



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

At St. Mary's we live and learn, sharing God's love.

MISSION STATEMENT

'As a Catholic school community, we strive to live as a Christian family showing our love for God in the way we treat each other with dignity and respect and by promoting the development of each child as a unique individual.'

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT

For all children at St. Mary's, Religious Education is a cross curricular subject. The teachings permeate everyday life in school. It is a rigorous academic discipline and, as such, it is taught, developed and resourced with the same commitment as other subjects. R.E. is a collaborative activity which respects and promotes the child's innate capacity for wonder, awe, reverence, imagination and the spiritual.

This policy reflects St. Mary's school values and philosophy in relation to the teaching and learning of Religious Education. It sets out a framework within which teaching and non-teaching staff can operate and gives guidance on planning and teaching.

To fulfill our aims and objectives we use the "Come and See" programme of religious education, prescribed by the Archdiocese of Liverpool and therefore, this policy should be read in conjunction with "Come and See" as it sets out in detail what pupils in different classes/year groups will be taught.

AIMS

Our primary aims are

- ☐ to provide the children with the opportunity to know God, to feel his love and to have Him in their lives
- ☐ to provide a context within which children can hear the Christian story and become aware that they are part of that ongoing story
- ☐ to develop the children's religious knowledge, understanding and literacy in order that they will have the skills (appropriate to their age and ability) to think spiritually, ethically and theologically and be aware of the demands of having a religious commitment in everyday life



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OBJECTIVES

- to develop knowledge and understanding of God and Jesus and the central belief which Catholics hold
- to develop awareness and appreciation of Catholic beliefs and an understanding of the impact of this on personal and social behaviour
- to develop the skills required for the children to be able to engage in the examination of and the reflection upon Religious belief and practices
- to encourage study, investigation and reflection by pupils
- to develop appropriate skills and to foster appropriate attitudes
- to foster in pupils the knowledge, understanding and skills (appropriate to their age, ability and capacity) to think spiritually, ethically and theologically, who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life

METHODOLOGY

1. Our Mission Statement, Motto and Code of Conduct underpin teaching and learning throughout the school and are used to promote a Catholic ethos that values and respects all pupils.
2. RE is taught for, at least, 10% of the weekly timetable in each class. Collective Worship takes place on a daily basis.
3. The RE programme, "Come and See", is of primary importance within school. It is implemented in all year groups and provides a Catholic framework for teachers to explore the themes with all children from Reception to Y6.
4. Teaching and learning materials will be regularly monitored and updated to ensure they are supportive of the "Come and See" programme.
5. The teaching of the "Come and See" programme will be monitored closely to ensure that the teaching of RE is relevant to the children's development and understanding.
6. New staff/ staff new to Come and See will be supported by colleagues and relevant CPD (provided by LACE and internally).
7. INSET will be regularly provided for all staff through staff meetings, monitoring and evaluating, voluntary meetings and appropriate courses.
8. The school will constantly review its practices and procedures to ensure the provision for Religious Education for all children ensuring there are equal rights, equal opportunities and equal access to a full and comprehensive education in RE.
9. Assessment for learning takes place during or at the end of each lesson which informs future planning and teaching. Formal assessment takes place termly with the assessed tasks published on the Archdiocesan website being used. Three samples from each class are then provided with a 'context sheet' to the RE coordinators for moderation. RE coordinators then verify the teacher's judgements and feedback is given to teachers re their judgements. Class teachers are involved more frequently in moderating samples of the assessed tasks during staff and department meetings. Staff also participate in external moderation. In Spring 2016 a joint moderation took place with the RE coordinators from St. Marys and our sister parish school, St. Annes. During



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Autumn 2017 all class teachers attended a cluster moderation at St. Anne's, which involved moderating assessments from across several local primary schools. Teachers complete a class tracker at the end of each term and individual pupil records are updated termly (colour coded for each year group).

10. All pupils are encouraged and supported in their choice and participation in Liturgy provided by the school.
11. Parents are informed about Religious Education and worship in school, through parental meetings, the termly Come and See newsletter, termly department newsletters, fortnightly head teacher newsletters, Dojo communication and assemblies.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Collective worship is a valued part of our school and takes place daily. It provides an opportunity for the children and staff to come together within a group to worship God.

We strive to create an opportunity for everyone to experience quiet reflection and communal praise, through which we can develop an innate capacity for wonder, awe and reverence (refer to whole school policy).

HOME, SCHOOL, PARISH LINKS

A Sacramental programme is provided for preparation for Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation by the catechists within the parish, in partnership with parents and school.

The school is committed to developing and enriching these links. Parents are invited into school for induction meetings, parents' evenings, Stay and a Pray, assemblies and a variety of special events. They are encouraged to celebrate religious celebrations with us.

The school is committed to supporting Parish activities and events, and benefits from support given by the Parish.

INCLUSION

As a school we ensure that all children and staff are treated fairly and equally. All children have equal rights to access all areas of the curriculum. Within this subject area, the SLT and all staff endeavour to provide the appropriate provision for this to occur.

CONCLUSION

To ensure there is a whole school commitment to the Religious Educational policy, there is an annual RE development target on the School Improvement Plan. This is in addition to an annual RE action plan.

Reviewed April 2018. Next review April 2019.