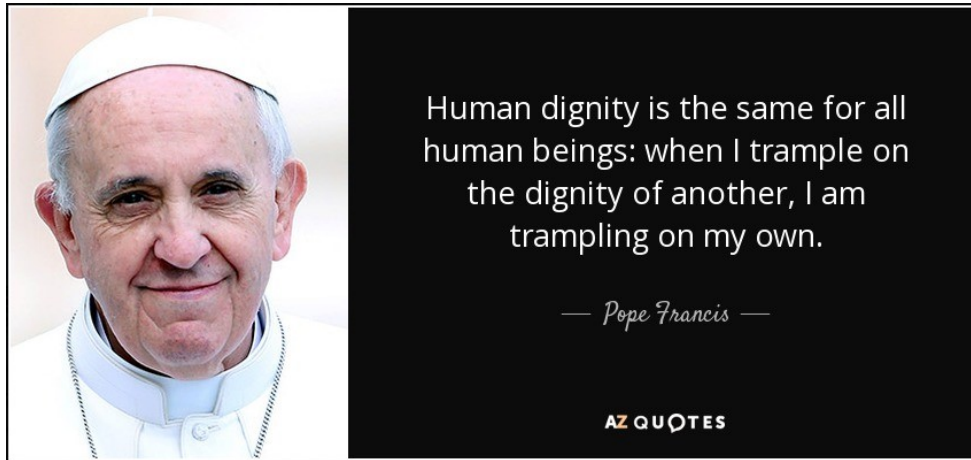


St. Mark's Catholic Primary School



Religious Education Policy

Proudly and joyfully, we love, live and learn as God's children.



In the St. John Bosco Multi Academy, we are committed to offering quality Catholic education to the children, families and communities that we serve. Our purpose as a company is to ensure that our schools provide caring safe, distinctively Catholic environments within which every child can grow, learn and achieve.

Commitment to equality:

We are committed to providing a positive working environment which is free from prejudice and unlawful discrimination and any form of harassment, bullying or victimisation. We have developed a number of key policies to ensure that the principles of Catholic Social Teaching in relation to human dignity and dignity in work become embedded into every aspect of school life and these policies are reviewed regularly in this regard.

Rationale:

'The Catholic vision of education promotes the dignity and freedom of every person as created in the image and likeness of God.' Religious Education is a core subject in St Mark's Catholic school. It must engage the pupil's intellect, heart and imagination. The beliefs and values studied in Catholic R.E. should draw together every aspect of the life of a Catholic school. Religious Education should also promote tolerance, respect, understanding and knowledge of different faiths.

Pupil Entitlement:

Pupils will be taught 10% of the curriculum timetable in Reception, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. This core entitlement will be enhanced by: Sacramental preparation, Whole School Collective Worship, Masses, liturgies, school prayer groups and mission team work.

Aims of Religious Education:

1. To support every member of the school community on their journey of faith by developing this faith when it is present and to facilitate its emergence when it is not.
2. To promote knowledge and understanding of Catholic faith and life.
3. To develop religiously literate young people.
4. To encourage pupils to be aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.
5. To promote the dignity and freedom of every person as created in the image and likeness of God by making pupils aware of other denominations and faiths.
6. To experience feelings of wonder and awe to the natural world.

7. To develop moral and ethical convictions and ask questions about the meaning and purpose of existence.

Provision:

The programmes of study as outlined in the Catholic Directory will form the basis of the scheme of work. The Learning and Growing as the People of God scheme will form the main basis of teaching and learning. Teaching methods may vary but should be pupil- centred starting with the pupil's own situation and experience. R.E. lessons are identified as being special and reflective lessons. Lessons are based on the four areas of study:

Revelation:

- To understand the importance of story in the human quest for meaning and the scripture as expression of how we try to understand the nature of God.
- To consider the personal and the community response to God.
- To consider the sacred writings of other faith communities.

Church:

- Belonging to a community at various levels.
- That having been created in the image of the True God we are called to be that community which is the Church.
- Church is a witness to the Good News of Jesus.
- Relationships between the Catholic Church and other denominations and faiths.

Life in Christ:

- Values which underpin beliefs and action in the human family.
- Following Christ is a call to holiness.
- Reflecting the values which Christ expressed in his life and teaching.
- Explore the values and way of life of other world faiths.

Celebration:

- Celebrations which mark the development and growth of each person.
- Spiritual growth and development is rooted in the church's sacramental life which is expressed in sign and symbol throughout the liturgical year.
- The place of prayer in the life of the Catholic Community Knowledge and understanding of prayer in other faiths.

We should always be conscious of the need to foster the partnership between home, school and parish. This partnership should be our hallmark.

Prayer and Liturgy

Please refer to Prayer and Liturgy Policy.

Monitoring/Assessment and Evaluation

Monitoring is carried out by the R.E. Leader and supported by the senior leadership team.

Assessment takes the form of a four-year cycle with the focus on:

- The liturgical Year.
- Scripture.
- Celebrating the Sacraments.
- Living as Christians.

Assessment is completed at the end of every unit and 3 units per year are assessed more formally, with samples of children's work submitted to the R.E. Leader to check judgements. Whole school moderation of work takes place in staff meetings at least once per year. Staff are also required to assess the children's R.E. work against the 'Age Related Standards in Religious Education', approved for use in Catholic Schools by The Department of Catholic Education and Formation of The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. Teachers are required to assess a piece of work for one child, from each unit of work completed, against the age-related standards. Copies of

this assessment are submitted to the R.E. Leader and moderated by the whole staff to ensure agreement and consistency. A self-evaluation form is completed for R.E that falls in line and supports judgements that are required for a CSI inspection.

Equal Opportunities

The fair and equal treatment of all individuals irrelevant of race, creed, disability or gender, are integral to the Gospels' Revelations and the Church's message and is central to our school mission statement. All children are given equal access to the Religious Education curriculum, promoting their understanding to their full potential. A variety of prayer and worship activities are used to try to meet all children's different needs e.g. whole School, whole class, group, pair and individual prayer, also different styles of prayer from formal liturgies to private reflective prayer.

Governing Body

RE together with prayer and liturgy is always a key part of the School Development Plan, and is reported upon termly as part of the Head Teacher's Report to Governors. Governors are also invited to conduct learning walks and join with other members of the whole school community in the celebration of collective worship, Mass and attend INSET Days and staff meetings relating to the Catholic Life of the School. Before every governors' meetings, governors and staff join together for prayer and liturgy planned and lead by the Principal and RE lead.

Monitoring and Review of this Policy

The RE leaders will monitor the implementation of the policy. All staff will be involved in evaluating the effectiveness of this policy in helping to improve standards of Religious Education within the school. This evaluation will inform the process for reviewing this policy. Pupils will be involved in reviewing and evaluating RE in school with the RE leader and Principal.

The next scheduled review date for this policy is September 2025.