



St Mary's RC Primary School

RE Policy

MISSION STATEMENT

"With Jesus beside us, we love, learn and grow together."

RE Policy Introduction

St Mary's School acknowledges that Religious Education is a lifelong process and we recognize that the primary years are significant in the lasting impression they make upon our children.

Religious Education in school is concerned with children understanding mankind's search for meaning, value and purpose in life. The religions of the world are classic expressions of this search and, for many people, provide the context within which the experience is to be understood. Through his or her understanding of this search, the child is helped towards a deeper awareness of their identity enabling him/her to grow and develop freely in a world of divergent beliefs and values.

Education is concerned with the development of understanding. Religious Education is concerned with the development of the understanding of religion as a significant area of human experience.

"Understanding" is used in a wide sense, being concerned with feeling and empathetic insight as well as an intellectual grasp of certain information. The child is not simply learning about religion, they are learning from it.

Aims

- To ensure all staff, children, parents/carers and Governors are aware of the aims for learning and teaching RE at St Mary's RC Primary School and that these are consistently applied.

The Religious Education Programme

To fulfil our aims we use the 'Come and See' programme of Religious Education. In accordance with the guidelines from the Bishops' Conference the children at St Mary's receive 2.5 hours of Religious Education each week.

It integrates the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the Catholic Levels of Attainment and the Religious Education Curriculum Directory. Children explore the mystery of Faith through Scripture and Tradition. Links are made explicitly in planning documents to the resources and plans are adapted to meet the needs of the unique cohorts. Lessons are well resourced with both interactive stimuli, a variety of artefacts and making cross curricular links. There are three topics taught each term and 4 'other faith' units: Islam, Judaism, Sikhism and Hinduism. 'Come and See' meets the requirements of the RE Curriculum Directory.

Planning

Taking a whole school approach in using 'Come and See', we are confident that the breadth of the curriculum is being taught and that there is good progression from year to year.

Please refer to the 'Come and See', materials for more detail about planning and curriculum coverage.

The advantages of this approach are:

- Appropriate content for each group is ensured
- Planning and recording are easy
- Continuity and progression across the school are assured
- Communal celebrations are possible

Assessment and Record Keeping

Since implementing 'Come and see' we are working hard to develop RE assessments. Each teacher has the responsibility for maintaining records on the children in their class. Detailed levelling is carried out through work sampling for pupils at least once a term for Religious Education. The subject leader then analyses attainment and progress at whole class and group level. This information is then used to inform action planning.

RE is reported formally to parents in the annual reports.

Home, School, Parish links

We recognise the importance of parents as the child's first teacher and their role in faith development. Parents and staff do everything possible to work in close partnership. There are many opportunities for parents to engage in school life. St Mary's School seeks, in partnership with parents and parish, to develop and nurture the Catholic faith of our children. We strive to bring pupils to a fuller understanding and knowledge of the Roman Catholic tradition. On Holy Days of Obligation (where circumstances permit) the St Mary's school will celebrate mass at St Mary's church Sabden. Year three children are prepared for the Holy Sacraments in school and with the Catechists and receive them at St Mary's Church Sabden.

Christmas and Easter celebrations take place as a school at St Mary's church Sabden.

St Mary's Pupil Chaplains work hard in and out of school.

Parents and Carers are:

- Given a warm welcome when they visit our school.
- Given termly curriculum overviews which inform them of the topics covered in class, as well as ways they can support their child's learning.
- Given the Wednesday Word each week so they can share the message of the Gospel with their children
- Given an opportunity to give support/input with their child's RE homework.
- Given weekly newsletters
- Given a verbal report on their child's RE development during Parents Evenings.
- Given a written report on their child's RE development at the end of the year.
- Given opportunities to support their child during Sacramental programme preparation by attending meetings and working at home on aspects of the programme.
- Given opportunities to be involved in all charity activities during the year for school or for the wider community.

The Religious Education Subject Leader

The first purpose of the RE subject leader's role is to help improve the quality of the teaching and learning that the pupils receive in Religious Education.

The subject leader is responsible for:

- Writing and keeping relevant documentation up to date
- Co-ordinating the teaching throughout the school by encouraging collaboration between year groups or key stages
- Being involved in the process of assessment, recording and reporting
- Monitoring the quality of teaching, the progression and continuity of Religious Education throughout the school.

- Offering support and advice to colleagues
- Identifying resource requirements
- Maintaining a strong relationship between the school and the Diocese, and with the school's Diocesan advisor
- Maintaining the high status of worship within the school
- With the Head teacher, completing the Religious Education action plan and using it to inform the School Improvement Plan
- Keeping resources well stored and available
- Ensuring that the Curriculum Directory is understood and being followed

Environment and Display

From the moment you enter St Mary's, the school environment says loudly and clearly that we are a Catholic school. There is a welcome board displayed in the entrance foyer and a range of Religious displays in the school hall and classrooms.

Each classroom has a prayer area in a prominent place of the classroom and a display dedicated to current learning in Religious Education. As you move around the school, there are a number of displays showing the children's religious art work, statues of saints and The Holy Family and prayer boards and prayer areas.

Resources

Each class has an RE box with objects and fabrics suitable for all seasons of the liturgical year. Each class has a set of resources to support child led worship. Each class has 'Come and See' planning resources and access to the bank of interactive resources.

Posters, Candles, CAFOD materials, Bibles and bible storybooks, Jewish and Islamic ritual objects, books and videos Collection of RE reference books on a variety of topics.

Holy Areas

Each class has a Holy area for prayer focus, which should be in an area where all children can see it when they pray. The theme of the prayer focus should relate to the season of the liturgical year.

The Holy area should feature a cloth reflecting the liturgical year or a feast day and some ritual objects. Drapes for the holy areas in each class reflecting the liturgical year are kept in each class.

Ritual objects may include pictures, icons, stones, bibles, flowers, bark, holy water, rosary, seashells or candles.

Cloths and ritual objects are stored in each classroom and are the responsibility of the class teacher.

Wider Community

We at St Mary's encourage involvement with the community. At the heart of a vibrant and caring community, St. Mary's close network of local partners help to drive exceptional outcomes for children. Partners are also invited to our special events such as masses, the Christmas nativity, the carol service, and summer awards ceremonies and assemblies.

Across the curriculum, we aim to deliver full engagement and learning for each child. As well as promoting cohesion, community and partner engagement enhances our children's progress, resilience and resourcefulness by facilitating:

- a curriculum that is constantly challenging and innovative;
- a richer school environment;
- direct mentoring support;
- a learning culture giving the freedom to experience, experiment and discover.

Spiritual, Moral and Social Education

The 'Come and See' programme encourages the children to think about their relationships and act responsibly. Our behaviour policy is founded on the principles of restorative justice.

Marking

Work should be marked in accordance with the school marking policy (see policy). Work should be marked in relation to the learning intentions. Comments should encourage children to reflect, analyze and should be interactive.

Equal opportunities

Religious Education cannot proceed on the assumption that all pupils will, or should, have positive religious convictions or commitments. St Mary's school, should however, foster the search for meaning, value and purpose since these are implied by the very concern to educate the whole person. It is therefore a legitimate part of the pupil's education that he/she should be encouraged to consider his/her own response to such issues.

J. Robinson

Policy date - September 2017



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