



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

**Religious Education Policy
February 2019**

Review Date: September 2020

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Religious Education Policy

Mission Statement

Jesus said "Love one another as I have loved you."
These words are the heart of our school family.

Within our Catholic community, where prayer, liturgy and reflection are valued as part of daily life, the Christian values of friendship, compassion and forgiveness are shared.

Together we are proud of our own faith and beliefs whilst remaining respectful of others.

We celebrate achievement in all aspects of school and home life – everyone is unique and a child of God.

Rationale of Religious Education:

- At the heart of Catholic education lies the Christian vision of the human person. This vision is expressed and explored in religious education. Therefore, we believe that religious education is never simply one subject among many, but the foundation of the entire educational process.¹
- We believe Religious Education is, then, the core subject in a Catholic school.
- Religious education contributes to evangelisation and catechesis but its specific contribution to the Catholic Life of the school is primarily educational and so Religious Education will be planned, taught, assessed and monitored with the same rigour as other curriculum subjects.
- We understand Religious Education to be the systematic study of the mystery of God and of Jesus Christ, of the Church, and of the central beliefs which Catholics hold.

'The outcome of Religious Education is religiously literate young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills – appropriate to their age and capacity – to think spiritually, ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.'

The Aims of Religious Education

- to promote knowledge and understanding of Catholic faith and life
- to promote knowledge and understanding of the response of faith to the ultimate questions about human life, its origin and purpose
- to promote the skills required to engage in examination of and reflection upon religious belief and practice

Curriculum time allocation:

In line with Bishops' Conference recommendations, 10% of curriculum time is allocated to Religious Education. This does **not** include Collective Worship. All teachers in are expected to teach RE for 2 hours per week. For KS1 and 2, this happens every Tuesday afternoon currently unless there are timetable changes and RE has to be taught on another day. The focus of RE will be integral in all parts

of the curriculum while non-Catholics develop both expertise and subject knowledge and will be integral to all parts of the week.

Programme of Study:

To fulfil the above aims and to address the 4 areas of study outlined in the Curriculum Directory – Revelation, Church, Celebration and Life in Christ - The Way, The Truth and The Life programme is used as recommended by the Diocese. We use it both in its entirety and to inform calls work that is created by class teachers to extend or broaden our RE offer.

‘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.

From revelation we move onto Church; in other words, we consider how revelation gives life to the Church. The Church is the bearer of God’s revelation and the means by which human beings live out their response to revelation, enlivened by the Holy Spirit.

From here we focus on two aspects of the Church’s response to God’s revelation; Celebration – the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church and Life in Christ – the moral life and the pursuit of holiness.

However, attempts to make clear connections between the truths of faith and the pupils’ experience of life are essential.’

‘Teaching in Religious Educationshould help people be attentive to the meaning of their experiences, illumined 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, Monitoring, Recording and Reporting

- Assessment of standards is carried out according to Diocesan guidelines using the criteria in the Levels of Attainment booklet agreed by Bishops’ Conference.
- Each teacher keeps a class record of assessed work and records of pupils’ progress.
- The school portfolio of pupils’ work contains three samples of work from each teacher for each assessed topic covering a range of abilities.
- An in-house moderation meeting is held every term
- The school portfolio of assessed samples of work is available for inspection.
- Monitoring of teaching and learning by observing lessons
- Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to parents/carers in a written report at the end of each academic year.

Policy review.

This policy will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed by the Headteacher in the role of both HT and RE coordinator and updated every 2 years.

Management of the subject.

Samantha Griffiths, the Headteacher, has responsibility for leading, managing and supporting the delivery of and training in Religious Education.

Other Faiths

We will teach the children about other key World Religions in our Multi-faith days that will be held throughout the year. The key faiths that will be covered include Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism.