewish and/or Muslim communities.</p> <p><b>RERC 2-25a</b></p>	<p>I can describe how a sense of the sacred affects the everyday living of people of various faiths. I can also describe how my understanding of this has influenced my respect for the faith of others.</p> <p><b>RERC 3-25a</b></p>	<p>I have researched into the origins of the key beliefs of different world faiths. I can describe and evaluate different beliefs about human nature and destiny, the problems of evil and suffering, and life after death.</p> <p><b>RERC 4-25a</b></p> <p>I can confidently express my own beliefs on these issues.</p> <p><b>RERC 4-25b</b></p>

## Other world religions (continued)

	Early	First	Second	Third	Fourth
<b>Values and issues</b>		<p>I am aware of family and community values in the Jewish and/or Muslim faiths.</p> <p><b>RERC 1-26a</b></p>	<p>I can identify some of the principles by which people of the Jewish and/or Muslim faith communities live.</p> <p><b>RERC 2-26a</b></p>	<p>I have researched and I can describe the moral attitudes and values of the major world religions.</p> <p><b>RERC 3-26a</b></p> <p>I can relate these to my own values.</p> <p><b>RERC 3-26b</b></p>	<p>I have researched into and I can identify the core values at the heart of the major world faiths.</p> <p><b>RERC 4-26a</b></p> <p>I can describe how this has developed my awareness of the commonality of values across major world faiths. I can evaluate the importance these values hold for the good of the individual and stability of society.</p> <p><b>RERC 4-26b</b></p>
<b>Practices and traditions</b>		<p>I can identify the places of worship of the Jewish and/or Muslim faith communities.</p> <p><b>RERC 1-27a</b></p> <p>I know that the Jewish and/or Muslim communities have special books which are important to their beliefs.</p> <p><b>RERC 1-27b</b></p>	<p>I can share some of the key features and rituals associated with the Jewish and/or Muslim communities' places of worship and their festivals.</p> <p><b>RERC 2-27a</b></p> <p>I can identify some of the customs and artefacts related to the Jewish and/or Muslim communities and their festivals.</p> <p><b>RERC 2-27b</b></p>	<p>I have researched the major ceremonies and customs of other world faiths. I can explain the significance of these to the followers of these beliefs.</p> <p><b>RERC 3-27a</b></p> <p>I have explored how people of other world faiths practise their beliefs today. I can relate these to my own faith practice.</p> <p><b>RERC 3-27b</b></p>	<p>Through researching the traditions, practices and customs of major world religions, I have developed my understanding of them and my respect for people of other faiths.</p> <p><b>RERC 4-27a</b></p> <p>I can describe the place of religious practice in Scotland and in the contemporary world at large.</p> <p><b>RERC 4-27b</b></p>