



St Mary's CE Primary School
N8 7QN

RE Policy

Jesus said, "Love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:12)

Our Vision

As we love, we flourish
As we flourish, we aspire
As we aspire, we achieve
Together, we are a family.

Friendship, Compassion, Hope, Wisdom, Community,
Endurance

Approved by:	Curriculum & Achievement Committee	Date: March 2024
Last reviewed on:	March 2024	
Next review due by:	January 2028	

St Mary's CE Primary School

POLICY FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Statement of intent

Through our daily school life at Mary's Church of England Primary School we encourage our children to build respectful friendships and demonstrate compassion towards others. Through this we build a strong community spirit, as together we are a family. Our teaching and learning provides the children with the wisdom and endurance they need to expand their minds socially, morally and academically so allowing them to achieve and flourish so living out the Church of England's belief of 'Life in all its fullness (John 10:10). We encourage our children to demonstrate and develop a dignity in their work and themselves which enables them to hope to aspire to be the best they can possibly be.

Religious Education in St Mary's has a unique position in the curriculum as an academic subject. It is a means for helping children explore the spiritual dimensions of life and to lay the foundations for understanding the Christian Faith and other World faiths. It is an integral part of school life and reflects on our School vision and Christian values. It embraces the Church of England's vision of educating for 'life in all its fullness' (John 10:10) through developing the children's skills and knowledge about Christianity and world faiths through the development of spiritual and moral wellbeing.

We maintain strong links with Hornsey Parish Church, Holy Innocents Church and the local community and we welcome the contribution of our Church Team who enrich religious education in our school.

The challenges that children will meet growing up in a multi-cultural, multi-faith society are addressed through planned units of work led by the LDBS curriculum. These offer the children a high quality & challenging RE curriculum that enables children to develop and explore their knowledge, understanding and respect for the traditions and culture of the Christian and other major world faiths.

The teaching of Religious Education provides the children with a rich and varied RE curriculum which takes into account the age and understanding of the child and, whenever possible, is closely related to their first hand experiences.

To that end, we particularly welcome and encourage both visits to Churches and different religious place of worship and visitors (DBS or list 99 checked) from different faiths into our community. Also, as we respect all children in our community, we offer the parents the right to withdraw their children from any lessons, whether RE, SMSC or RSHE based.

The main strands to be followed are:

1. Christian Teaching:

Teaching directly related to Christianity and the work of Jesus Christ. e.g. The Life and Teachings of Jesus; the Church Today; enquiry through Biblical text analysis; how the teachings of Jesus relate to our school Vision & Christian Values, Christian festivals and inquiry into other World faiths and their celebrations etc.

2. Christian Community:

Christian living; Caring and Helping Others; Relationships: in school/with Church/Home and Community, Caring and Responsibility for the environment, community action projects.

3. Thematic:

Cross-curricula approaches developing an understanding that RE is not an isolated subject but is related to other areas of the curriculum, especially via the humanities, art, drama and song.

4. Other Faiths:

Awareness and respect for the different world faiths are covered through each year group. Visits to other faith places of worship and visitors from such places take place in accordance with expectations from the LDBS curriculum.

Policy Themes:

The LDBS in its publication 'Guidelines for Religious Education', identified Religious Education as follows, which schools should include in their curriculum:

1. The Bible.
2. The Life of Jesus.
3. Celebrations in the Christian Year.
4. Exploring the Church.
5. The other five major faiths.
6. The Creative Arts and Religious Education.
7. Bible and traditional stories
8. Symbols and Sacraments.
9. Understanding what it means to be a Christian.

All these areas of experience form the basis of the religious education we provide in our school.

Aims for Religious Education:

Our school's RE aims relate to the Church of England's Statement of Entitlement and are guided by the LDBS syllabus. They include:

1. To provide an age appropriate RE curriculum so our children can give a thoughtful account of Christianity and other world faiths.
2. To ensure RE has a high profile and is taught once a week by the class teacher for up to 1.5hrs per week.
3. To ensure all staff have access to high quality training to enable the teaching of high quality RE lessons.
4. To ensure a good knowledge and understanding of Christianity is gained and understood to be a diverse and living faith through the exploration of practises and beliefs using the 'big question' approach to teaching and learning that critically engages with Biblical text.
5. To gain accurate knowledge and understanding of a range of world religions and views appreciating and respecting diversity within the religions and world views being studied.
6. To engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose led by the 'big question' approach to teaching and learning so enabling our children to express their views and opinions.
7. To develop religious literacy and enjoyment through Godly play, Biblical text analysis, exploring the 'big questions', discussion, reflection and creativity.
8. To embed spiritual, moral, social and cultural development as well as our School vision and Christian values through developing our relationship with God, discussions, reflections, creative activities and place of worship visits or visitors.
9. To recognise the influence of religion on Britain's cultural heritage and in the lives of individuals and societies in different times, cultures and places.
10. To allow our children to explore their own religious, spiritual and philosophical ways of living, their values and critical thinking.
11. To promote the spiritual, moral, cultural and intellectual development of pupils in our school and prepare them for the experiences and responsibilities of adult life through linking our teaching and learning to British values and RRS.
12. To provide teaching and learning which all can access.

13. To develop critical thinking through utilising the key stage appropriate RE skills through teaching and learning.
14. To develop a curiosity about spirituality and God through discovering the awe and wonder moments in the Bible as well as life, stillness, enquiry, questioning, discussion, creativity and reflection.
15. To extend their use of religious vocabulary and provide them with the ability to express their views and opinions through enquiry, discussion and reflection.
16. To develop the children's knowledge of the Parish Church and other World faith places of worship both as a building and a community of people who share the same faith.
17. To ensure that attainment and progress are on a par with English and has a high profile in the school.

Assessment:

Children are assessed throughout the year on their understanding of different religious beliefs and practises (learning about) and drawing comparisons to other religions (learning from). We assess their ability to compare different ideas to their own beliefs and how these beliefs impact the wider world.

This is done by:

1. The initial 'Big Question' enquiry to gauge what the children know and need to know.
2. Weekly teaching of the vocabulary relating to each unit.
3. Asking challenging questions.
4. Quizzing children on previous learning.
5. Revisiting the 'Big Question' at the end of each unit to see what progress has been made from the initial 'big question' enquiry.
6. Formal assessment at the end of each unit of work against beliefs, practises and meaning.

Curriculum balance and time

1. To provide a high quality religious education curriculum, which is two thirds or more Christianity.
2. To ensure teaching and learning is up to 1.5 hours a week.
3. RE is given its own curriculum time slot weekly
4. RE is taught by the class teacher.

We look to provide religious education for all pupils in accordance with the Church of England's Statement of Entitlement (February 2019), the provisions of The Education Reform Acts, SIAMS 2018 and with the support and guidance of the LDBS, Clergy, Governors.

Related Policies

Collective Worship policy

SMSC policy

SRE policy

RRS policy

Wellbeing and mental health policy