



Curriculum for

# Religious Education

## 2022-23

# Religious Education (RE)

## Intent

At St. Mary's we place Religious Education at the heart of the curriculum and the Catholic faith permeates everything we do. Our mission statement 'We live, love, learn and pray together with Jesus' emphasises our intention that RE is the 'core of the core curriculum.' (Pope Saint John Paul II.)

We aim to fulfil the mission of the Catholic Church and help everyone in our community to begin to recognise their vocation: the person that God intends them to be. We do this through providing children with a wide range of opportunities and experiences to enable them to use and develop their God given gifts and talents as well as providing them with the knowledge and cultural capital that will prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

At St. Mary's, we recognise that every child is unique and created in the image of God. It is our aim to develop the whole child; to help them to grow in faith and to develop as global citizens with a maturing Christian awareness. We give the religious, spiritual and moral education of our children the highest priority.

Catholic schools, with RE at their core, exist in order to help parents, priests and teachers to pass on faith, in its fullness, to a new generation of young people so that they may come to understand the richness of the Catholic faith, and thereby be drawn into a deeper communion with Christ in his Church.

# Implementation

For Religious Education, we follow the Diocesan Strategy, 'Learning and growing as the People of God,' as a scaffold for planning and coverage. We ensure that a minimum of 10% of Curriculum time is allocated for Religious Education teaching across both key stages.

## Long Term Plan

### Religious Education Long Term Plan

The Strategy provides teachers with a range of suggested cross-curricular activities, which can be differentiated to suit the learning needs of the children in their class in order for them to explore the Catholic faith and achieve the learning outcomes. There is a strong emphasis on pupils engaging with and responding to questions of life in the light of religious teaching and they are challenged to think about how they put the teachings of the church and Jesus into practise in their own daily lives.

The children are encouraged to continually think about their own spirituality and teachers plan opportunities for children to explore this through discussion, prayer and Collective Worship.

The Strategy is divided into a number of units for each year group, which cover four main areas of study:

- **The Liturgical Seasons of the Church's Year:** The children find out about the significance of each season, its particular signs and symbols and the different liturgies celebrated in each season.
- **Scripture:** The children study both Old Testament and New Testament Scripture in order to give them familiarity and knowledge of Scripture as well as enabling them to explore and understand how Catholic beliefs are rooted in what Scripture reveals to us.
- **The Sacraments:** There is a strong Sacramental focus in each year group. In Year 3, the children are fully prepared to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist, while in Year 6, the children prepare to receive the fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit through the Sacrament of Confirmation.

- **Living as Christians including Prayer:** The children learn about what it is to live as Christians today, how the Church is organised from global to parish level and also the opportunities which exist for them to participate in the life of the Church.

In each unit, there are additional planned opportunities to pray and time to reflect. RE at St Mary's is not solely focused on the RE Curriculum or taught discretely; it is a fundamental part of the Catholic Life of our school which is further enhanced through Collective Worship opportunities.

We embed the 'Catholic Schools Pupil Profile,' focusing on a different pair of Gospel Virtues each half term, to further encourage our pupils' spiritual, moral, vocational, social and cultural development. Alongside this, we teach and develop our children's understanding of the fundamental British Values. We aim to prepare our pupils for life in modern Britain by instilling in them a sense of self-belief, reminding them that they have been given a specific task to do by God: to help build his kingdom on Earth.

Catholic schools are also required to teach about other religions as part of the Religious Education curriculum. At St Mary's we do this during the summer term, particularly during 'World Faith Week.' Each year group is allocated a particular religion that they will study, involving a visit to a place of worship.

- EYFS: Celebrations and Festivals
  - Year 1: Christianity
  - Year 2: Buddhism
  - Year 3: Hinduism
  - Year 4: Judaism
  - Year 5: Islam
  - Year 6: Sikhism

We also offer opportunities for pupils of our school and members of our local community who are practicing members of other faiths to share information about their culture and traditions. Whilst we do not compare religions, this enables us to make links and reflect on what unites us as people of faith.

An important part of Catholic Life at St Mary's is to ask ourselves what God is calling us to do; we all need to find our 'vocation' in life. We believe that God calls each one of us into existence and then calls us to be a living sign of his love for the world; we are created out of love and we are created to love. This means that for Christians, a vocation is not just something that God calls us to do, it is also the person God calls us to be.

To support the children in their vocational development, the school holds an annual 'Vocations Week,' when representatives with different career backgrounds explain their route to their chosen vocation. During this week, we provide opportunities for children to complete projects on a chosen vocation and explore the lives of inspirational people.

The children in Year Six also participate in 'Take Over Day,' where the children apply for different roles around the school and step into the teachers' shoes as they experience what it is like being responsible, mature role models. Priests and nuns take part in 'question and answer' sessions with our children, further embedding our children's understanding of 'vocation.'



# Long-term plan 2022-2023

Schools starting Monday 5 September and finishing Tuesday 25 July. NB: Lent begins Wednesday 22 February during half-term. Schools are not in for Holy Week (Palm Sunday 2 April). Pentecost falls on Sunday 28 May at the start of the half-term week.

|   | Sept  |    |                                |    | Oct   |    |    |    | Nov      |    |    |    | Dec            |    |    |    | Jan  |   |                             |    | Feb       |   |    |    | Mar            |   |    |    | April       |   |   |    | May   |   |    |    | June  |   |  |    | July |   |    |    |    |   |   |    |    |   |    |    |    |   |   |    |    |
|---|---|----|--------------------------------|----|---|----|----|----|----------|----|----|----|----------------|----|----|----|--|---|-----------------------------|----|-----------|---|----|----|----------------|---|----|----|-------------|---|---|----|---|---|----|----|---|---|--|----|------|---|----|----|----|---|---|----|----|---|----|----|----|---|---|----|----|
|   | 5   | 12 | 19                             | 26 | 3   | 10 | 17 | 24 | 7        | 14 | 21 | 28 | 5              | 12 | 19 | 26 | 2  | 9 | 16                          | 23 | 30        | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27             | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25          | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23  | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27  | 4 | 11   | 18 | 25   | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 |
| N | A<br>Creation<br>Continuous Unit – Prayer L to run through all units                                      |    |                                |    | B<br>God our Father cares for us            |    |    |    | C Advent |    |    |    | D<br>Christmas |    |    |    | E<br>Baptism<br>My Name                          |   |                             |    | G<br>Lent |   |    |    | H<br>Holy Week |   |    |    | I<br>Easter |   |   |    | F<br>God's Family                           |   |    |    | L<br>Special Celebrations                   |   |  |    |      |   |    |    |    |   |   |    |    |   |    |    |    |   |   |    |    |
| R | A<br>Baseline Assessment<br>Creation<br>God's Gift<br>Continuous Unit – Prayer L to run through all units |    |                                |    | B<br>People who care for us                 |    |    |    | C Advent |    |    |    | D<br>Christmas |    |    |    | E<br>Baptism                                     |   |                             |    | F<br>Lent |   |    |    | G<br>Holy Week |   |    |    | H<br>Easter |   |   |    | I<br>Prayer                                 |   |    |    | J<br>People who help us                     |   |  |    |      |   |    |    |    |   |   |    |    |   |    |    |    |   |   |    |    |
| 1 | A<br>Creation   |    | B<br>Families and Celebrations |    | C<br>Jesus: Teacher and Healer              |    |    |    | C Advent |    |    |    | D<br>Christmas |    |    |    | F<br>Prayer                                      |   | G<br>Forgiveness            |    | H<br>Lent |   |    |    | I<br>Holy Week |   |    |    | J<br>Easter |   |   |    | K<br>Sharing Jesus' Life                    |   |    |    | L<br>Following Jesus Today                  |   |  |    |      |   |    |    |    |   |   |    |    |   |    |    |    |   |   |    |    |
| 2 | A<br>Old Testament stories and prayers  |    |                                |    | B<br>Sharing in the life of Jesus           |    |    |    | C Advent |    |    |    | D<br>Christmas |    |    |    | E<br>Parables and Miracles                       |   |                             |    | F<br>Lent |   |    |    | G<br>Holy Week |   |    |    | H<br>Easter |   |   |    | I<br>Special Celebrations                   |   |    |    | K<br>Our Church                             |   | L<br>The Mass                                    |    |      |   |    |    |    |   |   |    |    |   |    |    |    |   |   |    |    |
| 3 | A<br>Belonging – we gather as God's family  |    |                                |    | B<br>Reconciliation                         |    |    |    | C Advent |    |    |    | D<br>Christmas |    |    |    | E<br>We listen to God's word at Mass             |   |                             |    | F<br>Lent |   |    |    | G<br>Holy Week |   |    |    | H<br>Easter |   |   |    | I<br>The Eucharist is a thanksgiving to God |   |    |    | K<br>The Eucharist is a thanksgiving to God |   | L<br>Prayer                                      |    |      |   |    |    |    |   |   |    |    |   |    |    |    |   |   |    |    |
| 4 | A<br>Creation and story of Abraham to Joseph  |    |                                |    | B<br>Jesus teaches us how to pray           |    |    |    | C Advent |    |    |    | D<br>Christmas |    |    |    | E<br>Jesus light of the world                    |   | F<br>O.T Moses – King David |    | G<br>Lent |   |    |    | H<br>Holy Week |   |    |    | I<br>Easter |   |   |    | J<br>Sharing in the life of Christ          |   |    |    | K<br>Special roles and responsibilities     |   |  |    |      |   |    |    |    |   |   |    |    |   |    |    |    |   |   |    |    |
| 5 | A<br>Creation   |    |                                |    | B<br>Miracles and the Sacrament of the Sick |    |    |    | C Advent |    |    |    | D<br>Christmas |    |    |    | E<br>Baptism                                     |   |                             |    | F<br>Lent |   |    |    | G<br>Holy Week |   |    |    | H<br>Easter |   |   |    | I<br>Parables of Jesus                      |   |    |    | K<br>The work of the Apostles               |   | L<br>Marriage and Holy Orders                    |    |      |   |    |    |    |   |   |    |    |   |    |    |    |   |   |    |    |
| 6 | A<br>Story of the people of God   |    |                                |    | B<br>Followers of Christ                    |    |    |    | C Advent |    |    |    | D<br>Christmas |    |    |    | E<br>Celebrating the life of Mary and the Saints |   |                             |    | F<br>Lent |   |    |    | G<br>Holy Week |   |    |    | H<br>Easter |   |   |    | I<br>Baptism & Confirmation Celebrations    |   |    |    | K<br>Belonging to the Church community      |   | L<br>Prayers in the lives of Followers of Christ |    |      |   |    |    |    |   |   |    |    |   |    |    |    |   |   |    |    |

## Impact

As part of our assessment of children's learning in RE, we follow the assessment cycle set out by the Birmingham Diocesan Education (BDES). The data collected is moderated at all levels: internally by staff, SLT and governors and externally by RE leads from schools within our Diocesan cluster group and other schools that we have formed close working partnerships with.

The RE curriculum challenges children academically as the subject is rigorous in assessment and teaches children how to express opinion and belief with deep levels of analysis in extended writing. The subject enhances levels of Literacy and allows children to apply skills to meaningful questions in their written work. Speech and language is developed through intelligent debate, where pupils discuss some of life's big questions and self-esteem grows through the requirements of class presentations and group work. Evidence of impact in Religious Education is not just collated through books. As a result of these strategies, children at St Mary's achieve consistently well in all areas of Religious Education. Our children show an initiative and desire to contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the school and to society more widely. We have a strong sense of charitable outreach and as such, our children actively pursue fundraising opportunities and the families of the school wholeheartedly support us in this mission. This is demonstrated by the fact that we consistently raise in thousands of pounds annually, during the season of Lent, for those less fortunate. This is particularly impressive when our school demographics are considered.

Children at St. Mary's build respectful relationships regardless of faith, gender and race – recognising that everyone has the right to be treated with respect and dignity. They uphold and understand the importance of our British Values and Gospel Virtues, knowing the difference between right and wrong and as mentioned in our most recent Section 48 Inspection of March 2018, the children's exemplary behaviour reflects this. Through the delivery of our RE curriculum and the Catholic Life of our school, by the time they are ready to move on from St Mary's, our children have been consistently taught that they are unique and important and have thus developed their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence. Our children are happy, well rounded individuals who have developed a deep-rooted relationship with God and understanding of their Catholic faith.



Archdiocese of Birmingham

Diocesan Education Service

