



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY



**- Set sail to succeed-**

## ***Mission Statement***

***Through nurturing trust and strong relationships, our learning adventure will see each and every one of us thrive in God's love.***

## **Our school values**

**Believe, Love, Respect, Trust.**

## **Intent:**

- To know that God loves every one of us – and he wants us to do good in his name.
- To know that we belong to a diverse community of faith that encourages, nurtures and supports our spirituality.
- Through living the Gospel values and following in Jesus' footsteps: our beliefs will inform our actions by helping us:
  - To be a champion of justice for all
  - To be a good steward of God's creation; thus reflecting Pope Francis' encyclical (18 June 2015) Laudato Si'
  - To be a "witness of the Gospel wherever they find themselves by the way they live." (Pope Francis)
  - To use, celebrate and give thanks for their unique talents and those of others.
  - To be spiritually literate, successful in RE and confident in expressing our views on faith.
  - To be able to explore, take initiative, ask questions, investigate and evaluate ideas to work constructively with others.
- We aim to create memories of great happiness that will live with us throughout our lives, inspired by experiences that are rich and varied.
- Give the children opportunities to join in celebrations in the Catholic tradition (Festivals, worship and liturgies) and opportunities to lead and actively participate.
- Encourage the children to develop an understanding of sacraments as a celebration of Christ being present in every moment of their lives.
- Create an environment where prayer is valued, supported and developed.
- Encourage reflection and investigation by the pupils using the skills and strategies of our RE Learning and the vocabulary taught in their 'Relationship and Sex Education' (RSE) lessons.

## **Implementation**

### **1. Worship and Liturgy**

Prayer and worship are central to the life of our school, along with other areas of RE and Catholic Life.

#### **1.1 Prayer and reflection**

- Children have opportunities to pray and reflect at various points of the day. These will vary from private prayer, group prayers to formal prayers in the tradition of the Church.
- Each classroom has a focal prayer space to support children's prayer and reflection.
- The Spiritual Garden is used as a place for quiet reflection and organised prayer, for example shared Rosary during May.
- Prayers are offered at the beginning of staff and Governors' meetings

#### **1.2 Acts of Worship**

The school comes together in a variety of ways (class, key stage and whole school) to pray, celebrate and meditate on God's word.

Acts of Worship are led by different members of the school community, including the children and visitors including the "Open the Book" team from the local Parish.

Assemblies follow the liturgical year, our school Values programme or a current issue or project that relates to the whole school.

#### **1.3 Masses and Liturgies**

The school comes together to celebrate Mass at the start and end of the term, feast days in the Church's calendar and other important events such as Harvest or first Holy Communion.

Other feasts and celebrations may be marked with a Mass or liturgical service.

Mass is celebrated in the school hall fortnightly with a termly trip to St Peter's to celebrate mass in the Church.

Parents and carers are invited with parishioners to join the children in celebrating Mass with their child's class or the whole school.

The children join in with simple liturgies during May and October for Mary, Advent and Lent.  
Reconciliation

The school celebrates Mass and other liturgies alongside other schools in the St John the Baptist Catholic Multi-Academy Trust and the Diocese.

## 2. Teaching and Learning

The Curriculum Directory for RE in Catholic Schools is the foundation of our RE programmes of study. St Mary and St Peter uses the Diocesan Primary Religious Education Curriculum to fulfil our aims and objectives. This uses two schemes of learning “Come and See” and “The Way, The Truth and The Life” and include 2 weeks of learning about Judaism and 2 weeks of a second faith. This Curriculum offers opportunity for the children to develop deepening understanding by the use of cyclical themes that link to the liturgical year. RE is timetabled to provide 10% of the teaching time in the school day and where applicable links are made with other curriculum areas.

Our Religious Education follows the same high-quality provision of teaching and learning as we offer in the rest of the curriculum, as laid down in our teaching and learning policy. We believe that all children should have the opportunity to experience religion through a broad and varied range of opportunities including:

- Art
- Music
- Artefacts
- Collective worship
- The natural world
- Visits and visitors
- Opportunities to ask and respond to ‘Big Questions’
- Relationships and Sex Education

Children’s progress is supported through carefully planned learning, where the use of big questions at the start of a unit of learning supports the staff in having a clear picture of prior knowledge that they are building on. Differentiated “I can Statements” using “driver words”, which increase in cognitive demand, offer opportunity for differentiation and challenge. Use of these statements also enable the children to assess their learning and set their own next steps in learning as appropriate to their age and stage of learning.

Celebration of the children’s learning and achievement in RE, includes feedback given in lessons, sharing of work and learning with other year groups and the whole school and a special RE certificate given to children who have shown a particularly high standard of learning and progress in RE

### **Impact**

Teachers regularly monitor and use formative assessment of the children’s learning in RE in line with the School teaching and learning policy

Attainment is currently measured using age descriptor as laid out by the Bishop's Conference Department for Catholic Education and Formation. The school is using new assessment framework and this used to support staff in planning, delivering and assessing children in RE.

Termly a piece of RE work is collected and added to each child's RE Portfolio that travels with them through the school and shows how their learning progresses over their time at St Mary and St Peter School. Alongside this, teachers use evidence from the "I can Statements" and the assessment framework to support them in making a PITA (Point In Time Assessment) on Pupil Asset (The schools Assessment System)

Children are given opportunities to reflect on and evaluate their own academic and spiritual development. Peer and self-assessment are both important and effective parts of the assessment process. Formal written reporting to parents takes place at the end of each school year.

Children's progress is tracked by the RE leader and reported to the Head of School, Executive Head and School Governors.

The RE leader is responsible for the monitoring, evaluating and the development of RE, RSE and Collective Worship, with the support of the SLT.

**Next review date: November 2022**