



# St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Educate Protect Love Serve



## R.E Policy

### **Mission Statement:**

With the love of Jesus and the inspiration of Mary at our heart, we will be the best we can be.

At St. Mary's we provide every member of our school family with the opportunity to achieve academically and thrive spiritually and socially.

### **Rationale of Religious Education**

Teaching Religious Education is the main reason Catholic schools exist. The primary goal of Religious Education is to increase the knowledge and understanding of the Christian message for all pupils in Catholic schools. As such it will be planned, taught, assessed and monitored with the same rigour as other core curriculum subjects.

Education is integral to the Mission of the Church to proclaim the Good News.

*'Every Catholic School is a place of encounter with the living God, who in Jesus Christ, reveals his transforming love and truth'. 1*

*Religious Education in a Catholic school is an academic discipline 'with the same systematic demands and the same rigour as other disciplines'. As such it should be taught, developed and resourced with the same commitment as any other subject.*

*'Classroom Religious Education complements and is enhanced by the catechetical and worshipping life of the whole school community but is distinct from each of them'. 2*

*'Religious Education in Catholic schools is considered the core of the core curriculum. It is a discrete subject discipline as canonically and statutorily defined. The nature, purpose and scope of classroom Religious Education are defined in the Religious Education Curriculum Directory'. 3*

The centrality of classroom Religious Education in the curriculum is reflected in several ways in Catholic schools, including parity with other core curriculum subjects. Bishops have mandated that pupils are entitled to receive RE that constitutes 10% of the taught week.

- The outcome of classroom Religious Education is:  
*'religiously literate and 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 are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life'. 4*

1 Pope Benedict

2 Circular letter on Religious Education in schools 2009

3 Religious Education Curriculum Directory, Department of Catholic Education and Formation, Bishops Conference of England and Wales 2012

4 Religious Education Curriculum Directory, Department of Catholic Education and Formation, Bishops Conference of England and Wales, 2012

## **The aims of Religious Education as stated in the Religious Education Curriculum Directory are:**

- To present engagingly a comprehensive content which is the basis of knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith;
- 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 so that pupils can make a critique of the underlying trends in contemporary society;
- To raise pupils' awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities in order to respect and understand them;
- To develop the critical faculties of pupils so that they can relate their Catholic faith to daily life;
- 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 to the knowledge gained through Religious Education to their understanding of other subjects in the curriculum;
- To bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture.

*Religious Education Curriculum Directory, Department of Catholic Education and Formation, Bishops Conference of England and Wales 2012 page 6 5*

## **Religious Education – Curriculum Time Allocation**

10% of curriculum time is allocated to Religious Education. This does not include Collective Worship or the teaching of RSE.

*Please see Plymouth Diocese RSE Policy*

## **Programme of Study**

To fulfil the aims of the Religious Education Curriculum Directory and the four areas of study outlined in this document: Revelation, Church, Celebration and Life in Christ religious education is primarily taught through Come and See.

## **Process**

Religious Education, in the Diocese of Plymouth, is taught through the process of Explore, Reveal and Respond. As outlined in both the RECD and Catechism of the Catholic Church Explore, Reveal and Respond follows the pattern of the human **search** for meaning, God's initiative in **Revelation** and the **response** in faith.

*"The special character of the Catholic school, the underlying reason for it, the reason why Catholic parents should prefer it, is precisely the quality of the religious instruction integrated into the education of the pupils." RECD 2012*

## **Methodology**

A variety of teaching and learning strategies and resources will be used by teachers, from across the curriculum, and adapted appropriately to the needs and learning styles of the pupils.

*'Religious Education' makes use of a range of appropriate teaching methods, according to the age and ability of the pupils and that opens up for pupils the mystery of God's saving action in Jesus Christ' RECD.*

## **Inclusion and Equality**

All pupils in our school, regardless of ability, faith and background, will have appropriate differentiated access to the Religious Education programme. We strive to do the best for all our pupils, irrespective of disability, educational needs, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, sex, gender religion or sexual orientation or those who are disadvantaged.

*'Children of all abilities benefit from ways of learning and knowing which are not necessarily reliant on cognitive ability, in particular, the learning of the heart'. RECD*

## **Right of Withdrawal from Religious Education**

Parents have the right of withdrawal from RE for their children.

## **Other Religions**

We dedicate at least one week throughout the year to the teaching of Judaism. In addition, we dedicate a further week during the year to the teaching of Islam, Hinduism or Sikhism.

## **Assessment, Monitoring, Recording and Reporting**

- Assessment of standards is carried out using the interim 'Age-Related Standards in Religious Education (3-19) document agreed by the Bishops' Conference. Each child will be individually assessed against these standards  
*Please see attachment*
- Each teacher keeps a class record of assessed work and records of pupils' progress across time and evidence of informal/formal assessment in line with their school's assessment policy.
- Feedback, in line with the school's assessment policy, will be personalized and tailored to challenge individual children to make at least expected progress.
- An in-school moderation of pupils' books and work, against the interim standards, is held at least once a term (See monitoring program for each term) and appropriate CPD provided at all levels.
- Moderation of the termly formal diocesan assessment task will take place termly with RE Leads and the Diocesan RE Adviser at cluster level.
- Annually, usually in the summer term, a range of annotated pupils' books/work are presented for Diocesan Moderation at RE Leaders moderation meetings, as directed by the Diocesan RE Adviser. The moderation will be against the interim standards.
- Monitoring of teaching and learning work using pupil voice, lessons observations, learning walks, book scrutiny, planning scrutiny, pupil progress meetings.
- During the time we are using the interim Age-Related Standards document progress and achievement will be tracked against these standards and recorded and tracked in the following way: using the excel year group documents to show attainment across AT1, AT2 and AT3 in each topic of Come and See, completion of the Diocesan assessment tasks following the Diocesan yearly assessment cycle, complete termly data drop on SIMS.
- The RE Lead will collect and collate termly data, use this for analysis and school development planning and send data annually to the Diocesan Education Service through the DDR (Diocesan Data return).
- Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to parents/carers in a written report at the end of the academic year.
- Progress and achievement in Religious Education is reported to Governors/Local Governing Body Governors at each Full Governing Body throughout the year.

## **Management of the Subject**

Catherine Breslin, the RE Lead has the responsibility for leading, managing and supporting the delivery and training in Religious Education in line with other core subject areas. See Role of Primary RE Leader in the Diocese Plymouth.

## **Policy Monitoring and Review**

**This policy will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed by Alison McDonald (Executive Head Teacher), Catherine Breslin (R.E Lead), Father Ciaran (Foundation Governor)**

## The Role of Primary RE Leader in the Diocese of Plymouth

RE Leaders in our diocesan schools are expected to have the skills, knowledge and experience to lead all areas of Catholic Life, Religious Education and Collective Worship effectively. They should have proven leadership experience to lead this core area of responsibility and be able to promote the Catholic identity of the school, leading and supporting the schools Catholic and liturgical life whilst being able to contribute to the school's improvement in learning and teaching. A RE Leader must have a deep understanding and commitment to the mission and purpose of a Catholic school within the broader evangelizing mission of the Catholic Church. They should have proven exemplary teaching and an ability to articulate a clear understanding of what it means to have Christ at the centre of all areas of school life. As a key leader they are expected to have proven interpersonal skills and experience of collaborative leadership. The appointment for RE leaders will be made in consultation with the Diocesan Education Service.

### Key requirements of the position are:

- To have an active knowledge and understanding of the distinctiveness of Catholic Education.
- To be responsible for the Catholic Life, Religious Education and Collective Worship of the school and ensure all areas fulfil the requirements of the Bishops Council of England and Wales.
- To be responsible to the Head teacher, colleagues and governors for the monitoring of teaching, assessment and planning of Religious Education based on the development of the children at each stage. *(Monitoring occurs in order to support staff and should include classroom observation, book scrutiny, planning and discussion with pupils).*
- To be responsible to the Head teacher, colleagues and governors for the monitoring of the Catholic Life of the school and commitment to the Common Good.
- To be responsible to the Head teacher, colleagues and governors for the monitoring of Collective Worship across the school with a commitment to pupil engagement at all levels.
- To liaise with the Diocesan Education Service particularly through attendance at the Co-ordinators' meetings and inform the Headteacher and colleagues of current standards and developments within Religious Education.
- To attend appropriate In-service training for Religious Education, keep up to-date with current developments and feed these developments back to all staff.
- To advise and support individual colleagues and induct new members of staff as required on the Religious Education process and teaching methods.
- To ensure the interim Age-Related Standards in Religious Education (3-19) are used as the core assessment tool and support all staff in developing their knowledge and understanding of the interim standards.
- To facilitate in-house moderation of pupils' books every term – see monitoring programme per term.
- To keep evidence of pupil's work in a portfolio, in line with school policy, to facilitate moderation across year groups.
- To attend annual diocesan moderation meetings with the required completed diocesan assessment tasks and pupils work to support, to include pupil books.
- To track data and use this, in consultation with the headteacher, to set realistic targets in RE.
- To ensure that cross-curricular concerns such as literacy skills, multi-cultural issues, equal opportunity, the use of Information Technology and PHSE are reflected in Religious Education.
- In consultation with the Headteacher to communicate with parents, governors and the parish community regarding issues associated with Religious Education.
- To liaise with other primary and secondary colleagues within clusters and across the diocese.
- To maintain a Subject Leader's file which contains as a minimum:

1. The Religious Education Policy and Guidelines
  2. Medium term plans which represent schemes of work in school.
  3. Assessment and monitoring procedures for teaching and learning and evidence of that monitoring.
  4. Monitoring procedures and outcomes for Catholic Life of the school.
  5. Monitoring procedures and outcomes for Collective Worship across the school.
  6. Audits and reports to the Head teacher and governors about progress made in RE.
  7. A record of Staff Professional Development in RE
  8. Year group and whole school data with current targets and analysis for RE.
  9. A record of work with the LGB/GB RE lead governor
  10. DSEF as an on-going working document
  11. DDR as an on-going working document
- To work with the Headteacher and colleagues, to undertake a regular audit/review of Religious Education in line with the school development plan.
  - To be familiar with the current inspection framework and to consult with the headteacher to complete the school's DSEF document.
  - To keep up to date with any changes to the Areas of Study (Religious Education Curriculum Directory revision).
  - To complete an annual Diocesan Data Return and return by end of summer term
  - To return annually up-dated DSEF at end of summer term
  - To manage resources and facilities for Religious Education.