

Religious Education at St. Mary's RC Primary School, Radcliffe

Intent

As a Catholic school, we are committed to the Catholic Faith, recognising and valuing every individual as special and unique, created in the image and likeness of God.

Religious Education at St. Mary's respects and promotes each child's innate capacity for wonder, awe, reverence and spirituality. Our Religious Education curriculum leads our children to grow in their faith. They are taught about God's love and they learn about their Christian responsibilities. They are provided with experiences of the Church and Catholic traditions, as well as being taught to be respectful and understanding of those from other faith backgrounds.

In Religion lessons, it is our intention that pupils at St. Mary's understand that this is something that is not purely 'taught'. Through Religious Education, our children learn about their unique place within the school, parish and global community.

Implementation

At St. Mary's, the Catholicity of the school underpins what we do every day. This also directs us to implement an RE curriculum whereby the Catholic faith permeates everything we do. We follow the 'Come and See' Religious Education Programme in line with guidance from the Diocese of Salford. This programme is followed throughout school from Foundation Stage to Year 6.

This programme:

- provides opportunities for celebration, prayer and reflection in implicit and explicit ways.
- provides children with the language of religious experience in religious activities, places, stories, symbols and rituals, people and objects.
- prepares a 'systematic presentation of Christian events, messages and way of life' in a manner appropriate to the age and stage of development of the child.
- includes materials about other faiths, to allow us to prepare children to live in a multi-cultural society.

The programme explores the religious dimensions of questions about life, dignity and purpose within the Catholic tradition. Links are made with the children's own experience and with universal experience. It will raise questions and provide material for reflection by the children on their own experiences. It will enable them to explore the beliefs, values and way of life of the Catholic tradition and where appropriate other faith traditions.

Overview of Content

'Come and See' is taught through a series of 9 topics exploring: Community of faith, Church Celebration in ritual, Sacraments, Way of life and Christian Living. Other faith traditions are also explored through discreet topics.

The process for delivering the topics in 'Come and See' has three stages - Explore, Reveal and Respond which supports the pupils in their development of knowledge, understanding, skills and the fostering of attitudes.

10% of teaching time is dedicated to the teaching of RE.

The Process

Explore

This is the introduction to the topics where the children's life experience is explored, the questions it raises are wondered at, shared, investigated and their significance reflected on.

Reveal

This is the heart of the programme where knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith is revealed through Scripture, traditions, doctrine, prayers, rites and their impact on Christian living is examined.

Respond

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

Other Faiths and Cultures

Judaism or Islam is usually studied in detail in the Spring term. This learning is enhanced by visiting speakers who lead assemblies and workshops for each class in school. Parents and governors are welcomed to join these sessions. We also celebrate key events in the lives of other faiths and cultures such as Chinese New Year, Passover, Shavuot, Eid and Diwali. We attend the Multi-Faith forum with the GIFT chaplaincy team who take part in workshops to learn about other faiths. This is then presented to the rest of the school through our worship sessions.

Assessment

Ongoing assessment against the Standard Indicators is used to inform planning and to identify areas for focus and support. Each unit of learning is assessed against the Standards covered, which are highlighted for each child on the topic sheets in books.

Summative assessments are then completed after every unit on a class overview sheet. Each child is assessed as working towards the expected level, working at the expected level, working above the expected level. The overview document then creates an end of year summary with percentages of children's achievements shown.

Assessment is moderated internally and externally within cluster meetings.

How does the St. Mary's curriculum meet the needs of the children at our school?

<u>Religious Values</u> The teachings of Jesus are central to every aspect of our learning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Religious Education provided in a Catholic School cannot be confined to teaching and learning specifically devoted to RE. We seek to ensure that the message and spirit of the Gospel permeates all aspects of school life. Through teaching, example, worship and shared Christian values, we are helping to further, with family and the parish, the work of the awakening and fostering of a living and personal faith throughout our school community in keeping with our school mission statement.• We endeavour to place the 5W's Framework at the heart of educating our children in the Catholic Christian Tradition. The 5Ws Framework gives: Identity, Meaning, Purpose, Direction, Coherence and living to all we do in Catholic Education as part of our tradition as befits the needs and demands of an authentic Catholic Education at the service of the Church's Mission to the world.
<u>Key skills for learning</u> Provide a curriculum that will equip children with the values, skills and attributes needed to be independent thinkers and courageous learners, so we:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide children with opportunities to rehearse, apply and master our core learning behaviours of being able to focus, co-operate, reflect, work independently, be inventive, show resilience, self-belief and curiosity.• Understand that skills and concepts acquired through Religion are not exclusive to Religion lessons, but are closely linked to those required across the curriculum and in our everyday lives.• Work to allow every child access to a broad and balanced curriculum encouraging a sense of self-worth and self-esteem. Our children are given opportunities to apply and use their knowledge and skills in cross-curricular studies to deepen their understanding of religious truths and think creatively.• Allow children to further develop a growth mindset and understand improvement is something that can be acquired through hard work and effort.
<u>Opportunities to embrace cultural capital</u> is part of our school ethos, so we:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure that children become familiar with the person, life and teaching of Jesus who reveals both the face of God and the fullness of what it means to be human.• Help each child to live and grow in a community in a way that reflects human dignity and purpose based on love, tolerance and justice.• Ensure that all children have access to the curriculum and will celebrate their efforts, recognising their individual talents and needs, accepting that our children are not all at the same stage in their journey of faith.• Recognise and appreciate the faiths of others. We will do this through our teaching of Judaism and Islam, our involvement in Bury Faith Forum events, our Multi-faith classroom worship sessions and the use of the Caritas in Action scheme for SMSC Education.

Impact

The children at St Mary's enjoy learning about their own religion and other faiths. They have a secure understanding of Gospel values and try to incorporate these values into their learning and behaviour in and around school. Through their learning in RE, the children can make links between their own lives and those of others in their community and the wider world. The children develop an understanding of other people's cultures and ways of life, which they are then able to communicate to the wider community.

Through moderation of planning, lessons and books, we can be sure that progress is made across all year groups, and where needed, support is provided to ensure that all pupils achieve at their own rate and pace. Evidence of impact is not just collated in books, children contribute to Collective Worship and Catholic Life through their liturgy planning and charity work. Religious Education is invaluable to our children as we feel it helps to shape and nurture them to become people who are confident in themselves and tolerant of others in the wider world.