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# **ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL**

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY**

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### **Mission Statement**



***"Inspiring children to love learning"***

***St. Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursery values all children for their unique gifts and talents.***

***Each child is encouraged to reach his or her full potential, academically, socially and spiritually.***

***Children are nurtured and supported as they grow to become curious, confident and independent learners, who work hard and aim high.***

The aim is to lead everyone in school to learn to know that he/she is a child of God; to celebrate this knowledge and work together in faith and Christian love. This is inherent in the Mission Statement and pupils are given opportunities to

- Reflect and explore Catholic teaching
- Learn the message of Christ and grow in faith and knowledge, join in prayers and use their own words for prayers
- Explore and develop attitudes and values based on sound Christian principles, take responsibility for themselves and towards others
- Underpin and support individual spiritual, moral and ethical development interpreted through everyday experiences of both structured and play times
- Recognise that all our talents come from God, as kingdom people we develop these fully

Religious education in our school is the springboard from which we work, gives purpose to our being, underpins every aspect of the curriculum and celebrates the uniqueness of every human being.

### **Framework for Teaching and Learning RE**

We use the curriculum strategy, ‘Learning and Growing as the People of God’, to plan for RE. In this strategy there is continuity between the four constitutions of the second Vatican Council, the Catechism that was published in 1992, the Curriculum Directory in 1996, the Diocesan Curriculum Maps in 1997 and this Curriculum Strategy. The four areas of study listed below provide the keys to the Catechism, Curriculum Directory and this strategy:

<b>Area of Study</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Source</b>
Revelation	God’s Self-Revelation	<i>Dei Verbum</i> Catechism Part One: The Profession of Faith
Church	Communion of life in Christ	<i>Lumen Gentium</i> Catechism Part One: The Profession of Faith
Celebration	Living the Christian Mystery in worship and prayer	<i>Sacrosanctum Concilium</i> Catechism Part Two: Celebration of the Christian Mystery Part Four: Prayer
Life in Christ	The search for holiness and truth	<i>Gaudium et Spes</i> Catechism Part Three: Life in Christ

### **Planning in RE**

The RE Curriculum strategy ‘Learning and Growing as the People of God’, constitutes the long, medium and short term planning. As a year group we ensure continuity, progression, breadth and balance in our plans which follow the curriculum strategy. Key Stage 1 and 2 have two and a half hours dedicated RE teaching time each week, these will take the form of two lessons per week usually which will meet the required 10% of the curriculum time. The following RE times i.e. Prayer, Assemblies, Christmas Plays, Circle Time, PHSE, Citizenship and Hymn Practice are not to be included. However, Mass “may be considered the equivalent of half-an-hour of RE, but only once in any week.”

Prayer sessions are planned in classes and year groups. Daily prayers are said in class in the morning, lunch and at the end of day, making use of a prayer focus linked to the colours of the liturgical year. Foundation Stage weave their RE into their Foundation Stage curriculum but also have discreet lessons.

. We have a special focus in October in school on Black History Month and look at Saints from different cultural backgrounds and a special week looking at other countries in the world and their world faiths. We study other world faiths according to the Diocesan direction for year groups on a rolling programme, these include Catholicism and its global dimension, other Christian faiths, Judaism, Hinduism, Islam and Sikhism. We also will be visiting these faiths places of worship.

## **Sacramental Education**

Catholic class teachers in Year 5/6 and Year 3/4 lead the preparation of children for the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion. This preparation begins after Christmas and uses both Learning and Growing as the people of God as a resource and 'We Share in the Eucharist', by Françoise Darcy-Berube, John-Paul Berube. The latter form the materials used to support the special liturgy groups for each Sacrament which take place in school with the parents and children, often supported by the parish priest and a parish catechist. The RE coordinator coordinates this preparation for both Holy Communion, First Confession and Confirmation. She organises enrolment masses and the masses for the sacraments

## **Values at our school**

We have developed a set of core gospel values that we wish to develop in our children. These are the qualities we wish to develop: generous, truthful, independent, kind, respectful, curious, patient and joyful. These are based upon the Jesuit pupil profile that the Diocese of Birmingham has adopted. They form the basis of work on character that the school will focus on. The school does have a policy on Sex and relationships education that it follows. See this policy

## **Assessment Procedures**

Baseline assessments take place in the Reception year group.

In addition the RE co-ordinator put in place summative assessment to be done in Reception, KS1 and KS2. Assessments would be based upon the 4 strands:

1. The Liturgical Year
2. Scriptural knowledge.
3. Celebrating the sacraments
4. Living as Christians/prayer (continuous unit)

Each year group in KS1 and 2 assesses three units. Reception assesses three units and baseline assessments. The summative assessments are best fit sheets. The RE co-ordinator gathers annotated assessments and collates them into a portfolio. The RE co-ordinator evaluates data and reports to the governors in the Autumn term in the Head's report to Governors. The RE co-ordinator then makes recommendations on adjustments to teaching and learning. Work scrutinies are used to further develop formative assessments. The RE co-ordinator makes contributions to professional development of staff through coaching sessions and staff meetings. The RE coordinator also benchmarks work with staff against the new national attainment levels for all Catholic schools. Teachers discuss children's work and progress at parents consultations in autumn and spring terms. Annual reports to parents are completed once yearly and RE is reported to parents at the start of the report. Use is made of the focus assessment sheets when completing end of year reports.

## **Equal Opportunities**

All children are included in all aspects of RE as it is a core entitlement to all pupils. We recognise that parents have a legal right to withdraw their child from RE and Collective worship.

## **Nursery Provision and RE**

Although admission to the Nursery is non-denominational, pupils will be given the opportunity to learn about and reflect upon what belonging to a Catholic school community means. The Curriculum Strategy supports the school in this work.

## **Prayer and Collective Worship**

We celebrate masses in the church every two to three weeks with the parish and parents. The parish priest comes in to school at the start of the year and for special celebrations such as Harvest and the May procession. He is also asked by class teachers, into classes to support the curriculum strategy.

Each half term a special assembly/play is done for their parents. Special whole school Liturgical services are held at Christmas and Easter and other times throughout the year. Each week there are whole school mission assemblies and two other assemblies (one of which parents are invited to and also collective worship in the classroom. The mission assemblies and one other weekly assembly are planned by the Head teacher using the Collective Worship policy for guidance, children are also included in the planning and preparation.

All classes have a prayer focus linked to the liturgical colours for the year. Children pray in class four times a day, morning, evening and before and after lunch.

Parents do have a right to withdraw their child from Religious education and collective worship.

## **Monitoring & Evaluation**

The Head teacher/ RE coordinator and the link RE governor monitor the RE throughout school, the RE coordinator has an overview of the long, medium and weekly planning and report to the full governing body on a termly basis.

## **The RE Link governor**

The RE link governor is Mrs Angela Scull.

## **The Role of the Religious Education Coordinator**

Attached is the RE coordinator role check list:

This is a suggested checklist of documentation/evidence that you should have either in your file or which is stored in an agreed place.

Coordinator's File:

- ◆ RE Policy
- ◆ Guidelines/handbook for RE if not included within policy
- ◆ Job description
- ◆ RE Action Plan (for last 3 years)
- ◆ Parts of SDP/SIP which refer to aspects of RE (e.g. curriculum, Liturgy, etc)
- ◆ Section 48 Inspection Reports
- ◆ Section 48 SEF
- ◆ RE monitoring and assessment schedule
- ◆ RE monitoring and assessment analysis/reports (planning, lesson obs, pupil interviews etc)

- ◆ Audit of RE resources
- ◆ RE spending plans (for last 3 years)
- ◆ CPD, INSET records for all staff
- ◆ Class Timetables
- ◆ timetables/rotas for Mass, Assembly etc
- ◆ anything else you want to include

#### Assessment File

- ◆ Class assessment sheets (end of unit sheets)
- ◆ Samples of work
- ◆ Moderated samples for National Levels of Attainment

#### Catholic Life File

- ◆ photos of all RE displays and prayer focus
- ◆ photos from class assemblies
- ◆ photos of visitors to assembly e.g. CAFOD
- ◆ certificates for fund raising
- ◆ letters about RE meetings for parents
- ◆ booklets from special Masses/assemblies
- ◆ newsletters containing news of particular endeavours and achievements
- ◆ congratulatory greetings
- ◆ International Week

Reviewed and Modified: Autumn term 2018

To be reviewed: Autumn term 2021