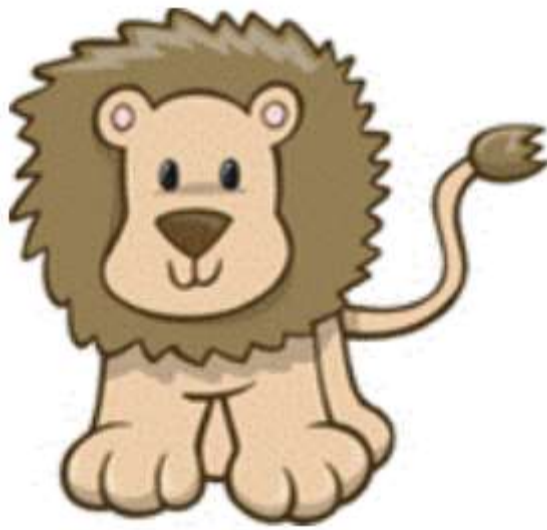


*St. Mark's Catholic
Primary School*



RE POLICY

*Proudly and Joyfully,
We love, live and learn as God's Children*

Introduction

As a Catholic School we strive to bring faith and culture together, relating and applying the freshness of Christ's message to human living today. RE in our school is not solely taught as a curriculum area but as a way of life, promoting the gospel values, giving praise and reverence to God. It is an opportunity for everyone to develop their own personal faith through word, action and to enter into a communion with God, made possible, through the divine work of Jesus his Son and the witness of the Holy Spirit. This is achieved through liturgy, collective worship, assemblies, R.E. lessons, Citizenship and roles and responsibilities throughout the school, which deepen our Catholic life and highlight our belief that Christ is at the centre of all that we do.

Religious Education will take as its starting point the child's individual appreciation of an inner world of meaning and reflection – the spiritual dimension of being human. Our aim in school is to promote the dignity and freedom of every person as created in the image and likeness of God and to develop, nurture and deepen each child's faith journey, no matter what stage of that journey they are at.

We recognise that our children come from a range of backgrounds and abilities and that our teaching of Religious Education will reflect this. Through the teaching and way of life we hope to promote in the school, we aim to actively implement our school's mission statement, fulfil the aims of our school and live the gospel of our Blessed Lord within our school.

Inclusion

All children have equal access to the RE curriculum, regardless of religion, gender, culture or special educational needs. Full participation in all aspects of RE is expected. As a Catholic school, Jesus Christ remains central to every aspect of school life. All pupils are educated in the beliefs and devotional practices of the Catholic Church. Parents and carers are advised that, in desiring a Catholic education for their child, it is expected that all pupils will participate in RE lessons.

Aims of Religious Education:

Religious Education in our school should:

- Nurture children's faith.
- Promote in a gradual way their understanding and appreciation of Catholic teaching and practice.
- Develop their involvement with the Church and School Community.
- Help pupils to develop personal, spiritual and moral values, respect and tolerance for others and an understanding of interdependence between groups and nations.
- Develop the skills required to be able to examine and reflect on religious belief and practice, including those from other faiths and cultures.
- Develop a sense of awe and wonder.
- Involve parents in the spiritual development of their child.

Curriculum Planning

St Mark's have adopted the Religious Education Programme "Learning and Growing as the People of God" devised by the Archdiocese of Birmingham. The aim of this programme is to explore the religious dimension of questions about life, dignity and purpose within the Catholic faith. Links are made with the pupil's own experiences and the experience of other faith traditions. The programme will raise questions and provide materials for reflecting on their own experiences and faith journey. It will help the pupils to explore the beliefs, values and way of life of the Catholic tradition and where appropriate, of other faith traditions.

The strategy is divided into four key areas:

- The Liturgical Year
- Scripture – both Old and New Testament
- The Sacraments
- Living as Christians, including prayer. (How we carry out Christ's mission)

RE is allocated 10% of the curriculum in line with the expectations of the Archdiocese of Birmingham.

The Long Term Planning is contained within the Programme of Study for each year group. The RE Department provides a long term plan in accordance with school term dates and the RE Leader allocates each unit to specific dates throughout the year. There is a certain amount of flexibility depending upon whether a specific group of pupils are preparing to receive the Sacraments. Medium Term Planning is the responsibility of the class teacher and is done on a unit by unit basis. Short Term Planning is recorded on a separate RE planning sheet, which is based upon Diocesan recommendations. The planning proforma provides opportunities for prayer and SMVSC.

Assessment in RE

Assessment and Monitoring

As part of the Learning and Growing as the People of God programme there is a four year cycle for assessment. The subject leader sets the assessment focus each year based on the Liturgical season, Sacraments, Scripture and Living as Christians. The assessment of individual pupils in RE is the responsibility of the class teacher. The information for the assessment focus is collated by the RE leader and significant groups are tracked within each strand. One child per year group is tracked throughout the units of work with levelled pieces of work being collated by the RE leader. This provides a standards bank against Diocesan Attainment targets (phases 1-4). There are two attainment targets: AT1 – Learning about religion. This includes three strands; knowledge and understanding of beliefs, celebration and ritual, social practices and way of life. AT2 – Learning from religion. This includes two strands; engagement with own and other peoples beliefs, engagement with questions of meaning and purpose.

Sacramental Preparation

Preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist currently takes place in Year Three. In addition to the Strategy, which is followed by all pupils, the school provides extra resources and sessions for the children to enable parents to take an active part in their children's preparation for these sacraments. Parents are invited to attend a series of meetings throughout the year with school leaders and the Parish Priest to help them to support their children at home. Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation takes place for Year 5 and Year 6 pupils on a bi-annual basis. The school uses the Diocesan programme "Gifted in the Spirit" for the Confirmandi alongside the Strategy which is followed by all pupils. The children and their parents are invited to attend a meeting at the start of the preparation.

Display

In order to highlight the importance of Religious Education and the Catholic ethos of the school, displays of a religious nature are evident in each classroom throughout the year. Similarly, such displays are presented in corridors and at appropriate times of the year in the school entrance and around the school building. Each classroom has an R.E. / Prayer focus area and it is updated with the appropriate liturgical colour on a regular basis. A crucifix, a candle, a Bible, statues, artefacts and posters are prominently displayed whenever possible and changed on a regular basis.

Roles and Responsibilities

The RE Co-ordinator will work in close consultation with the Headteacher, Phase Leaders, Parish Priest and RE Link Governor.

The RE Co-ordinator will:

- ✓ be familiar with each year group of 'Learning and Growing as the People of God' and be available to individual teachers for guidance and support and keep staff informed of current thinking in RE and any new materials / publications
- ✓ distribute and provide training on relevant assessment proformas
- ✓ attend RE courses and cluster meetings and share the information gained with staff
- ✓ arrange and organise INSET training to meet staffs' needs
- ✓ monitor the progress of the Birmingham Diocesan RE programme and assessment in line with the second edition of "Levels of Attainment in Religious Education" (Bishop's Conference 2007) throughout the school through evaluating planning, assessments and where possible classroom observations
- ✓ organise rotas for Masses in consultation with the Parish Priest and rotas for assemblies and liturgical displays
- ✓ be responsible for cataloguing materials and the management of the RE budget
- ✓ provide information and support Sacramental preparation and meetings with parents
- ✓ Monitor and evaluate prayer corners and RE related activities e.g. Rosary clubs, prayer bags with children and look to improve such activities based on feedback given.

- ✓ Liaise with other local Catholic Primary Schools to moderate work to quality assure RE judgements.

Class teacher:

- is responsible for daily collective acts of worship within the classroom
- is responsible for promoting home/school links via the prayer bag system and for updating the prayer bags to make them relevant to unit of work
- is responsible for seeking the opportunity to assess the children's knowledge and understanding
- should seek to attend courses and inform the RE Co-ordinator if they feel further development is needed
- responsible for delivering the programme of study ' Learning and Growing as the People of God' and utilise RE resources.

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