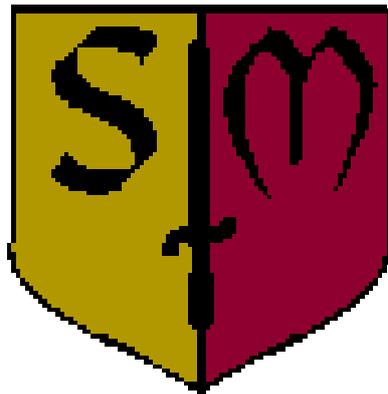


St Mary's Catholic
Primary School



Religious Education
Policy

Reviewed: January 2019
Reviewed by: E Wilkinson, H
Schoonjans & L Shaw

**Learning and Loving
Caring and Sharing
through
The message of Christ**



St Mary's Catholic Primary School is a happy community where we are loved and valued as individuals.

As Disciples of Jesus, we learn together, pray together and celebrate together as one in God's love.

Together with parents/carers, the parish and the wider community, we prepare our children to live and build God's kingdom on earth.

“All Christ’s faithful are called to hand on the faith from generation to generation by professing it, living it, by celebrating it in liturgy and prayer.”
Prologue: Catechism of Catholic Church.

“Catholics believe that Religious Education is not one subject among many but the foundation of the entire educational process. The beliefs and values it communicates should inspire and unify every aspect of school life. It should provide the context for and substantially share the school curriculum and offer living experience of faith in its’ practical expression.”
Bishops of England and Wales, 1988.

“In every child, there is a space that only God can fill.”
St. Thomas Aquinas

“Loving and Learning, Caring and Sharing through the message of Christ” Our School Mission Statement

Introduction

At St. Mary’s we recognise Religious Education as a core subject of the curriculum and take very seriously the duties and obligations placed upon us as teachers in a Catholic School. We recognise the unique position of a Catholic School within the Church and wider community. Religious Education is not limited to time tabled R.E. lessons but permeates the life and curriculum of our school community.

Aims

- To hand on the Truths, Beliefs and Traditions of the Catholic faith.
- To support and develop each child along their personal ‘faith journey’, recognising that each child will be at a different stage along that journey.
- To promote the significance of each child as an individual child of God and a unique creation.
- To enable each child to develop and to experience a variety of forms of prayer, worship and celebration which provide opportunities for sharing our faith together.
- To support the Home and Parish in the preparation of the children for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion.
- To provide a structured quality R.E. programme based upon the contents and principles of ‘Come and See’

Religious Education in the Curriculum.

The school is implementing the ‘Come and See’ programme provided by the Bishop’s Conference of England and Wales.

We use ‘Come and See’ on a whole school approach; each class follows the same theme through a yearly cycle, exploring it at a different level of conceptual

development thus providing progression and continuity within the explicit R.E. curriculum.

Staff work together in year group teams to plan for the teaching of Religion using material provided by the Diocesan Education Adviser. These materials allow overview planning for the whole term along with more detailed planning and evaluations for each separate topic. Planning also takes into account Feasts, Holy Days and School/Parish celebrations.

Resources

- 'Come and See' teacher Resource books and website
- Journey in Love
- Children's Bibles.
- God's Story and Church's story – (Class sets - UFP and KS2)
- God's Story and Church's story – (Big books Early Years)
- Teacher resources for Reflective Prayer/Meditation. 'Starting Points' Sr. J. Russi.
- 'Guided Meditations for Children' Vols 1 + 2
- A large collection throughout the school of religious story books.
- Collections of posters, tapes, DVD's and videos.
- Collections of books for children's masses and assemblies.
- Madeleine Linley Resource books.
- Guidelines for the Assessment, Recording and Reporting of Education.
- Children's Islam/ Judaism books
- Artefact boxes for Catholicism /Islam/Judaism.

Use can be made of the 'Come and See' CAFOD material, available on the website, where appropriate to the current theme. This enables us to address necessary Multicultural aspects in R.E.

Assessment and Recording

The 'Come and See' programme is structured in such a way that the Reveal section in each topic provides the basis for assessment. Provision is also made for recording, profiling, evaluating, planning and reporting.

The Diocesan Team now provide us with a structure to deliver one formal assessment each term. Other topics should have one levelled piece of work highlighted in the children's RE exercise books.

R.E assessment in Early Years is done by keeping a sample of work of the non formal assessment topics, showing differentiation. These may be painting, drawing or collage work. A sentence will be added to each child's work, scribed by the teacher.

Parents receive details of their child's progress in RE on an annual report and arranged parent's consultation evenings.

Sacramental Preparation

In each year group the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist and Reconciliation are explored through specific topics in the 'Come and See' scheme.

The specific Sacramental preparation is now done within each Parish of the Diocese.

The readiness of individual children to receive the Sacraments is decided by the parish priest.

Additional Learning Needs/More Able and Talented

As in other subjects the full spectrum of ability, from the gifted child to the one with specific learning difficulties, is encountered and we strive through offering programmes of differentiated learning to ensure that each child in our care is able to realise his/her full potential. However, in the context of R.E. the whole area of ALN acquires a new dimension and other categories of ALN have to be addressed. We have a special duty of care to those children where social, emotional or behavioural problems affect their ability to learn. No specific learning programmes may be needed but our Christian patience, compassion and charity are required.

There are also children from non-practising families, from non Catholic backgrounds and those where life experiences may be at variance with the ideals we promote. These children, too, progress on their faith's journey. No child should feel 'shut out' because their life experience / family background do not match an ideal.

Community Links

At St. Mary's we recognise the need to enable children to work beyond the school into the wider community. We aim to:

- develop a sense of personal responsibility for others.
- identify means by which the children can become further involved with the;
Neighbourhood
Diocese
Parish
National/Global Organisations

We deeply value the part played within school by our Priests and Deacons. Their visits to school enable them to cultivate a sense of friendship, trust and openness with staff and children.

Personal and Social Education

- Journey in Love has been fully adopted and is taught throughout the school.
- Parents are invited to a workshop to view and discuss the videos, materials and content. For certain aspects of year 6 Journey in Love content parents have the option to withdraw their child.

Information Technology

Children will be given opportunities where appropriate to develop and apply their I.C.T. skills in their study of R.E.

Curriculum Cymreig

a) *A Christian Heritage of Wales:*

Wales has a rich Christian tradition, which can enrich our children's experience. The particular Welsh dimension to Christianity can be recognised in the following:

- 1) Pilgrimages and places of worship.
- 2) Special festivals and customs
- 3) Welsh Saints.
- 4) Welsh Christians of note.

All of these areas provide valuable material with which to supplement our R.E. programme.

b) Welsh Language:

It is the policy at St. Mary's to promote the use of the Welsh language in R.E. by the following:-

- 1) Including Welsh hymns, prayer and music in the celebration of formal and informal liturgies.
- 2) Using Welsh translations of traditional prayers e.g. 'Hail Mary', 'Our Father' and the 'Sign of the Cross'.

In Service

As a school we always look for opportunities to develop. Staff attend in-service courses, when such facilities are made available.

Review

Reviewed and updated **January 2019**

L. Shaw, H. Schoonjans (Foundation Phase) Mrs.E Wilkinson (KS2)