

Religious Education Policy



'Learning Through Faith'

Newchurch St Mary's CE Primary Academy

Vision

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 revised syllabus 2017. This is taught through a rolling programme; a 2 year cycle in KS1 and a 4 year cycle in KS2.

Foundation Stage pupils also follow the syllabus but complete differentiated activities linked to the EYFS 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 and Reverend Julie Smith is a familiar face around the school.
- Visitors are invited in to 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, differentiated work, a variety of teaching methods and learning styles will all be considered.

Assessment

St Mary's has moved away from assessing children using a level. We use the Blackburn Diocesan 8 level scale to monitor children's progression of skills. This takes account of both AT1 (learning about religion) and AT2 (learning from religion.) The scales are used both to assess children's progress and also to inform teachers' planning.

Monitoring of RE

The subject leader monitors RE by collecting samples of work, observing lessons, scrutinising pupil's work books and carrying out pupil interviews. They also check and evaluate the planning.