

St Mary's Catholic Primary School



Religious Education Policy

Legal Status:	Non Statutory
Last Review:	
Review date:	March 2022
Next Review:	March 2024
Responsible Person:	Governing Body

Mission Statement

"The family of St Mary's strives to grow in God's love and care by learning together and valuing the uniqueness of each person."

Mission Statement

The family of St Mary's school strives to grow in God's love and care by learning together and valuing the uniqueness of each person.

- Our school offers a broad and balanced social and academic curriculum within a caring Catholic environment, which values the uniqueness of each person.
- Children are encouraged to achieve their full potential and the school works to create a partnership with parents to support children's learning.
- In the work of education, in line with the requirements of the National Curriculum, we focus on the development of the whole person- spiritual, intellectual, emotional, physical and social.
- We aim to help children to come to an understanding of positive relationships and how these may be built in the school, the family and the wider community.
- Our work in education is to provide opportunities for all and therefore will not be limited by gender, social background, race or culture.

Objectives

Each child is unique and comes with their own gifts to develop and to share with others. We aim to draw out these gifts and help the children value each other and their opinions and accept and appreciate that everyone has something to offer.

At St Mary's our children are encouraged to learn in an environment where all aspects of mutual care and love of each other, respect for life and love of God are continually promoted.

We seek to achieve this through:

- Our RE programme which explores the beliefs, values and way of life within the Catholic tradition.
- Becoming familiar with the church's liturgical year through our units of work, school assemblies and Masses
- Our Staff and Governors who model examples of Christian values.
- The school and classroom environment, which is abundant with signs of our faith, especially our classroom prayer areas.
- Our children as they learn to appreciate and respond to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural dimensions of life, through a variety of mediums: discussion, personal experiences, written work and practical activities
- Our close links with our parish church, Holy Trinity alongside our Parish Priest, Fr Richard Andrew

Teaching and Learning in RE

RE is a core subject in our school, alongside English, Maths and Science, and we devote 10% of our curriculum time to its delivery. At St Mary's our children are taught using the Margaret Carswell units. We adhere to the Curriculum Directory guidelines and learning outcomes. This provides a cohesive approach and opportunities for whole school assemblies and celebrations as well as displays which are relevant to the liturgical year and children's own work and ideas.

Planning

Each teacher produces a medium term plan at the beginning of each half term. Added to this are any feast day or other whole-school events that are happening. Alongside the medium term plan, we use the unit plans that are provided by Margaret Carswell; adapting these for our children.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

RE learning is assessed on a termly basis and children's progress and RE levels recorded onto the class assessment sheet. RE levels decided over a number and range of activities; not just one assessment task. Levels are discussed at Pupil Progress meetings with the RE leader. Progress and attainment is monitored by the RE lead and HT. Additionally, teachers constantly assess and evaluate their own children's work through discussions, questioning within lessons as well as evaluating written work.

Moderation takes place within the school as well as within the Deanery and Diocese to ensure assessments are consistent.

Parents receive a weekly information sheet specifically for RE (called the Wednesday Word) which explains the Sunday Gospel taught and how they can support this in the home.

Parents also receive termly targets for RE at our parent meetings as well as a written report annually where there are clear indications of what their child has learnt, understood and achieved.

Self-Evaluation

The school reviews the SEF form at least annually and uses the outcomes to inform our CPD programme.

Resources

Each class has a prayer corner reflecting the liturgical season, with a selection of books, a Bible, artefacts or objects, which can be the focus of our daily acts of worship. Pupils also can use this area for quiet times of their own.

Sets of bibles can be found across the school for all classes to use.

Monitoring

The monitoring of Religious Education at St Mary's is the responsibility of the RE Subject leader and the Headteacher. Their role is to monitor and assess the RE curriculum throughout the school to ensure continuity and progression. They also ensure that the aims and learning outcomes in the curriculum directory are identified and fulfilled; and that standards are high. The RE Subject leader is responsible for obtaining resources.

RE is monitored regularly through learning walks and book scrutinies for which pupil voice takes a priority.

Presentation

Children will present their knowledge and understanding in RE through a variety of ways:

- By discussion and written work.
- Research and collating of evidence.
- By whole school and class celebrations, liturgies and Masses.
- By art and written displays in class and around the school.
- ICT

Marking

At St Mary's, we expect and encourage the same high standards and expectations in RE as we do for all our curriculum subjects.

Marking of children's learning in RE should be positive and supportive to encourage the child in his/her faith journey. Marking will focus upon religious content and comments, feedback and next steps given will look to enhance religious skills, knowledge and understanding rather than literacy skills of spelling, grammar and punctuation. Key religious vocabulary, which is introduced in any lesson, is corrected in pupils work if spelt incorrectly.

Special Educational Needs

In Religious Education we recognise the need for resourcing, as well as careful planning and differentiation to cater for children of all abilities ranging from the very able children to those of lower ability. Staff are reminded to clearly identify pupils who are achieving at a high level in RE in their planning and adjust their teaching and pupil learning accordingly.

RE presents a particular challenge to teacher in that all classes contain pupils who may not have good literacy skills but are very able and insightful in RE. These pupils are catered for at an appropriate level.

Other Denominations and Faiths

Whilst Religious Education at St Mary's is specifically of the Catholic Church, we welcome input from other faiths and denominations. We appreciate how the beliefs and values of other faith communities can enrich our own spiritual existence. Our pupils also learn about other faiths throughout the year.

Cross Curricular links

"We believe that Religious Education is not a subject among many but, the foundation of the entire education process." (Bishops of England and Wales) In accordance with this statement, we believe that Religious Education is at the heart of what we teach and therefore permeates the whole curriculum. It is reflected in our prayer life and liturgy, in our personal and extended relationships and through developing an awareness in our children of the need to appreciate and care for the wider community and the world in which we teach.