

# St Mary’s RC Primary School

# Curriculum Religious Education Policy

St Mary’s RC Primary School,

Belgrave Street,

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This Policy was last reviewed in February 2022

By: Mr Travis (Headteacher), Mrs Garrity (RE subject lead)

Mrs Boardman (RE Link Governor)

This Policy will next be reviewed in February 2024

Be Good, Be kind and love one another.

**Our Mission Statement**

**Jesus teaches us to love God and neighbours as ourselves. Our mission as a**

**Catholic School is to put that into practise in the way we live, teach, learn and work together.**

We will show we love God by making God part of our school day: by our prayers, by our acts of worship, by listening to the Word of God, by our respect for God’s creation. We will show we love God by letting the teachings of Jesus and his Church guide our daily choices, words, actions and attitudes. We will practise compassion, forgiveness, tolerance, honesty and respect in all situations.

The children are our neighbours: we will show love for them by respecting them as individuals, knowing them and their needs, and carefully planning their education so that each can reach their full potential. We will show love for them by creating a safe, nurturing, listening environment. We will show love for them by having the highest expectations, and challenging them to reach for the stars and be the best they can be.

Parents are our neighbours: we will show love for them by offering our guidance and help, seeking their active partnership in the education of their children, and understanding their particular situations.

All members of Staff are our neighbours. We will show love for them by working as a team, sharing our skills and care, praising and celebrating excellence, communicating effectively and understanding each other’s needs. Children and parents too will show this love by their respect for all staff and the rules that create a peaceful and safe learning environment.

Our neighbours are all around us in our local community: we will show we love them by a warm welcome to everyone who visits Saint Mary’s, and by our outreach to those in need. The poor too are our neighbours: we will show we love them by supporting charitable works at home and abroad.

**Introduction**

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, as a school, 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.

As a Catholic school community we will:

* Place Religious Education at the core of our school curriculum in order to develop the children’s spirituality and understanding of the Gospel values.

**Our Aims**

The Aims of Religious Education in St. Mary’s RC Primary School will include the following:

* Through the acts of teaching RE, we will undertake to develop the understanding and knowledge our pupils have of the Catholic faith.
* We will 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.
* We will 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.
* We will 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.
* We will 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.
* We will look for opportunities to involve the parish and wider community in the teaching and practice of Religious Education.

**The 5W’s framework**

At St. Mary’s 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.

We will:

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| **Welcome** | Warmly and inclusively welcome everyone to our school as Jesus welcomes everyone to the family of God. |
| **Welfare** | Demonstrate love and respect for one another as Jesus commands us to. |
| **Word** | Place the Word of God at the centre of all that we do. |
| **Worship** | Celebrate the Word of Our Lord in our Masses, Assemblies, Services and celebrations, reflecting the Liturgical Year. |
| **Witness** | Be excellent faith role models in the way that we live our lives. |

Curriculum Religious Education: Teaching and Learning

Religious Education at St. Mary’s RC Primary School is considered to be at the core of our core curriculum. It is allocated a total teaching time of approximately 10% of available curriculum time for each year group, as recommended by the Bishops of England and Wales. Planning and timetables take account of this. The 10% time allocation does not include collective acts of worship – it is specific RE teaching.

The RE Curriculum is delivered primarily through the diocesan approved Religious Education Programme, ‘Come and See’ - central to this programme are three basic human questions and the three Christian beliefs that are the Church’s response in faith:

* Where do I come from? Life-Creation
* Who am I? Incarnation
* Why am I here? Redemption

Within the ‘Come and See’ programme, these three big questions are considered, in the light of the Scriptures and Tradition of the Church; as expressed in the documents of the Second Vatican Council and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. As part of the ‘Come and See’ programme, comparative religions are taught throughout the year. Islam is currently our chosen religion.

*Planning and resourcing*

For each Year group, there are medium term and weekly plans which are available through the ‘Come and See’ website. All the resources needed to teach the scheme are available online. Planning is adapted by the classteacher to meet the needs of all the children.

Each unit of work is presented according to the following pattern:

**Explore**

**Reveal**

**Respond**

There are also resource sheets and power points available for each topic.Additional resources are available on the RE shelves. Each lesson taught ensures the full involvement of all children. Differentiation of tasks and activities allows the curriculum to meet the needs of individual pupils.

*Continuity and Progression*

The content of each RE Unit of work is structured so that there is cohesion and progression in what the children do and learn. In order to allow pupils to work according to their different abilities, for each level there are:

 Clearly stated aims

 Achievable learning outcomes

 A selection of experiences and activities for each of the learning intentions

*Evaluation*

The evaluation process is continuous and involves all staff evaluating each topic to assist with future planning. Teachers are responsible for evaluating each unit of work and adapting as necessary. This evaluation should recognise strategies that have been successful and inform the need for extra support and/or new resources.

*Curriculum Displays*

A mixture of curriculum RE and liturgical displays will be created, by different year groups, over the year in shared areas.

Classroom displays will be linked to the current unit of study and will be in the form of a ‘Big Question’ Working Wall.

**Marking and Feedback**

Please also refer to the school ‘Marking and Feedback Policy’

*Marking and Feedback in RE – specific points to note*

Purpose: To move children on in the RE learning through a Unit of Work.

* Each piece of work marked – (refer to the Coding Table in the Marking and Feedback Policy)
* Opportunity for responses from the children and further questions posed where appropriate to support and/or challenge children.
* Marking linked specifically to RE objective
* Spelling Corrections focus only on specific RE Vocabulary linked to the unit
* Additional English marking can also be referenced, when using RE pieces of writing to support a child in the development of their writing portfolio, as long as the RE LO is also commented upon.

**Assessment, Recording and Reporting**

As in all subjects, assessment is a continual ongoing process. Assessment guidance is taken from the Curriculum Directory and the Standards Framework document.

In consultation with the RE lead advisor from Salford Diocese and Bury Catholic schools working party, an assessment system based on the Standards framework is used in school. Ongoing assessments, linked directly to the Standard indicators assessed and the ‘Come & See’ unit of work, have been created for use in our school by the RE subject lead. Throughout exploring a Unit in the ‘Come and See’ scheme, all children are assessed on their knowledge and understanding. These assessments of children’s work are kept in the individual child’s RE book. Lessons taught correspond directly to the standards being assessed. The children are then assessed as working below expectation, working at the expected level and working above the expected level. This is based upon teacher assessment through techniques such as, observation, questioning and marking. The levels are recorded on a class tracking sheet after every unit has been completed.

At the end of the academic year, class teachers inform parents of their child’s development in Religious Education.

Reporting is also a continuous process where staff, governors, parish and families learn from and inform each other about RE as part of the School Curriculum and in its wider sense.

**Staffing and Responsibilities**

*The Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teacher and the RE subject lead will:*

* Co-ordinate regularly to ensure Religious Education is placed at the core of our school curriculum in order to develop the children’s spirituality and understanding of the Gospel values.
* Formulate a policy and implement the scheme of work, ensuring that this is followed by all teachers.
* Promote and monitor the progress of ‘Come and See’ throughout the school.
* Advise and support staff and keep them informed about new developments through INSET.
* Keep up to date with current issues through INSET opportunities.
* Monitor the teaching and learning of RE, with the Headteacher, by carrying out lesson observations, learning walks, pupil voice activities and scrutiny of books.
* Develop a bank of RE resources to support RE teaching and to identify and request additional resources that are required.
* Liaise with governors.

*Each Class Teacher:*

* Helps children to develop their knowledge of God and their relationship with Him through scripture, prayer and reflection.
* Prepares, plans and delivers the RE Curriculum to their respective class of children
* Introduces children to the Liturgical Feasts and Seasons of the Church
* Provides regular opportunity for Prayer
* Will create stimulating and interesting RE displays.
* Will prepare class assemblies once a term.

**Monitoring and Reviewing**

*As part of the school’s monitoring programme:*

* Lesson observations and Learning Walks are undertaken by the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and RE subject lead (where appropriate).
* Book scrutinies and Pupil Voice interviews are completed regularly by the RE subject lead.
* A report is completed following each of these levels of monitoring and distributed to all staff, HT, DHT and the RE governor.
* The RE subject lead creates an annual action plan which highlights priorities for the academic year.

**Home- School Links**

Parents of Year Three children are closely involved with the Sacramental Programme.

Parents are invited to class assemblies.

Parents are invited to support our fundraising.

Parents are informed of the RE curriculum in each year group.

**Resources**

Classes have their own box of resources to keep in their classroom for display purposes. Additional resources are kept on RE shelves in Key stage 1.