



RE Policy

St Mary's Church of England (A) Primary School promotes the safeguarding and welfare of all students in its care: all policies support the "Safeguarding Policy", are fully consistent with the "Every Child Matters" agenda, and fully support the principles of equal opportunities for all.

GENERAL PRINCIPLE

St Mary's Church of England School is committed to a holistic education for every child in which "living, loving, learning in God's care". The school is proud to be a Church of England Primary School and recognises that Religious Education (RE) plays an important part in achieving this.

LEGAL REQUIREMENT The Education Reform Act (1988) places RE as part of the basic curriculum; a statutory subject which is an entitlement of all pupils. Since 1998 RE has been given high status within the curriculum. As a Church of England school, St. Mary's is not bound by statutory provision. RE should be in accordance with its Trust Deed, and based on the guidance issued by the Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education through its Understanding Christianity material, which determines the distinctive nature and context for RE. The school has also taken account of the Staffordshire LA RE Agreed Syllabus for teaching about other faiths. The school recognises the right of withdrawal of pupils by their parents, but works actively to promote participation by all pupils; currently there are no withdrawals.

RATIONALE

RE is an important area in its own right as reflected in the non-statutory National Framework, and has its own discrete time allocation (5%). It contributes to other areas of education and human experience (aesthetic, environmental, ethical, political, social and spiritual). It is an important part of the wider programme of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Spiritual- widening pupils vision of themselves and their own experience, within the context of a growing awareness and understanding of God.

Moral - helping each pupil develop their own informed values.

Social- helping pupils understand some major forces shaping the values in our society.

Cultural- aiding pupils in exploring aspects of their own cultural heritage and in developing positive attitudes towards diversity.

Additional links will be found within Citizenship, PSHE and Community Cohesion RE can also make a positive contribution to enhancing Creativity and Enjoyment within the whole curriculum.

Our aim at St. Mary's is to be a truly inclusive school where children's academic achievement and personal development are equally important. As a Church of England Primary School we have a strong Christian ethos which underpins this vision. To help us achieve this vision the children were asked to think about our school motto 'Everyday Matters' and to choose six values which are important to them.

Gratitude - knowing that we are more fortunate than many other people around the world and appreciating what we have.

Thoughtfulness - being able to think of others and make wise choices.

Forgiveness - knowing that everyone can make a mistake and that saying sorry is the first step to putting things right; as well as being tolerant and understanding of others.

Kindness - we are all part of one school family and know that looking out for one another is important.

Perseverance - when something is difficult we don't give up, we try again and work with others to find a solution.

Courage- life is full of challenges and it is important to be brave so that we can try new things.

Respect and Reverence – a child initiated value.

In the Church school it allows those who actively follow the Christian faith to express that faith and have its practices affirmed, so offering an opportunity for nurture. We are proud to be a Church of England Primary School and have a strong link with the community of St. Mary's Church, Mucklestone. The school leads one Sunday services each year (a 'New Starters' and Harvest service in October) and after these there is a social event which allows the school and church communities to come together. In addition, the Children's Church Club take an active role in the family services throughout the church year.

THE NATURE OF RE

- a) To enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living world faith, by exploring core theological concepts
 - To enable pupils to develop knowledge and skills in making sense of biblical texts and understanding their impact in the lives of Christians
 - To develop pupils' abilities to connect, critically reflect upon, evaluate and apply their learning to their own growing understanding of Christianity, of religion and belief more widely, of themselves, the world and human experience.
- b) There are seven dimensions (programmes of study) to the teaching of Christianity.
They are:
 - 1. God
 - 2. Creation/Fall
 - 3. Incarnation
 - 4. Salvation
 - 5. Gospel
 - 6. Salvation
 - 7. Kingdom of God

AIMS OF Religious Education

- To offer a full and positive presentation of living Christianity with an opportunity for encountering the Christian life in Anglican and other contexts.
- To appreciate the religious dimension of life and provide opportunities for spiritual growth.
- To promote an awareness and insight into other faith communities in Britain and in the world.

We consider Valuing All God's Children and Church of England Vision for Education 2016 in our drive to ensure good practice and embed these themes within our teaching and learning.

MANAGEMENT

The RE Subject Leader is responsible for:

- A detailed scheme of work showing how the 7 dimensions of Christianity are developed across each key stage; as well as knowledge of other faiths.
- Supporting staff in their planning and delivery of RE
- Ensuring Religious Education has status within the school
- Keeping in touch with developments and disseminating this information as appropriate
- Ensuring an equitable budget
- Auditing and recording current resources, purchasing new resources

- Undertaking personal development in this area and ensuring there is provision for staff training
- Monitoring RE provision, practice and outcomes. This will take the form of staff discussion.
- Ensuring assessment strategies are in place to identify standards.

CURRENT PRACTICE

St. Mary's is a CE school and its RE teaching will reflect its overall Christian ethos.

- From September 2023 RE is delivered by class teachers to pupils in Year 1 to Year 6 (in smaller teaching groups of Y1/2, 3/4 and 5/6). Early years focus on the foundation concepts.
- In Reception Christianity predominates, in Y1/2 Christianity and Judaism are explored and in Y3/4 Christianity, Judaism and Islam are explored and compared. Other faiths are also included in the termly 'Focus on Faith' activities.
- RE is delivered weekly as a discrete lesson; enhanced by half termly whole school 'Focus on Faith' activities; followed when appropriate by an opportunity for an RE focus in Literacy.
- Year 6 pupils undertake RE lessons about what it means to belong to a Christian community. These are led by Rev Dawn and include an introduction to confirmation.
- Differentiation is accounted for by class teacher short term planning; this may include where pupils requiring additional support i.e. with an EHCP will have an additional adult providing 1:1 support.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR RE

- The current RE Leader (Mrs Higgins) and Diocesan advisor to prepare a subject action plan and to audit RE provision.

Policy written by RE Leader and Head of School