

Believe and Achieve Together



St Mary's CE Primary School **Religious Education Policy**

Reviewed: July 2024

Next Review: July 2026

*"I pray that you would be rooted and established in love.....
Filled to the measure of the fullness of God" (Ephesians 3:17-19)*

Mission Statement

“At St Mary’s we are building a loving, caring, inclusive community; working together to provide every child with a high quality learning experience.

We support all, as we celebrate achievements and provide our children with a foundation of faith, hope and aspiration in an ever-changing world.”

St Mary’s Church of England Primary School is Voluntary Aided. In such schools, governors and Head teacher are responsible for the provision of Religious Education and Collective Worship.

The Diocesan Board of Education have provided the syllabus, Manchester Diocese RE Syllabus

At St Mary’s our families can expect a religious education curriculum that is rich and varied, enabling learners to acquire a thorough knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith.

We provide a wide range of opportunities for learners to understand and to make links between the beliefs, practices and value systems of the range of faiths and world views studied. We use an enquiry approach and encourage our children to ask ‘big questions’ and dive deeper into their understanding of their faith and a respect of others.

Our six core Christian Values, underpin our spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and are intrinsic to the whole curriculum and have a significant impact on learners.

School Values and Teaching Based on Scripture:

- **Love-** How we love one another, love of our God, love our environment and love of our School
- **Friendship–** encouraging, supporting, listening and making time for each other, stories of friendship in the scriptures.
- **Joy-** Share Joy, express joy, what can we find joy in? Where do we see joy?
- **Trust-** Inner trust, having trust in others, stories of trust told by Jesus, how do we learn to trust?
- **Faith-** Who has faith? What is faith? How does our faith help us in good and bad times?
- **Hope-** Why do we need hope? Hope for others, hope for ourselves, salvation.

Branching Values- These 'Branching Values' have been added to support the 6 core values. These were chosen through a consultation process with the children, staff and parents. The branching values will be explored and shared during collective worship (Whole school).

- Charity (LOVE)
- Thankfulness (FRIENDSHIP)
- Peace (JOY)
- Justice (TRUST)
- Resilience (FAITH)
- Empathy (HOPE)

Rationale/Aims for teaching RE

In order to fulfil our Mission Statement, we work towards these aims for the children.

- To enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living faith that influences the lives of people worldwide and as the religion that has most shaped British culture and heritage.
- To enable pupils to know and understand about other major world religions and world views, their impact on society, culture and the wider world, enabling pupils to express ideas and insights.
- To contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own beliefs and values.

At St Mary's we enhance spiritual, moral, cultural and social development by:

Developing awareness of the fundamental questions of life raised by human experience, and how religious teaching can relate to them;

- Responding to such questions with reference to the teachings and practices of religions and to their understanding and experience;
- Reflecting on their own beliefs, values and experiences in the light of their study.

Develop respect for other people's right to hold different beliefs.

Develop a positive attitude towards living in a society of diverse religions.

Religious Education at St Mary's school is delivered in the following way:

We use as a basis for our planning, the Manchester Syllabus for Religious Education and Understanding Christianity. The Religious Education curriculum will be based on two attainment targets:

1. Attainment Target 1- Learning about Religions: Knowledge and understanding of beliefs and teachings, practices and lifestyles, expression and language.
2. Attainment Target 2- Learning from Religion: Response, evaluation and application of questions of identity and experience, meaning and purpose, values and commitments.

The Religious Education curriculum will provide opportunities for children to develop the following skills and attitudes:

Skills:

Investigation, Empathy, Synthesis, Interpretation, Evaluation, Application, Reflection, Analysis, Expression.

Attitudes:

Commitment, Fairness, Respect, Self-understanding, Enquiry.

In order to make Religious Education a lively, active subject, we employ a variety of teaching methods including art, drama, music, discussion, the development of thinking skills, the use of artefacts, pictures, stories and times of stillness and reflection.

Where possible we want our pupils to have opportunities to learn through visits to local places of worship or visits from members of local faith communities.

In accordance with the structure of the locally agreed syllabus:

Appendix 1- Whole School Overview

Pupils' entitlement to RE is at least 5% of curriculum time. Locally Agreed Syllabi assume this time is available. This works out as 36 hours per year in KS1 and 45 hours per year in KS2.

Assessment and Monitoring of RE

In line with the school policy on assessment and monitoring, it is expected that each teacher will be responsible for the regular assessment of their pupils.

Non-statutory assessment, taken from the Agreed Syllabus has devised 'Progression Statements' that correspond with each of the Key Stages and are designed to give general guidance regarding appropriate material to be covered at each of these stages. These statements may be used to help assess achievement.

Right to withdraw

Parents have the right, to withdraw their child from RE lessons and Collective Worship. However, the school asks that parents contact the Head teacher to discuss any concerns about the policy, provision and practice of religious education and seek to arrive at an accommodation.