



## A Vision for RE



*James 1: 2-4*

*2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*

At St. Mary's, we believe that religious education is essential to everyday life.

The primary purpose of Catholic Religious Education is to come to know and understand God's revelation which is fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. We place RE at the core of our curriculum here at St. Mary's. Everything we do is **REFLECTED** in our mission statement;

*St Marys, 'a place of educational excellence with Christ at its centre'.*

We believe that Religious Education helps pupils to know and experience the meaning of Christ's revelation in his or her own life and within the life of the community, the church. 'Religious Education is never simply one subject among many, but the foundation of the entire educational process.' (Expectations of Religious Education in Catholic Schools, Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, January 2000.)

For some pupils in the classroom, Religious Education may well be received as catechesis, deepening and enhancing their personal faith; for some it will be evangelisation, the first time they will have been presented, personally, with the truths of living faith. Its primary purpose is the step by step study of the mystery of Christ, the teaching of the Church and its application in daily life.

Religious Education is planned, taught, assessed and monitored with the same rigor as other core curriculum subjects. The outcome of Religious Education is to have religiously literate and engaged young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills appropriate to their age and capacity. To **REFLECT** spiritually and think ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.

### **The Aims of Religious Education**

1. To present a comprehensive content which engages pupils and is the basis of knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith.

2. To enable pupils to continually deepen their religious and theological understanding and be able to communicate this effectively using taught **ORACY** skills;
3. To raise pupils' awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities in order to respect and understand them, to appreciate **THE ARTS** and different **CULTURES**;
4. To develop the abilities of pupils so they can relate their Catholic faith to daily life;
5. To stimulate **INDEPENDENCE** through pupils' imagination and provoke a desire for personal meaning as revealed in the truth of the Catholic faith;
6. To enable pupils to use their **INIATIVE** to relate the knowledge gained through Religious Education to their understanding of other subjects in the curriculum;
7. To bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and **CULTURE**.
8. To recognise and discover the **POSSIBILITIES** that faith offers us;
9. To support global and local charities, to consider the **WELLBEING** of others and be **RESILIENT** in ones beliefs when faced with adversity.

In St Mary's, the daily act of worship is more than a legal obligation. As a living, Christian community the daily acknowledgement of the one true God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is a priority. This acknowledgement is made through prayer, **REFLECTION** and liturgical celebration, all of which are central to Catholic tradition and therefore integral to the life of the school.

Collective worship takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it:

- Those who form part of the worshipping community in church;
- Those for whom school may be their first and only experience of church;
- Those from other Christian traditions - or none;
- Those from other faith backgrounds.



At St Mary's we care for the whole child, Catholic schools are about more than league tables and test results. We have a strong commitment to our mission statement.

