



'Our community, growing and learning together with Christ'.

Religious Education Policy

Approved by: LGB

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Rationale

'The Catholic vision of education promotes the dignity and freedom of every person as created in the image and likeness of God.' Religious Education is a core subject in St. Mary's Catholic school. It must engage the pupil's intellect, heart and imagination. The beliefs and values studied in Catholic R.E. should draw together every aspect of the life of a Catholic school. Religious Education should also promote tolerance, respect, understanding and knowledge of different faiths.

Pupil Entitlement

Pupils will be taught 10% of the curriculum timetable in Reception, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. This core entitlement will be enhanced by: Sacramental preparation, Whole School Collective Worship, Masses, liturgies and school prayer groups.

Aims of Religious Education:

1. To support every member of the school community on their journey of faith by developing this faith when it is present and to facilitate its emergence when it is not.
2. To promote knowledge and understanding of Catholic faith and life.
3. To develop religiously literate young people.
4. To encourage pupils to be aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.
5. To promote the dignity and freedom of every person as created in the image and likeness of God by making pupils aware of other denominations and faiths.
6. To experience feelings of wonder and awe to the natural world.
7. To develop moral and ethical convictions and ask questions about the meaning and purpose of existence.

Provision

The programmes of study as outlined in the Catholic Directory will form the basis of the scheme of work. The Learning and Growing as the People of God scheme will form the main basis of teaching and learning. Teaching methods may vary but should be pupil-centred starting with the pupil's own situation and experience. R.E. lessons are identified as being special and reflective lessons.

Lessons are based on the four areas of study:

1. Revelation:

- To understand the importance of story in the human quest for meaning and the scripture as expression of how we try to understand the nature of God.
- To consider the personal and the community response to God.
- To consider the sacred writings of other faith communities.

2. Church:

- Belonging to a community at various levels.
- That having been created in the image of the True God we are called to be that community which is the Church.
- Church is a witness to the Good News of Jesus.
- Relationships between the Catholic Church and other denominations and faiths.

3. Life in Christ:

- Values which underpin beliefs and action in the human family.
- Following Christ is a call to holiness.
- Reflecting the values which Christ expressed in his life and teaching.
- Explore the values and way of life of other world faiths.

4. Celebration

- Celebrations which mark the development and growth of each person.
- Spiritual growth and development is rooted in the church's sacramental life which is expressed in sign and symbol throughout the liturgical year.
- The place of prayer in the life of the Catholic Community
- Knowledge and understanding of prayer in other faiths.

We should always be conscious of the need to foster the partnership between home, school and parish. This partnership should be our hallmark.

Monitoring, Assessment and Evaluation of the Teaching of Religious Education

Monitoring is carried out by the R.E. Co-ordinator and supported by the senior leadership team. Assessment takes the form of a four-year cycle with the focus on:

- The liturgical Year.
- Scripture.
- Celebrating the Sacraments.
- Living as Christians.

Assessment is completed at the end of every unit and 3 units per year are assessed more formally, with samples of children's work submitted to the R.E. Co-ordinator to check judgements. Whole school moderation of work takes place in staff meetings at least once per year. Staff are also required to assess the children's R.E. work against the 'Age Related Standards in Religious Education', approved for use in Catholic Schools by The Department of Catholic Education and Formation of The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. Teachers are required to assess a piece of work for one child, from each unit of work completed, against the age-related standards. Copies of this assessment are submitted to the R.E. Co-ordinator and moderated by the whole staff to ensure agreement and consistency. A self-evaluation form is completed for R.E that falls in line and supports judgements that are required for a CSI inspection

Sacramental Preparation

In preparation programmes for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation parents have a very vital and important role in supporting their children. We aim to enable parents, priest and teachers to work closely in unison. Parents are invited to attend enrolment Masses and meetings during the preparation period. This is to ensure that they are fully committed to supporting their child and to enable the priest, teachers and parents to share knowledge, experience and faith together appropriate to the Sacramental experience of their children and their own lives. Parishioners support the preparation through prayer, support and interest. Parents are asked to take their children to Mass on Sunday and those who do not do so are continually encouraged to begin again.

Year 3 is the first year when children follow a more specific course of instruction in preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. Parents are asked to take part in the preparation alongside their children, with work being done in their preparation books both in school and at home.

Years 6 are prepared for the Sacraments of Confirmation. Parents are again involved in the preparation. As part of their preparation they are asked to consider how they can work for the church community. Parents and sponsors are asked to attend the enrolment Mass and meeting.