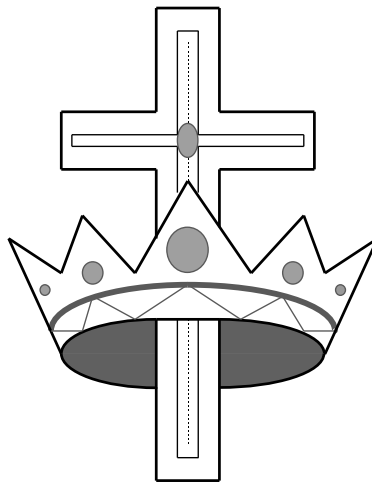


# SS Mary and Michael Catholic Primary School

## Environmental Education Policy

Written	October 2018
Updated	September 2021



We are all unique and can reach our full potential in the Loving Family of SS Mary and Michael Catholic Primary School.

Walking with Jesus, caring for each other we learn together in the warmth of our school home.

SS Mary and Michael Primary School is committed to educating its pupils about the importance of respecting the environment, and to promoting sustainable development. The school recognises that it has a duty to prepare its children with the knowledge and skills to look after our planet, to manage the world's resources wisely and to make a positive contribution by improving its local area. We therefore aim to develop good habits and behaviour patterns amongst staff and pupils.

### **Subject Aims**

The curriculum for Environmental Education aims to:

- ensure that sustainability is covered consistently throughout the school in our curriculum.
- use the school grounds, including the garden area, as a source of teaching and learning opportunities for pupils.

It is important for the school community to have an awareness and understanding of the effects of their actions upon the environment in which they live, work and relax. In order to do this, we need to take responsibility for our own actions and we need to have a sense of duty and care for the world in which we live.

We encourage both staff and pupils to think about their environment and how their actions impact upon the national and global picture. To this end we encourage and reinforce environmental education in all aspects of everyday life and the wider community.

The ways in which we will strive towards this goal is to reduce the amount of materials we use and waste we produce, recycle and re-use materials wherever possible, restore what is deemed to have been destroyed and respect our neighbours and our environment.

### **Planning and Teaching**

Environmental Education is directly referred to in the National Curriculum for KS1 and KS2 in Science, Geography and PSHE. At SS Mary and Michael Primary School, Environmental Education is not taught in isolation, but is linked to all areas of the primary curriculum, for example; Geography, Science, English, Mathematics, Art, D&T, Music, History, PSHE, Drama and PE.

Implementation of Environmental Education is carried out by cross curricular reference through the Key Stages of the National Curriculum. Each year group plans collaboratively to decide which topics they will study throughout the year, identifying links within subjects for the teaching of Environmental Education.

## **EYFS**

During the Foundation Stage, children will engage in activities that:

- Encourage exploration and observation of the local environment.
- Encourage problem solving, decision making, and critical thinking.
- Encourage children to think and respond to what they see, touch, smell and feel in the local environment.
- Explore the visual elements in natural and man-made objects including resources from their locality and different cultures.

## **Entitlement**

All our pupils will work at the levels appropriate to their ability.

## **Resources**

Outdoor Environment:

Research shows that school grounds have a significant effect on children. These grounds are the one external environment to which all children have regular access, and for some of our children, they provide the only regular experience of the outdoors. They may provide unique experiences, opportunities and resources for teaching and learning in a safe and supervised external environment. We aim for our grounds to be a stimulating and enjoyable place for work and play.

The outdoor environment provides the following benefits to the children's learning:

- Enriches all areas of the curriculum, particularly Science by providing a unique and varied context for learning.
- Stimulates motivation and curiosity, encourage creativity and help pupils to develop a broad range of skills, competencies, knowledge and understanding.
- Affords opportunities for pupils to work together with adults for the common good, therefore encouraging a sense of pride, ownership and responsibility.

## **Assessment and Record Keeping**

Our school is hoping to gain a Green Flag award. Observation and discussion of children around the school will be a good indication of the success of some of these strategies. Events such as assemblies, school displays and the children's work will be another way of measuring the effectiveness of this policy. Provide extra-curricular activities, including Eco-council and gardening club, to teach students the importance of sustainability and methods of doing this.

## Curriculum Leadership

The subject lead supports colleagues in the teaching of Environmental Education through:

- leading INSET
- giving advice
- giving guidance
- modelling
- action planning

Sharing information acquired across courses or other sources that may be beneficial to staff.

Listening to the 'pupil voice' and acting on outcomes.

Undertaking 'learning walks' to ensure an appropriate level of exposure of subject area around school.

Reporting to governors when appropriate.

The subject leader is also responsible for evaluating strengths and weaknesses in the subject and indicating areas for further improvement.