



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Religious Education Policy

Mission Statement

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

Rationale of Religious Education:

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 2023.)

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

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

1. To enable pupils to continually deepen their religious and theological understanding and be able to communicate this effectively;
2. To raise pupils' awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities in order to respect and understand them;
3. To develop the abilities of pupils so they can relate their Catholic faith to daily life;
4. To stimulate pupils' imagination and provoke a desire for personal meaning as revealed in the truth of the Catholic faith;
5. To enable pupils to relate the knowledge gained through Religious Education to their understanding of other subjects in the curriculum;
6. To bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture

Curriculum time allocation:

10% of curriculum time is allocated to Religious Education. This does not include Collective Worship.

Programme of Study:

Come and See (recommended by the Diocese).

Process

Our starting point in Religious Education is Revelation. God is always the initiator in the history of our creation and redemption; it is his revealing of himself that makes classroom religious education possible. To begin with revelation ensures that we respect the revealed nature of Christian faith.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church addresses the search for meaning in life. God's initiative in Revelation who comes to meet us and our response of faith. (cf. CCC26) This pattern guides the structure of the programme, 'Come and See' which we follow, it informs the process of each topic, opened up through; Explore, Reveal and Respond.

Explore: This is the introduction to the topic where the children's life experience is explored, the questions it raises are wondered, shared, investigated and their significance reflected upon. During explore each year group explores the big question and make their own response in the form of 'I wonder.'

Reveal: This is the heart of the programme where knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith is revealed through the Word, in Scripture, Tradition, doctrine, prayers, rites and Christian living.

Respond: This is where the learning is assimilated, celebrated and responded in daily life.

Methodology

Teaching in Religious Education should help people be attentive to the meaning of their experiences, illuminated by the light of the Gospel, so that they may respond to God more fully. Experience can also make the Christian message more intelligible.

A variety of teaching and learning strategies will be used from across the curriculum adapted appropriately to the needs and learning styles of pupils.

Assessment and Monitoring

Assessment of standards is carried out in accordance with the Diocesan guidelines. Teachers will update each child's individual assessment on the school tracking system, target tracker, at the end of each term.

Monitoring of teaching and learning is carried out via lesson observations, learning walks, book looks, data analysis and pupil voice.

Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to parents and carers in a written report at the end of each academic year.

Marking should be undertaken in accordance to the schools marking policy. Work should be marked in relation to the learning intentions. Comments should encourage children to reflect and analyse.

Other Faiths

Twice a year we explore other faiths for one week. During the Autumn term each year we explore Judaism and later in the academic year a week will be spent on one of the following; Judaism, Islam, Hinduism and Sikhism.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Head teacher and RE Lead. It is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years. The Foundation Governors in particular will play a most important role.

September 2023

To be reviewed: September 2024

