

St Mary's CE Primary School



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Vision

At St. Mary's, we believe that ordinary people can choose to be extraordinary.

We believe that all children should have the opportunity to hear God's Word. They should be given space to question and reflect upon the challenges set out for us. All members of our school community are encouraged to speak to God daily. Children should learn to respect and show tolerance for other religions through knowledge and understanding of their beliefs and customs.

Aims

Our aim is to provide a challenging, creative and stimulating religious education to all pupils. The pupils of St Mary's School are very open and inquisitive about their beliefs and eager to learn more. We aspire to equip children with the skills and knowledge to make their own choices whilst still remaining respectful of those who do not share their beliefs. Ultimately, we wish to build children's confidence in their faith to the extent that they feel comfortable sharing it in the wider community.

Curriculum

- We follow the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education 'Questful RE' syllabus 2017. This is taught through a rolling programme; a 3 year cycle in KS1 and a 4 year cycle in KS2.
- 'Questful RE' encourages a broad and in-depth study of Christianity and major religions. Atheism and Humanism are also studied.
- Foundation Stage pupils follow the syllabus but complete adapted activities from the EYFS units linked to the Year 1 areas of learning.

- We aim to link the learning in the class room with events in the Christian calendar.
 - Children are encouraged to apply their learning from the curriculum into their wider lives and across the school, for example in Collective Worship.

Teaching and Learning

- RE is taught weekly in both KS1 and KS2 for one hour. Where appropriate, it may be taught in a block to allow for more depth and focus or to fit in with events taking place in school.
- Teachers plan activities which inspire and engage pupils and awaken their curiosity. Children are asked to think creatively and raise questions. Lessons should give children the opportunity to consider both sides of RE; learning about religion and learning from religion.
- Activities and questioning are differentiated to allow all children to access the curriculum at their own personal level.
- Children are encouraged to be creative and show off their own passion and faith in their RE work.
- St Mary's school has strong links with St Mary's church, Newchurch. We frequently visit the church for acts of worship.
- Visitors are invited into school to speak to children about their own faith or initiatives when appropriate and linked to the children's learning.
- Trips are organised to bring the classroom learning to life.

Inclusion

All children, whatever their ability, have an entitlement to RE. Careful planning, adapted learning, a variety of teaching methods and learning styles are all considered.

Assessment

We have built our own assessment procedure to highlight success and gaps which can then be addressed in future RE units. These take the form of a triangulated teacher assessment to determine whether children are entering, developing or have secured each objective for the unit. Alongside this, children in KS2 complete a self-evaluation at the end of the unit to reflect on what they have learnt.

Monitoring of RE

The subject leader monitors RE by collecting samples of work, observing lessons,

scrutinising pupil's workbooks alongside scrapbooks and carrying out pupil interviews. She works with the KS1 teacher to plan effectively and assess at three points during the academic year.

The subject leader also works closely with our Blackburn Diocese Adviser to ensure standards are maintained and our approach to learning remains current. Mrs Stevenson attends regular training/CPD delivered by the diocese.

Right of Withdrawal

RE is an important part of the school curriculum and is delivered in an inclusive, balanced, and educational manner that reflects a range of religions and worldviews. However, parents/carers have the legal right to request that their child be withdrawn from all or part of RE lessons. Any such request should be made in writing to the Headteacher, who will discuss the request with parents/carers to ensure they are fully informed about the RE curriculum and its aims. The school will respect this right and make appropriate arrangements for pupils who are withdrawn from lessons.

Reviewed in Jan 2026