

# St Mary's Catholic Primary School



## Religious Education Policy

## **Mission Statement**

St. Mary's school community follows the teachings of Jesus Christ, working together to develop the whole child, in a spiritual, moral, academic, physical, social and emotional way, within a caring and supportive environment.

## **The Aims of our School**

We will endeavour to create a Catholic Ethos in our school, which reflects the Gospel values, through the love, care and respect we show to each other, and to all who come to our school.

We will teach the beliefs, traditions and practices of the Catholic Faith.

Through the prayer and worship in school we will try to be a living community of people celebrating their love for God and one another.

We believe the quality of the curriculum, with Religious Education at its core, is of prime importance and will focus on the development of the whole child.

We will at all times try to make provision for children with special needs, so that all members of our school community achieve their potential.

We will help the children to develop an awareness of and respect for other religious and cultural backgrounds, as we believe this to be an essential preparation for adult life.

We believe that good communication between governors, staff, parents and children is important for the well-being of our school, and we will work in partnership with the wider community especially the home and parish in developing each child's potential.

## **Aims for Each Child at St. Mary's Catholic Primary School**

Whilst at St. Mary's School I will learn about being a Christian. I will experience the beliefs, traditions and practices of the Catholic Faith.

I will achieve as much as I possibly can in each area of the National Curriculum.

I will know how to learn and enjoy learning, and will view work in a positive and conscientious manner.

I will co-operate and communicate with others effectively, independently and in a group, and try to win and lose graciously.

I will tolerate and respect the religious beliefs, views and values of others, understand the need for good behaviour and moderate my behaviour accordingly. I will respect the belongings and property of others.

If I have a problem I know I can find someone who will discuss it with me.

I will try to learn from my mistakes and accept there is always room for improvement.

I will share a sense of responsibility for my school, parish, local community and the wider environment.

### **Rationale of Religious Education.**

- Religious Education is central to the educative mission of the Church.

*'At the heart of Catholic education lies the Christian vision of the human person. This vision is expressed and explored in Religious Education.'*

- In a Catholic school, at the core of the core, is Religious Education, for the sake of which Catholic schools exist in the first place.

### **The Aims of Religious Education**

- to engage in a systematic study of the mystery of God, of the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, the teachings of the Church, the central beliefs that Catholics hold, the basis for them and the relationship between faith and life;
- to enable pupils continually to deepen their religious and theological understanding and be able to communicate this effectively;
- to present an authentic vision of the Church's moral and social teaching to provide pupils with a sure guide for living and the tools to critically engage with contemporary culture and society;
- to give pupils an understanding of the religions and worldviews present in the world today and the skills to engage in respectful and fruitful dialogue with those whose worldviews differ from their own;
- to develop the critical faculties of pupils so to bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture;
- to stimulate pupils' imagination and provoke a desire for personal meaning as revealed in the truth of the Catholic faith;
- to enable pupils to relate the knowledge gained through religious education to their understanding of other subjects in the curriculum

### **Outcome of Religious Education**

The outcome of Religious Education is religiously literate and engaged young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills – appropriate to their age and capacity – to reflect spiritually, and think ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.

### **Religious Education at the heart of the curriculum**

- Religious education is the core of the core curriculum and is to be the source and summit of the whole curriculum.
- Religious education is an academic discipline with the same systematic demands and rigour as other disciplines.

- Religious education is to be delivered within a broad and balanced curriculum, where it informs every aspect of the curriculum. Every other subject is to be informed by religious education and have a strong relationship with it.
- In each year of compulsory schooling, religious education is to be taught for at least 10% curriculum time within each repeating cycle of the regular school timetable.

### **Programme of Study:**

As a Catholic school we are required to comply with the Religious Education Curriculum Directory (2012) / Religious Education Directory (2023). We at St Mary's do this by using The RED 'To Know You More Clearly' from which to base our learning and scripture content. The RED 2023 provides a model curriculum which this school follows in all key stages.

### **Curriculum Structure**

The model curriculum has six components known as branches which map helpfully onto the six half-terms of the school year. Five of these have a core theme which invites pupils to learn about an aspect of Revelation, Scripture, life in Christ, and life in the Church, and to discern what their learning means academically and experientially enabling them to see, judge, and act through a deeper knowledge of the Christian faith. The Encounter & Dialogue branch involves the study of other religions, encountering other pathways of belief drawing on the teaching of the Church about intercultural dialogue.

Detail of the curriculum can be found here: [Religious Education Directory 2023](#)

### **Assessment, Monitoring, Recording and Reporting**

- Assessment of standards is carried out against the Expected Outcomes in RED 2023.
- Assessment moderation / standardisation takes place in school amongst colleagues and at external diocesan moderation meetings.
- Monitoring of teaching and learning in Religious Education takes place in line with our school policy and is supported by our Governing Body.
- Progress and achievement is recorded and tracked in line with our school policy.
- Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to Governors at least termly in line with other core subjects.
- Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to parents/carers each year in line with other core subjects.

### **Leadership of the subject:**

Mrs Rosheen Martin the RE Lead has responsibility for leading, managing and supporting the delivery of Religious Education and the continuous professional development of teachers in Religious Education.

**Policy Review:**

This policy will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed by the governing body every 2 years.

Due for review: September 2027