



St Mary's CE Primary School

R.E. Policy 2024



All the activities in St Mary's School are carried out in the Christian spirit and should promote the school values of Faith, Family and Future – Building a positive future for all as part of God's loving family (see appendix 1 for further information). St Mary's is a UNICEF Rights Respecting School and its Whole School Charter is based on the school values and the UN convention of the rights of the child.

St Mary's School prides itself in providing equal opportunities for all members of its family regardless of disability, religion, sexual orientation, culture, gender, ethnic origin, colour or age. All pupils have access to the R.E. curriculum, and the right to a learning environment which dispels ignorance, prejudice or stereotyping.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Teaching, Learning, Curriculum and Assessment Policy, and Marking and Feedback Policy

Intent

The Religious Education element of our school curriculum should engage, inspire, challenge and encourage pupils. It equips them with the knowledge and skills to answer challenging questions, explore different religious beliefs, values and traditions and develop a more rigorous understanding of the numerous religious traditions, beliefs and practices that are followed in our multi-cultural society. We want them to know how religious education through a world views approach promotes discernment and enables pupils to combat prejudice, preparing them for adult life, employment and life-long learning.

Our R.E. curriculum delivers a curriculum which is accessible to all and maximises the outcomes for every child. As a result of this, they become independent and responsible members of a society who understand and explore big questions about life, to find out what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live; allowing them to make sense of religion. We provide our pupils with opportunities for them to learn about and from religions and worldviews in local, national and global contexts, to discover, explore and consider different answers to questions. In turn, this will help them to develop their own ideas, values and identities.

The aims and purposes of religious education in this syllabus reflect those set out in the 2019 Church of England Statement of Entitlement. They are to enable pupils:

- to know about and understand Christianity as a diverse global living faith through the exploration of core beliefs using an approach that critically engages with biblical text.
- to gain knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews appreciating diversity, continuity and change within the religions and worldviews being studied.
- to engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose raised by human existence and experience.
- to recognise the concept of religion and its continuing influence on Britain's cultural heritage and in the lives of individuals and societies in different times, cultures and places.
- to explore their own religious, spiritual and philosophical ways living, believing and thinking.

Implementation

School follows the Programme of Study for R.E. as set out in the Manchester Diocese R.E. Syllabus which incorporates the comprehensive resource, Understanding Christianity. The curriculum is split 50:50 between study of Christianity and other world views and religions.

As part of the scheme, children will

- make sense of a range of religious and non-religious beliefs
- understand the impact and significance of religious and non-religious beliefs
- make connections between religious and non-religious beliefs, concepts, practices and ideas studied

Planning – the units are developmental from EYFS through to KS2, with some key units being cyclical, such as Holy Week, or Advent. Coverage is monitored by the subject leader.

Vocabulary – pupils are encouraged to use correct vocabulary, and this is used throughout school in collective worship and services. Key vocabulary for each topic is contained in the detailed plans for each unit.

Environment - In every class there is an area for reflection and prayer, with copies of prayers and the school values. Questions, pictures and other prompts are displayed to encourage thought and reflection of the relevant topics being studied. The hall themes change to match the Christian calendar throughout the year.

Making connections - Low stakes quizzes allow pupils to recall learning and make links and questions guide the pupils along the journey for each unit.

Engagement – Pupils are fully engaged in all areas of the curriculum. In R.E. the study is academic in approach and in worship time, the study is devotional. Pupils are encouraged to express their own beliefs through RE and involvement in church services, parades, Values Ambassadors, learning circles, eco-council and community projects. The pupils plan and take part in pupil led worship as well as whole school collective worship and celebrations.

Enrichment -Trips and visitors into school enhance learning. The pupils have enjoyed visits to the local mosques, temples and Hindu education centre, as well as visiting the cathedral and other places of worship. Quality resources allow the pupils hands on experiences.

Monitoring – Subject leader monitors teaching and learning through learning walks, gathering pupil voice, work portfolios and visits to lessons.

Assessment

Pupils' work is marked according to the learning objective for that lesson and the child's own specific target for improvement. Success sheets may be used by the pupils as checklists for self and peer assessment. Work is marked in line with the pupil feedback and marking policy.

Pupils are able to demonstrate their learning during Family Worship times which are focussed on the R.E. learning for that term. Pupils' R.E. journey is evident in the e-learning books using Book Creator which are used from EYFS to Year 6.

Work is monitored and moderated termly at staff meetings and annually with other local schools within the Diocese.

Date: September 2024 (This Policy will be reviewed bi-annually or more frequently if required.)

Mission Statement and Values

Mission Statement - Building a positive future for all, as part of God's loving family

Values

FAITH

We believe in the Christian ethos of our school, ourselves and each other.
(Mark 9:23 Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.")

FAMILY

We support, respect and care for each other.
(Luke 6:31 Do for other people what you would like to have them do for you)

FUTURE

We know that we can learn and live without limits.
(Isaiah 41:10 So don't worry, because I am with you.
Don't be afraid, because I am your God.
I will make you strong and will help you.
I will support you with my right hand that saves you.)

UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools

At St. Mary's we place pupils's rights at the heart of all we do. Our R.E. curriculum supports the convention for the Rights of the Child. In particular, these outcomes support the articles within the convention

- Relationships are positive and founded on dignity and a mutual respect for rights. **(Articles 6,7,8,12)**
- Pupils and young people are included and are valued as individuals. **(Articles 3, 12,16)**
- Pupils and young people value education and are involved in making decisions about their learning **(Articles 28, 29)**
- Pupils and young people know that their views are taken seriously. **(Articles 13 &14)**
- Pupils and young people have taken action to claim their rights and promote the rights of others, locally and globally. **(Articles 13,14,41,42)**