



## St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

***At St. Mary's we live and learn, sharing God's love.***

### MISSION STATEMENT

'As a Catholic school community, we strive to live as a Christian family showing our love for God in the way we treat each other with dignity and respect and by promoting the development of each child as a unique individual.'

### THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF OUR MISSION STATEMENT AND SCHOOL MOTTO

These aims and objectives which arise from our mission statement and school motto are determined by our obligations to our pupils, parents, parish and community.

Therefore as a Catholic School we aim:

**to ensure that our school is a place where Christian values are central to the lives of the whole school community**

We will fulfil this by

- creating a school atmosphere and tradition within which is developed a sense of pride, identity and purpose by each individual pupil, members of staff and parents.
- encouraging behaviour which shows respect for everyone and contributes to successful learning both in and outside the classroom.
- joining together to worship.
- treating everyone with dignity and respect, and so showing our love of God and each other.

**to maintain a caring school community in which each individual is given a sense of security and personal recognition.**

We will fulfil this by

- enabling every pupil to achieve their full potential in academic progress and achievement.
- endeavouring to be an inclusive school for those with special needs by encouraging and resourcing pupils who find aspects of their learning difficult.
- encouraging our children to recognise and appreciate achievement in all its forms, and help them to fulfil their own personal ambitions and aspirations by developing lively and enquiring minds.

**to foster the understanding and support of parents and the wider community.**



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We will fulfil this through

- involving parents in our broad and balanced curriculum, and through the provision of opportunities for our children to acquire the skills and experience necessary to ensure lifelong learning.
- spreading the Gospel values of love, justice and peace, through our prayer life, our support for charities and our involvement in the local community.

### THE AIMS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

The "Come and See" programme will form the basis of Religious Education within Leyland St. Mary's Catholic Primary School.

The aims of Religious Education at our school are:

- to explore the religious dimension of questions about life, dignity and purpose within the Catholic tradition.
- to help children to understand that religion is not just learning but for living and that all living can become 'religious'.
- to provide an opportunity for both children and adults to explore their spirituality through their capacity to wonder, awe, reverence and imagination.

### OBJECTIVES

1. Our R.E. curriculum is considered to be as academically important as other core curricular areas. The children's work and the programme will be assessed and evaluated in a structured way. Appropriate curriculum time and budget costs are given to Religious Education. INSET for the R.E. subject leaders is provided by the Department for Christian Education and other appropriate courses will be attended. The R.E. subject leaders provides INSET for the other teaching staff when appropriate.
2. Our R.E. curriculum will include learning intentions which take into account the religious and educational needs of our children:
  - those from supportive Catholic homes.
  - those for whom the school may be the first and perhaps only experience of church.
  - those from all other Christian backgrounds.
  - those from all Other World Faith backgrounds.
3. Our R.E. curriculum will provide many opportunities for celebrating joyfully and prayerfully through music and in quiet times of reflection.



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4. Our R.E. curriculum will provide our children with knowledge and understanding of religious language. This will then facilitate a deepening of their experiences and awareness of religious activities, places, stories, symbols, rituals, people and objects.
5. Our R.E. curriculum will be appropriate to the age and developmental stage of each child. It will also be structured to present the Christian message and beliefs in a clear and systematic way.
6. We will endeavour to ensure that all adults involved, teachers, parents, teaching assistants etc., understand the theological principles underpinning the children's religious education as well as how the programme works and its educational value.
7. Appropriate materials about other faiths will be included, in two discreet units of work each year.
8. Our R.E. programme is closely linked to the Parish Sacramental Programme.  
We work closely with the parish to provide suitable Sacramental preparation.

### THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMME

To fulfill our aims and objectives we use the "Come and See" Programme of Religious Education as prescribed by the Archdiocese of Liverpool. Links are made with the pupils' own experiences and with universal experience of Other World Faith traditions. The programme is therefore 'objective' and 'subjective.'

For all children the programme will raise questions and provide material for reflecting on their own experience. It will help them to explore the beliefs, values and way of life of the Catholic tradition and where appropriate of Other Faith traditions. For those from committed families, it will deepen and enrich their understanding and living of their faith.

### PLANNING ( Refer to Come and See p23-25)

Planning is the responsibility of the class teachers under the direction of the R.E. subject leaders; teachers use the planning model agreed by the diocese.

Through their planning teachers:

- Allocate time for learning outcomes to be achieved (annotating their plans with the date on which lessons are taught).
- Plan the topic to ensure achievement of the learning outcomes.
- Select appropriate activities for the whole class or groups.
- Indicate opportunities for assessment.



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### Differentiation

As with all areas of the curriculum the overall purpose of differentiation in R.E. is:

- To enable children to succeed in an activity and challenge them to take the next step in learning.
- To challenge children beyond their comfort zone of knowledge, understanding and skills.
- To enable children to recognise their achievements and celebrate these.

It is up to individual teachers to use their professional judgement as to which teaching style they use to enable all children to participate and be successful learners at a level appropriate to their ability.

As an aim of R.E. is to provide an active response to life or worship, the teaching should include activities which evoke such a response e.g. story telling, reflection, worship, drama, artwork, music etc.

### ASSESSMENT (refer to Come and See p27)

"In accordance with the Catholic Schools' belief in upholding the dignity and value of each individual, any method used to assess the performance of pupils must respect the individual's worth." (EDN:24) Assessment establishes what pupils know, understand and can do. It does not assess faith or the practice of faith. Assessment in Come and See emphasises a wide range of achievement.

#### **Informal assessment**

This involves ongoing teacher assessment against the learning objectives in each taught topic. A range of age appropriate AFL strategies are used to evaluate progress.

#### **Formal Assessment**

The Foundation Stage (Reception) collect a portfolio of recorded and photographic evidence of children's experiences.

From Y1-6 formal assessment is undertaken using expectations and attainment levels so that each theme is assessed formally throughout Key Stages 1 and 2. This follows the cycle provided by the Christian Education Department.

The tasks set by the Department for Christian Education are followed. These tasks are assessed by the class teacher with samples given with 'context sheets' to the Subject leaders for moderation. Each teacher retains all assessed pieces of work with pupils records of attainment.

#### **Expectations**

In each topic, there are summaries of what children are expected to know, understand and be able to do. As with other curriculum subjects, these are expressed in terms of 'most children' and 'some children'. They provide support for the tasks of differentiation, assessment, recording and reporting.



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### **Attainment Targets and Levels of Attainment (see Liverpool Archdiocese Website)**

In summer 2007, the Bishop's Conference Department for Catholic Education and Formation and the National Board of Religious Inspectors and Advisers published Levels of Attainment in Religious Education for Catholic Schools and Colleges. The document identifies two attainment targets:

AT1 - Knowledge and Understanding of Religion (Learning about Religion-content)

AT2 - Reflection on Meaning (Learning from Religion - skills)

As in other subjects, progression in R.E. pupils of the same age will be at different levels of attainment. Pupils' Levels of Attainment are recorded termly using the Record of Attainment in Religious Education sheet provided by the Christian Education Department. This also incorporates the formal assessed topic level determined during the term.

### **RECORDING**

#### **Children's Work**

Children have a minimum of 2 pieces of recorded work each week. Recording children's work provides evidence of their achievement. The school's marking policy ensures that children receive a positive, constructive comment, which challenges and encourages high standards. There is an expectation that one piece of recorded work is next step marked each week, with appropriate next steps identified. Pupils are involved in self assessment and dialogue with the class teacher regarding their work. Following the whole school approach to recording work children, throughout the school, have an RE book, folder or portfolio in which their work is kept.

### **REPORTING**

There are four dimensions to the reporting of religious education in our school.

- We provide feedback to pupils on their achievement and progress.
- It informs our colleagues of the individual achievements of our children
- We inform parents of the progress and achievements of their children in parent consultations and in their annual progress reports.
- We inform parents, governors, parish and external agencies of the content and quality of Religious Education being provided.

### **EVALUATION OF TEACHING**

The procedures for reviewing and evaluating the teaching of 'Come and See' and the monitoring of teaching are as follows, the time is provided for this through subject leader release sessions. In addition to this, subject leaders meet regularly to work on priorities from the RE action plan and SIP.

- A book scrutiny to monitor R.E. work in children's class work books.
- A scrutiny to monitor planning and teacher evaluations at the end of each topic.
- Informal and formal lesson observations of teaching and learning.
- Verbal and written feedback from monitoring.



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- Each class has a 'prayer focus' in class and a small 'Come and See' display area.
- Each department has a focal area that reflects the liturgical seasons.
- Evaluation and comments by staff, to aid future planning.  
e.g. on resources, evaluation sheets, celebrations, new teacher induction etc.

### EVALUATION OF LEARNING (refer Come and See p22)

We constantly strive to ensure that the children acquire the knowledge and understanding of the material covered in each topic. The **Remember** section of the programme provides the children with the opportunity to recall and review the work done in each topic. The **Rejoice** section provides the children with opportunities to plan and take part in celebrating their learning. The **Renew** section helps children to hold on to, and make their own, what they have made of each topic.

### STAFF INDUCTION

The R.E. coordinator and/or Department coordinator meets with new staff to introduce the 'Come and See' programme and explain how it is implemented in School. Areas covered will include;

- Collective Worship
- 10% time allocated to Come and See.
- planning/assessment/monitoring/evaluation procedures
- displays
- support in planning/teaching of initial topics as appropriate.

Where possible all new staff will attend the new teachers' induction day provided by the Department for Christian Education. Newly Qualified Teachers attend diocesan NQT training days.

### STAFF COMMUNICATION

Consultations with staff usually take place during staff meetings. We find that this is an ideal time to communicate and pass on relevant information to each other.

The R.E. subject leaders disseminate relevant information from Department for Christian Education courses to the Head teacher and staff.

Whole school INSET for Come and See is provided when appropriate.

### STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The RE subject leaders inform staff about future courses and services run by the Christian Education Service. Any staff member wishing to attend, consults with the R.E. subject leader and headteacher.

### TEACHING RESOURCES

#### **Classroom Resources**

In each class

- Come and See books and website
- Children's Prayer Books
- God's Story (Age /Edition Appropriate) and CD
- Church's Story (Age /Edition Appropriate) and CD
- Class Bible.



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### **Staff Resources -**

Madeleine Lindley - These books are stored separately in the school hall so that staff and children can access these at any time. In addition to this there a selection of books that have been distributed appropriately. Other appropriate books are made available. These resources will continue to be updated as new books become available.

### Collective Worship and Liturgy

Praying with Children - Jenny Pate

The Lion Book of Famous Prayers

Lion Children's Favourites - Bible Stories and Prayers

### Music

Celebration for Everyone - Melody Edition

" - Words only - copies for all junior children

Rejoice One

- plus cassette / CD

Rejoice Two

- plus cassette / CD

Other music resources.

### Other Faiths

Book packs on Judaism and Islam - Madeleine Lindley

I.C. T. Programme - Learning About Religion

### Bibles

The Good News Bible

### Sacraments

#### Moments that Matter

Starting School x 2

Eucharist x 2

Reconciliation x 2

Moving on x 2

My Eucharist/Reconciliation Journey

### Other Resources and Documentation

Levels of Attainment in Religious Education in Catholic Schools and Colleges - Bishops' Conference for Catholic Education and Formation - 2007

Broad Areas of Attainment in R.E.

What are we to teach? - Bishop's Conference of England and Wales

Making Connections

- Introducing and Implementing the Religious Education Curriculum Directory for schools



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The Curriculum Directory for Religious Education in Catholic Schools.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

Religious Education in Catholic Schools - a statement from the Catholic Bishops

Evaluating the Distinctive Nature of a Catholic School - Bishops Conference

Guidelines for the Assessment, Recording and Reporting of Religious Education

- National Board of Religious Inspectors and Advisors

Collective Worship in Schools - LCC

### RELATIONSHIP OF R.E. TO THE WHOLE CURRICULUM

#### **The contribution of R.E. to the Spiritual and Moral development of pupils**

The distinctiveness of St. Mary's as a Catholic school touches every aspect of our school life. Within the school we try to ensure that the whole curriculum promotes the moral and spiritual development of pupils. Each curriculum area can help pupils in the formation of a Christian moral conscience and can contribute to the spiritual development of the children. In addition, we strive as a community to be a living example of Gospel values through the quality of relationships we share with each other.

However, the Religious Education area, both through the curriculum and through acts of worship, has a special and unique role to play in the spiritual and moral development of children. R.E. in St. Mary's is seen to be central to the curriculum and the 'Come and See' programme is given high status and profile as a core subject. By attaching such significance to R.E. we are making a clear statement to all in the community that Religious Education is of vital and central significance to the children in our care.

#### **Opportunities for Spiritual Development**

Spiritual development opportunities are provided in both Religious Education lessons and collective worship. Opportunities are provided to help our children acquire insights into their personal existence and to acquire individual personal beliefs and values throughout their daily school lives. Children from the school enjoy a range of experiences including forming part of the choir, Monitors, lunchtime helpers etc. . Prayer is an important part of our day at St. Mary's and our children are encouraged to be reverent and respectful.

#### **Opportunities for Moral Development**

In our RE lessons, collective worship and the whole curriculum, we strive for moral development. In assembly, stories and situations are chosen carefully so that our children are encouraged to recognise and make good choices. Children throughout the school know and understand our school rules. Policies such as the Inclusion Policy, Equal Opportunities, Behaviour and Child Protection Policy, show our commitment to the moral development of our children.

#### **Sacramental Preparation**

The school works closely with Father Jonathan and the team of catechists to prepare the children for the Sacraments of Confirmation, Eucharist and Reconciliation.

The children receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Communion and Confirmation in year 4.

All policies relating to R.E. can be found on the website.



## **St. Mary's Catholic Primary School**

1. Religious Education Policy
2. Collective Worship Policy
3. Marking and Feedback Policy
4. Spiritual Development Policy
5. Moral Development Policy
6. Relationship and Sex Education Policy

### **SELF EVALUATION DOCUMENT (S.E.D)**

The SED is updated every 2 years.

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

The Religious Education coordinators write an action plan, outlining the priorities and targets for RE and the Catholic Life of the school each academic year. In addition to this there is also a target included on the School Improvement Plan each year.

### **EVALUATION OF POLICIES AND DOCUMENTATION**

This R.E. handbook was reviewed in April 2018. It will be reviewed in the Spring term 2019.

### **CONCLUSION**

Our R.E. handbook provides a guideline that aims to ensure high standards in the teaching of RE in our school. Our aim is to support Catholic families and those of Other Faiths by providing a variety of experiences in school, appropriate to the age, development and cultural background of the children. When children leave St. Mary's every child will have had time to learn, wonder and rejoice in the many different aspects of Religious Education.

Reviewed April 2018. Next review April 2019.