

RE SUBJECT STATEMENT

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SUBJECT STATEMENT CURRICULUM AIMS

At St Mary's we shape our curriculum so that all pupils are provided with high quality teaching and learning, with Jesus Christ at the centre of all we do. We aim to teach pupils how to grow into positive, responsible citizens, who can work and co-operate with others while developing the knowledge and skills to achieve their true potential. "The Christian life is a call to a deeper communion with God and with one another, and this finds particular expression in our schools, which are rightly recognised as being families themselves, where no one is a stranger and where everyone, whatever his or her background or academic ability, is welcomed, treasured, supported and helped to become the person whom God calls them to be." Bishop Malcolm MacMahon. We aim to provide a Catholic Christian education based on the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, in which the values of the Gospel underpin all aspects of school life; To provide a friendly, nurturing environment in which the dignity of each person as a child of God is recognised and developed; and to promote the full potential of each child through a curriculum which develops spiritual, academic, creative, social and emotional growth; To provide a curriculum which is enriching and challenging, where pupils experience the opportunity to learn in a wide range of contexts.

INTENT



Religious Education

As we are a Catholic school Religious Education is given priority and 10% of our curriculum time is spent on Religious Education. At St Mary's we believe that Religious Education and the Catholic life of our school is at the centre of all our learning.

Our aim is to provide quality Religious Education through "The Vine and the Branches," scheme of work which supports the Religious Education Directory. We want children to form a relationship with God through the teaching they receive and the experiences provided within our school and the wider community.

Though the RE curriculum we hope to support children on their faith journey and our main aims are

The aims of religious education are:

- 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 excellent religious education is religiously literate and consciously 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 recognise the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.

We focus on three areas which enable us to deliver quality RE with Christ at the heart of everything we do.

- Religious Education
- Catholic Life
- Collective worship

IMPLEMENTATION

Religious Education

All children at St Mary's follow "The Vine and the Branches," scheme of work. Each year group, from early years to Year 6, follows six carefully planned themes and teacher assessment is built into each theme. The children take great pride in their RE work and a creative approach which includes Written work. Drama, Art, Music and singing has been adopted to explore the themes within each year group.



RE in the Early Years

Children in the foundation stage follow the six themes within The Vine and the Branches, however the Early Years curriculum is organised across areas of learning rather than subject areas.

Children will learn through first-hand experiences to explore, observe, problem solve, predict, think critically, make decisions and talk about their experiences.



They will explore the themes and will listen to and talk about stories. They are introduced to



religious words and use their senses to explore religion and beliefs. They reflect on their own feelings and experiences. They use their imagination and curiosity to develop their appreciation and wonder of the world in which they live.



The Vine and the Branches Scheme:

An outline of the themes/branches taught throughout each term for all year groups.

Each year the children revisit the same themes/branches.

The Vine and the Branches						
Term	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring1	Spring 2	Summer1	Summer 2
Branch	Creation and Covenant	Prophecy and Promise	Galilee to Jerusalem	Desert to Garden	To the Ends of the Earth	Dialogue and Encounter



Details of the content for each year group can be found on the class curriculum overviews

Catholic Life

The Catholic life of St Mary's is rich in opportunities for the children to encounter and deepen their relationship with God.

The children have experiences within school and the wider community. These experiences help to make our school special and enhance the lives of our children, staff and parents.

They complement and enhance the RE curriculum. Key stage 1 children have taken part in wide variety of activities which have included Advent prayer trails, Lenten Activities and CAFOD assemblies.



In Key Stage 2 children often take an active role in planning activities to enhance the catholic life of the school including Lenten prayer trails, Rosary club, assembles and visiting groups and speakers.



Collective Worship

Although collective worship is in addition to the 10% teaching time designated for RE. It is an integral part of our catholic teaching. Children and teachers plan and deliver class reflections, assemblies and school masses. These are often related to the current theme within The Vine and the Branches or a topical issue. The children participate with reverence and respect and all classrooms have a focal point that reflects the liturgical year. The school's wider community are invited to share in these experiences and parents are always eager to join the children for class assemblies and masses.



INCLUSION

All children receive Quality First Teaching in RE. Any child with identified SEND may have work different from their peers in order to access the curriculum dependent upon their needs. The creative nature of the RE curriculum allows all children to access a wide variety of activities and experiences.

IMPACT

Assessment

RE in our school is progressive and planned to meet the needs of all children. Teacher assessments are carried out regularly. Each theme within The Vine and the Branches is assessed by the class teacher and these are then moderated within year groups.

The level achieved for each topic is recorded in the child's work book and then an overall level is given at the end of the year.

Year 2		Class
Branch 1	Creation and Covenant	Assessment
Branch 2	Prophesy and promise	Assessment
Branch 3	Galilee to Jerusalem	Assessment
Branch 4	Desert to garden	Assessment
Branch 5	To the ends of the Earth	Assessment
Branch 6	Dialogue and encounter	Assessment

The pie chart shows the following distribution:

- Creation and Covenant (Green): ~35%
- Prophesy and promise (Purple): ~25%
- Galilee to Jerusalem (Pink): ~15%
- Desert to garden (Blue): ~10%
- To the ends of the Earth (Yellow): ~10%
- Dialogue and encounter (Red): ~5%

CPD: Professional development for staff is always ongoing through staff meetings or Team meetings delivered by RE coordinators. Re coordinators also attend coordinator days and visual courses organised by the diocese and they attend cluster group meetings with other RE coordinators.

Newly qualified teachers attend an ECT course on the teaching of RE in a catholic school.

All staff are regularly updated with any changes .