



# **St. Mary's R.C. Primary School, A Voluntary Academy**

## **Religion Policy**

**(updated Jan 2022)**

**Vision: 'A Journey to Excellence'**

**We believe that each child is made in the image and likeness of God therefore we develop the 'whole child' to reach their individual potential. We have high expectations and celebrate success both academically and socially. We aim to provide an outstanding Catholic education so that we can make a valuable contribution to the community in which live and serve.**

**Mission statement:**

**'We are happy living and learning in God's Friendship.'**

## **1. Overview**

- 1.1. At St. Mary's R.C. Primary School we believe our principle task is to help our children know, understand and appreciate our Catholic faith in the Spirit of our school's Mission Statement. We aim to help every child to come to know the person of Jesus Christ and follow in his footsteps and be able to value and take their place in society in the light of this understanding.
- 1.2. We seek to provide opportunities for high quality learning and teaching, living and sharing our faith with our children and playing a vital role in encouraging them to be fully committed members of the Catholic Church.

## **2. Policy Aims**

- To inspire the whole child through a balanced curriculum which sees God as the centre of the learning process
- Provide a comprehensive study of Christianity
- Promote an atmosphere of love and respect in school to help pupils to acknowledge that we are commanded to love God and love one another, by encouraging the development of meaningful relationships in our school
- Encourage the children to respond freely to God's call, helping them to grow and develop their potential abilities
- Provide regular opportunities for worship through Prayer, assemblies, Masses, Liturgical celebrations and Sacraments of Initiation
- Develop an understanding of social and moral practises and way of life
- Develop an understanding and respect for other faiths and a willingness to recognise goodness wherever it exists
- Develop a greater understanding of the importance of the care and welfare of everyone based on the Gospel Values

## **3. Objectives**

- A greater appreciation and understanding of the Mystery of God
- Increasing familiarity with the person, life and teaching of Jesus
- A deeper understanding and appreciation of Scripture and it's place in Christianity
- Experience, knowledge and understanding of the Church, it's life, teaching and significance in the world and concern for peace and justice
- Participation in, and appreciation of, Liturgical Prayer and Worship
- The development of pupils' moral awareness as they reflect on their own, and others' lives, in the light of their own Catholic faith
- Supplementary lessons are delivered to fit in with important feast days in the Liturgical Calendar and seasons of the Church's year

## 4. Teaching and Learning

4.1. We deliver our core R.E. through “Come and See” RE scheme, which follows the Curriculum Directory. We base our teaching and learning style in Religion on the key principle that good teaching in Religion allows children both to learn about religious traditions and to reflect on what the religious ideas and concepts mean to them. Our teaching enables children to extend their own sense of values, and promotes their spiritual growth and development. We encourage children to think about their own values in relation to the themes and topics studied in the RE curriculum. Our teaching and learning styles in Religion enable children to build on their own experiences and to extend their knowledge and understanding of religious traditions. We use their experiences at religious festivals such as Easter, Diwali, Passover, etc. to develop their religious thinking. We organise visits to local places of worship, and invite representatives of local religious groups to come into school and talk to the children. Children carry out research into religious topics. They study particular religious faiths and also compare the religious views of different faith groups on topics such as rites of passage or festivals. Children investigate religious and moral issues either individually or in groups.

4.2. We recognise the fact that all classes in our school have children of widely differing abilities and experiences of Religion at home, so we provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the task to the ability of the child. We achieve this in a variety of ways, e.g. by:

- Setting tasks which are open-ended and can have a variety of responses
- Setting task of increasing difficulty (we do not expect all children to complete all tasks)
- Using classroom assistants to support the work of individuals or groups of children
- Providing resources of different complexity, adapted to the ability of the child
- The teaching of Religion is not restricted to this subject area but permeates the whole of our school curriculum and our school life. We look at all aspects of our school experience to support children in their growing relationship with almighty God.

4.3. We enhance the scheme by further developing and adding to each of the units. We encourage a creative approach in R.E. which is based on age-related expectations and children’s levels of understanding.

4.4. We also teach and follow the Liturgical Year of the Church. We focus on:

- The different Seasons in the Church year
- Topical/current and relevant issues

- The colours of vestments associated with each season
  - Special months devoted to a particular theme  
e.g. October-Month of The Holy Rosary  
November – Month of the Holy Souls and Remembrance
  - Special Feast Days, including Holy Days of Obligation
  - Special times of the year such as Advent and Lent
- 4.5. In addition to our core R.E. curriculum we follow the Ten:Ten scheme “Life to the Full”, a PSHE programme for sex and relationship education and the World Religion resources recommended by Salford Diocese. We also follow celebrations of other faiths throughout the year and encourage our children to embrace other faiths.
- 4.6. We have a range of resources available to supplement the schemes of work and lessons are taught using a variety of different learning styles. We make use of the relevant ICT resources from earlier schemes of work that support the current scheme.
- 4.7. We also use resources provided by the Romerocat Trust RE co-coordinators as we aim to work alongside our Catholic families at other schools within the trust.
- 4.8. We aim to make our faith something to be proud of and to celebrate. We have annual missions in school to raise the profile of our faith as something to be truly celebrated.
- 4.9. As part of our aim to develop the whole child, we use the Ten:Ten resources which develops our pupils personally but within the teachings of the Church.

## **5. Assessment**

- 5.1. Children are assessed within each different Religion topic. Teachers plan an assessment piece of work, which is recorded in the children’s Religion books. Care is taken to ensure it is Religious knowledge that is being assessed.
- 5.2. Children are assessed according to age related expectations in the strands, knowledge and understanding and engagement and response.
- 5.3. Samples of assessments are collected at the end of each unit to form a portfolio of work and to gather a progression of skills.
- 5.4. Teachers are asked to track the children’s attainment against age related expectations throughout the school year.
- 5.5.

## **6. Monitoring and Review**

6.1. RE will be monitored every half term using a variety of approaches e.g. learning walk, lesson observations, book scrutinies, pupil interviews etc.

## **7. Outcomes**

7.1. In line with our school vision, we aim to provide an outstanding Catholic Education whilst passing on and celebrating the Catholic faith. As a Catholic school, we see every child as a gift from God and so we aim to develop and celebrate the 'whole child' so every child is nurtured, successful and well prepared to become Catholic adults of the future.

**Date:**            **January 2022**

**Signed:**        *L.Rothwell*

**Review:**       **January 2024**