Lambeth

St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School

Wisdom & Faith

Ofsted Outstanding Provider

Religious Education And Collective Worship Policy

Adopted and signed for on behalf of governing body:	
Agreed by Headteacher:	
Date:	**27/02/2024**
Policy to be reviewed on:	**January 2025**

Healthy Schools

British Values

INVESTORS IN PUPILS

Religious Education And Collective Worship

Policy Statement



Religious Education Policy

including collective worship, spiritual development and moral education

Our Vision

'Developing every child's full potential in an outstanding learning environment on their journey in wisdom and faith.'

MISSION STATEMENT

St Mary's is a Roman Catholic Primary School where we are committed to developing each child's full potential within an environment permeated by Gospel teachings.

In order to fulfil our Mission, we share these core values:

love and mutual respect

dedication and loyalty

justice and fairness

honesty and trust

the living of our faith

high expectations of each other

a commitment to a culture of continuous self-improvement

an affirmation of each other's talents

a willingness to co-operate and share our gifts for the good of all

"*The Catholic school is a community where God is experienced as a reality and where Christ's Gospel comes to life."*

Cardinal Hume

With this statement in mind this policy aims to deepen the faith, knowledge and understanding of all individuals connected with St Mary's School.

AIMS

Our aims are:

- To enable each child to the answer Christ's call to holiness
- To hold every child in equal esteem as a unique child of God
- To promote the teachings of Christ and His Holy Catholic Church
- To create a community of faith, hope, love, understanding and mutual respect

- To develop Catholic prayer and worship as an integral part of school life and to make it a meaningful and relevant experience
- To develop the child's Christian attitudes based on Gospel values and the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church and put these teachings and values into practice
- To guide and foster the development in faith of each individual child and to promote a deeper knowledge and understanding of their relationship with God
- To provide a warm and welcoming atmosphere for all who enter the school in whatever capacity and to ensure that they are treated with respect and politeness
- To develop an awareness of and respect for other, denominations, faiths and religious traditions

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

'At the heart of every Catholic school is the person of Jesus Christ. This presence of Christ is in the present tense: it is a real presence, in the here and now.'

To Know You More Clearly – The Religious Education Curriculum Directory 2023

Our objectives for Religious Education are:

- To deliver a structured Religious Education programme to increase in each child the knowledge and understanding of the Roman Catholic Church, Her teachings and traditions
- To increase the child's knowledge of, and interest in, Biblical stories
- To place these stories and traditions in a religious, historical and geographical context so that each child can relate them to the truths of our Catholic Faith
- To lead children to make links between aspects of everyday life and ways of living in a Catholic Christian community
- To foster respect and understanding of other faiths

CURRICULUM PLAN AND TIME ALLOCATION

- Religious Education is taught as a specific subject and is integrated into all other areas of school life
- The school follows the *Come and See* syllabus. Come and See is developed through three themes based on the documents of the Second Vatican Council, which are gradually explored each time at greater depths. The themes are: Church, Sacrament and Christian Living
- Each theme occurs once in each season and builds on the understanding of the previous theme. Each class studies the same theme simultaneously with three themes studied per term. Topics within each theme may be different for each year group or key stage.
- The RE curriculum is related to the Church Year, the monthly devotions of the Church and other aspects of the Catholic Faith not covered by the Come and See syllabus

- Time allocation for Foundation Stage and Key Stage One is 2 hours and 10 minutes per week, for Key Stage Two is 2 hours and 30 minutes per week (**10% of timetable**)
- Additional time is spent in collective worship and hymn practice (see appendix)

GROUPING

- We group children in a variety of ways depending on the nature of the task and the needs of the learners
- Religious Education is taught to whole classes by the class teacher or another teacher with tasks for individuals, pairs and small groups as appropriate

INCLUSION

- Each member of the school community is loved by God with an infinite love and each person is equally valued, in light of the Church's teaching on the dignity of the human person
- All members of the school are of equal importance in the sight of God and should be equally accorded the respect and dignity due to a child of God
- The teacher will carefully assess and monitor each child's needs in light of her/his abilities, talents and past and present experience
- Children will be taught to recognise and respect other faiths and Christian denominations
- Through our Religious Education curriculum, children are prepared to bring Christ to the world and bear witness to their Catholic Faith in a multicultural, multi-ethnic and multi-faith society

LINKS WITH OTHER CURRICULUM AREAS

- Some statutory requirements for other subjects, in particular English, Music, History, Geography and Art, can be met through the Religious Education curriculum
- Equally, certain elements of the Religious Education curriculum can be met through other subjects
- Specific requirements of PSHEE can be met through the RE curriculum
- Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development takes place within RE lessons and across the curriculum

ASSESSMENT, RECORDKEEPING AND REPORTING

- Teachers mark written RE work by acknowledging children's responses through personal comments and encouragement for further thought using the 'Developmental marking' approach. Pupils are expected to respond to feedback. Assessment of pupils is also carried out through observation, recording of vocal responses, assessment of drawings in RE lessons that highlight knowledge and understanding, and through discussions with each pupil

- At the end of each topic children complete a page of personal reflection in their Reflection Book. These books are passed on from year to year in each key stage

- The Education Commission has produced a document to assist with assessment, entitled **'End of Year Descriptors'** which details end of year expectations and end of phase expectations and the framework focuses on the three areas of children's **knowledge and understanding**, **reflecting**, and **responding.** This new framework is used in conjunction with the levels detailed in the Come and See scheme

- At the end of each term, children complete a formal assessment task in line with Diocesan requirements. A different strand is assessed each term**: Church theme, Sacrament theme and Christian Living theme.** This piece of work, along with the work on the other topics, including work completed during 'Other Faith Week', is assessed according to the level descriptors in the Come and See teacher folder and the '**End of Year Descriptors**' document. Attainment Steps are recorded each term on the school's electronic tracking system (Target Tracker)

- At the end of each year, children are given a level for their overall attainment in RE, in the areas of **knowledge and understanding**, **reflecting**, and **responding** using the '**End of year Descriptors'**

- These levels are recorded each term on the school's electronic tracking system as one 'best fit' level descriptor depending on whether the pupil is **below the expected standard**, **at the expected standard** or has **exceeded the expected standard.** The diocese expects that approximately 10% of pupils will be assessed as **working at greater depth (exceeding the expected standard)** across the school

- The teaching and learning of RE is reviewed, using lesson observations, book scrutiny and pupil and staff consultation, by the **RE Lead** in line with the cycle of school self-evaluation

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AND PRAYER

Our objectives for collective worship are:

- That pupils grow in love of God and neighbour by praying in the different ways identified in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (adoration, contrition, love, petition and thanksgiving)
- That prayer and worship in St Mary's reflect the doctrines and traditions of the Catholic Church and Her liturgy and enables pupils to deepen their faith
- To help the children to become familiar with the traditional forms of prayer used in the Catholic church
- To give pupils the opportunity to pray in their own words
- To provide an experience good liturgy using a variety of formal and informal settings and formats
- To provide opportunities for children to prepare, lead and participate fully in liturgical celebrations

- For the whole school, parents, staff and children, to celebrate their faith together in a dignified and spiritual way
- That children grow in knowledge, understanding and love of Jesus Christ and His Church

ARRANGEMENTS FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Each class begins and ends the school day with a prayer or moment of reflection. Grace before meals is said by each class or by individuals before the midday meal. Other prayers are said throughout the school day and there are opportunities for collective worship. A variety of prayer books are available in each room and contain both traditional and children's texts
- A liturgy for the whole school takes place on Monday mornings. This is led by the head teacher, is focused on the Sunday readings, the Church Year, or the current Come and See topic and follows a liturgical format based on morning prayer of the Church.
- A liturgy for each key stage takes place once a week. On alternate weeks this is led by a class celebrating the Reveal or Respond element of the Come and See topic. The RE subject leader, Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teacher lead other 'Quiet Liturgies' which allow worshippers to adore and praise God, to pray and to meditate and reflect on their lives in light of the Bible readings, Gospel readings and the teachings of the Church. Time allocation for liturgy is 15-20 minutes
- The whole school marks the liturgical year with liturgies and celebrations for Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost. In addition, liturgies are celebrated for the beginning and end of terms, Remembrance Day, CAFOD Fast Day and the Feast of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour
- Occasional special liturgies are held when events in the local or global community give rise to a need to reflect on God's presence in our lives
- Each phase of the school has a 30mins hymn practice, which includes a liturgical element, once a week
- Children from Year One to Year Six celebrate Mass on holy days of obligation at St Mary's Church. Other Masses, services of reconciliation and liturgies for special occasions are celebrated throughout the year. There is a timetable for KS2 classes to attend 12:30 Mass with the congregation of St Mary's, Clapham,

DISPLAY AND FOCAL POINTS

- Each classroom has a focal point for prayer, using a candle/statue/prayer book/bible as appropriate for the age group. Each classroom has a display area for Religious Education to reflect the current *Come and See* topic or liturgical season
- Additional displays are mounted in the main hall and at other points around the school. A focal point with a free-standing cross, statues, lectern and candles is erected for liturgies

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Our objectives for spiritual development are:

- To encourage children to answer Our Lord's call to holiness
- To encourage children to learn about and experience various forms of prayer, reflection and meditation of the Catholic Church through Religious Education and collective worship
- To provide opportunities for the development of a personal relationship with God
- To invite children to write their own prayers in preparation for liturgical celebrations and for personal use
- To provide opportunities for children to appreciate the spiritual dimensions of creative aspects of life (dance, drama, art, literature, nature, music, silence)

MORAL EDUCATION

Our objectives for moral education are:

- To teach children how their Catholic faith helps them to live a good life, following the example of Jesus Christ
- To provide children with a moral framework based on the Ten Commandments and the Two Great Commandments of Christ
- To promote positive values, based on Gospel attitudes, through the school Mission Statement and Behaviour Policy
- To teach children to recognize the difference between right and wrong and to use this knowledge appropriately both individually and collectively
- To encourage and inspire children to be good and faithful people who do what is right
- To encourage a social and individual moral consciousness, and an awareness of the needs of the wider community
- For adults in the school to teach Christian attitudes of love, mutual respect and care in the everyday life of the school
- To promote cooperation and positive relationships between children, teachers, support staff and families
- To teach children aspects of Science, Geography and History which might be used to deepen an understanding of moral issues such as care for the earth, justice and peace

LINKS BETWEEN HOME, SCHOOL AND PARISH

- Parents are recognised as the first educators of their children in the Catholic faith
- The school supports the parish in helping families to educate their children in the Catholic faith
- Parents and younger siblings are invited to school liturgies and Masses
- The parish priest from St Mary's Church attends and participates in most liturgies
- Parents are informed through the termly summary about the Religious Education topics being studied and the schedule of class led liturgies

- The school supports the parish in its preparation of children for First Holy Communion and First Reconciliation and encourages parents to be responsible for the faith development of their children
- Families and priests from St Mary's are invited to join in with the school's Christmas, Lent and Easter reflections
- During Lent and Advent, the school supports charities by raising money and collecting articles for those in need. Families are invited to donate items to the Ace of Clubs
- The school has developed strong links with Trinity Hospice in Clapham, The Ace of Clubs, The Redemptorist Missions, CAFOD and The Catholic Children's Society
- The school has a Growing in Faith Team (GIFT) that support the children, staff and parents with organising Masses and Liturgies and providing guidance on how to strengthen our Catholic faith through Catholic Social Teaching
- The school has a CAFOD Club (Juniors) that ensures that Catholic Social Teaching is put into practise through fundraising for CAFOD

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Children are taught to prepare, use and put away all equipment safely
- The Growing in Faith Team (16 pupils from the Upper Juniors) prepare the hall for liturgy and are taught to use matches to light candles and are always supervised in doing so

Related Polices for Reference

- Inclusion Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Religious Education Policy
- PSHEE Policy
- Science Policy
- E-Safety Policy

National Documents for Reference

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE – 2023)
- Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education (updated September 2021)
- To Know You More Clearly – The Religious Education Directory (2023)
- To Love You More Dearly – The Prayer and Liturgy Directory (2023)
- Do this in memory of me – Celebrating Mass in schools

Policy review date

This policy was reviewed in February 2024

This policy will next be reviewed in January 2025

Note

For the purposes of this policy, the term Headteacher is used to refer to the post occupied by the Head of School.

Appendix

Resources

- Each room has a crucifix or cross, reflecting the cultural diversity of our school
- Resources, such as prayer books, posters, candles and assembly books, for the use of teachers are stored centrally in cupboards outside the staffroom and in the Main Hall.
- Each classroom has a supply of Bibles appropriate to the age of the children
- Resources for teaching other faiths (books, DVDs, artefacts, posters) are stored in the cupboards outside the staff room
- Interactive White Boards are available in every teaching area allowing the use of video and sound resources. The school has access to internet resources such as the CAFOD schools' website
- All resources are fully available to all members of staff – see +
- The RE Subject Leader is responsible for the auditing, introduction and replacement of resources. Teachers provide the RE Subject Leader with relevant information.
- Visitors from the parish, in particular the priests, are invited to come to the school to talk about their experiences, the liturgical year, the sacraments and visit each week for the whole school liturgy
- Children visit St Mary's Church and the monastery for liturgical celebrations, retreats and to study the interior of a place of worship
- visitors from other faith communities are invited into the school to share their faith experiences and junior pupils visit other places of worship including a synagogue and mosque

+ 'Come and See' (new edition), Bibles (Old and New Testament, story/picture Bible books), prayer books, books of saints, books about other faiths, statues of Mary and the Sacred Heart, crucifixes, crosses, sets of Rosary beads, candles, missal, assembly books, prayer books, file of written Masses for various occasions, collections of poems and readings, water bowl and jugs, coloured clothes, liturgical children's missal and leader's study book, wooden altar, altar cloths, chalice/paten, posters, DVDs, CDs, hymn books

