



RE Policy

Mission Statement:

*'In St Margaret Mary's School
we welcome everyone into our community
in order to live, love and learn
together in the light and example of the life of Christ.'*

Co-ordinator: Mrs Kirsty Hannon-Dalby

Mission

In St Margaret Mary School, we welcome everyone into our community, in order to live love and learn in the light and example of the life of Christ.

Our school mission statement is at the heart of all that we do. It forms the basis of our relationships with all of our St Margaret Mary community. Hence it is also the basis for the teaching and learning of RE which will be explained fully in this document.

Aims of Religious Education

'Religious education is more than just one subject in the curriculum. In Catholic schools it is the core of the "core curriculum".'

(Pope St. John Paul II, 1988)

At the heart of Catholic education lies the Christian vision of the human person. This vision is explored in religious education (RE) making RE the core subject in our school.

The Religious Education Curriculum Directory (RECD 2012) makes the aims of Religious Education explicit:

1. To present a comprehensive content which is the basis of knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith;
2. To enable pupils continually to deepen their religious and theological understanding and be able to communicate this effectively;
3. To present an authentic vision of the Church's moral and social teaching so that pupils can make a critique of the underlying trends in contemporary culture and society;
4. To raise pupils' awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities in order to respect and understand them;
5. To develop the critical faculties of pupils so that they can relate their Catholic faith to daily life;
6. To stimulate pupils' imagination and provoke a desire for personal meaning as revealed in the truth of the Catholic faith;
7. To enable pupils to relate the knowledge gained through Religious Education to their understanding of other subjects in the curriculum;
8. To bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture.

The outcome of excellent Religious Education is religiously literate and engaged young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills – appropriate to their age and capacity – to reflect spiritually, and think ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life (RECD 2012 p6).

(Religious Education Curriculum Directory: <https://www.catholiceducation.org.uk/about-us/publications>)

Entitlement and Provision

Religious Education is a core subject and thus allocated 10% of the schools curriculum time for taught RE lessons.

For both KS1 and KS2 this equates to 2 hours and 30 minutes per week over a minimum of two taught sessions.

In EYFS RE is also taught as a discrete subject separate to the curriculum and the children's work is recorded in their own exercise books.

The celebration of Mass, assemblies, hymn practice does not count towards the weekly provision of the RE curriculum

In all year groups and classes RE is timetabled and occurs at a set time and place each week. There are a number of exceptions to this regular timetabling such as Holy Week, where the entire timetable is handed over to the teaching and learning of RE in what is an important moment in the liturgical year.

Scheme of Work for RE

The school follows the Diocesan strategy for Religious Education 'Learning and Growing as the People of God'. The strategy covers the following four areas;

1. Revelation: teaching about God's self-revelation
2. Church: about the Communion of life in Christ
3. Celebration: about living the Christian Mystery in worship and prayer
4. Life in Christ: about the search for holiness and truth

Our school is proud to have St Margaret Mary as our patron and the children learn about her work at the beginning of each school year and upon her feast day of 16th October. She is also prayed to and referenced in our whole school assemblies, class prayer services, phase and whole school Masses

Our school mission statement is at the heart of all that we do in St Margaret Mary's school and is referenced in each assembly, prayer service and daily prayers. The children know our school mission statement and know our role is to improve the life of others around us. Our opening piece of work in our RE books is a reflection upon the mission of our school.

St Margaret Mary's school also teach, reflect and live out the Jesuit Pupil Profile Virtues which seek to "propose a simple but challenging statement of the qualities we seek to develop in pupils" which lead to the "improvement in living and learning for the greater glory of God and the common good." "Gospel Virtues," are introduced at the start of each half term and the children are invited to reflect upon ways in which they can show and share each of these virtues.

Sacramental Education

First Holy Communion and Reconciliation

Preparing the children to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion is the joint responsibility of all members of staff and Father Simon our parish priest.

The programme begins in the spring term with a workshop for all Year 3 parents. This workshop is led by the RE leader and is an opportunity to reflect on the Sacrament of Reconciliation, what it means and what it entails. The children will then make their First Confession during the season of Lent. At the end of the spring term the children will then be presented with their certificates to mark receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The preparation for receiving Holy Communion has many facets, lessons in class, school Masses and parental workshops all enable the children to get ready for their First Holy Communion.

The day of Holy Communion is the most important day in the school year. A day when the whole school comes together to celebrate receiving Jesus for the first time. The children will later be presented with their certificates towards the end of the school year when they can be congratulated on making their First Confession and First Holy Communion.

Confirmation

During their final year at St. Margaret Mary's the Year 6 children are prepared to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The children are prepared following a school based programme with weekly lessons recommended to us by the Archdiocese in the Learning and Growing scheme of work. This programme looks at all different aspects of the Sacrament, the symbols of Confirmation and what they mean, its links with other Sacraments and what it now means to become grown up members of the church. This is supplemented with parental workshops exploring the importance, meaning and relevance of the sacrament in our modern world.

The autumn term sees the children receive a visit from the Bishop in school, when he will meet them and ask questions of them making sure that they are ready and prepared. The evening itself is a great celebration with the whole school family coming together to mark the Confirmation of our Year 6 children.

Other Faiths and Religions

The children learn about other faiths and religions through opportunities in the Learning and Growing scheme (e.g. - Judaism in YR4 Unit- Jesus teaches us to pray) and through different opportunities throughout the year on relevant days such as Eid, Holi and Hannukah.

Visits are also planned and provided to different religious places of worship such as a synagogue, mosque and temple in Year 4, 6 and 2 respectively.

Catholic Curriculum

St Margaret Mary uses “Building the Kingdom” as a way of incorporating aspects of Catholic Social Teaching into and across our curriculum. This emphasises a series of questions which require deeper thought, debate and questioning from the children in order to relate what they have learnt to answer questions which relate to modern life. This method of questioning the children within our topics also helps to draw out elements of SMVSC and asks questions of our mission statement in how we can make things better for others.

Planning

Long term planning

The Long-term Plan indicates which units are to be taught, when and for how long. This is the responsibility of the RE Subject Leader. A template is provided by the Diocesan Education Service each year and this is used as a guide for the RE lead who identifies the focused assessment unit for each year.

Medium term planning

Medium term planning is the responsibility of the class teacher and units will be completed according to the long-term plan.

Units are obtained from the Learning and Growing scheme which is stored centrally upon the Staff Common shared area for RE

Short term planning

Short-term planning (weekly planning) is the responsibility of the class teacher is completed on a weekly basis and stored centrally upon the RE area for planning.

Short term planning forms can be found upon the shared area for RE for the relevant year/phase

Equal Opportunities and SEND

RE follows the agreed school policy for Equal Opportunities and SEND which can be found upon the school shared area.

Marking and Feedback, Assessment, Recording and Reporting

Each piece of work that the children produce is marked. There are many opportunities for the learning of the children to be extended and developed through the addition of Gap Tasks and deeper questioning which allow the children to interact with their learning and to question their own understanding of the task involved and the deeper meaning of their work.

End of Unit Assessments

The Monitoring and Assessment Focus follows a four year rolling programme, set by the Diocesan Education Service on the following themes: The Liturgical Year, Scripture, The Sacraments and Living as Christians. End of Unit assessments are carried out by class teachers three times a year as identified in the Assessment schedule.

Assessments are stored recorded upon an Excel document provided by the Diocesan Education Service and this is stored in the Assessment for the relevant year. A copy of this Assessment data is printed and stored in the Assessment folder of the RE lead.

Age Related Standards.

Children are assessed against age related documents which assess their knowledge and understanding of AT1, AT2 and AT3 (UKS2). Focused children from each class are tracked across the year and samples of work from these children are collected and stored in an assessment folder which is stored by the RE Lead. All children are assessed according to age related standards for the three designated Focus Units for each year. These assessment are found with RE books at the start of the appropriate unit.

The children are also assessed according to the Learning and Growing scheme, using a traffic light system. These are found upon the shared area and a printed copy is produced and kept at the end of the year by the RE Lead.

Reporting to parents.

Children's work and progress is discussed with the parents at two parental evenings, one in the Autumn and one in the Spring term. A written report is produced for parents at the end of the school year and a further opportunity for discussion is timetabled following the delivery of the written report.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring is carried out and lead by RE lead. Other members of the school community are involved in the monitoring of RE such as Governors and SLT.

The monitoring of RE follows the monitoring schedule which forms part of the RE SEF which is produced and updated each year. The current schedule can be found upon the SEF and a separate copy is found in the shared area. Findings are shared with staff through performance management meetings, timetabled individual feedback and staff meetings. Governors are informed termly through RE and Catholic Life Governors meetings. (minutes can be found in Governing Body Meeting folder).

Resources

All resources for RE are held centrally in a specific cupboard where all teaching staff have access to complement and enhance their teaching and display.

RE Displays

Each classroom will have a sacred area/prayer focus which will guide the children in prayer and their learning. It will be prominently placed within the room; clean, dignified and well presented; the prayer area will reflect the current Liturgical Season and/or the current RE unit. There will be an appropriate selection of religious objects upon display and an appropriate Bible/bible story will be displayed as well as appropriate prayers relevant to the children and unit of work and liturgical season.

There will also be a Gospel Virtues display which will display the current virtues and children's work supporting these virtues. This may form part of the class prayer focus or be a separate display altogether.

Links with Parents and Parish

Parents and guardians are the first educators and they are in partnership with the teachers who have the professional skills to help parents in teaching Catholic faith. We endeavour to do this in an atmosphere of trust and confidence. During the year, parents and friends are invited to join us at many celebrations. At the beginning of the school year we hold a welcome mass for our new members of our community. At the end of the year we hold a goodbye ceremony to say farewell to anyone leaving us and to thank them for their contribution and commitment to the life of our school. Parents are always invited and welcomed to all our school and class celebrations which include class masses. Every Wednesday, each family is sent a copy of the Wednesday Word, which encourages children to explore the upcoming Gospels with their families.

We recognise that the school stands in the midst of the local community. At parish level, we take an active part in the holy days of obligation masses in the parish church. In addition, alternate year groups will attend a weekday mass at church every week. We give regular support to CAFOD and the St Chad's foodbank enabling our children to become aware of the needs of the wider world. This leads to an appreciation of the diversity of culture, races and faiths within the world.

The parish priest, Fr Simon, who is also a governor of the school, has responsibility for the pastoral care of the school community. The parish priest promotes the spiritual life of the 'school church'. In addition, the parish priest visits the school on a weekly basis to discuss various topics with the children.

Role of Religious Education Leader

The role of the RE lead follows the agreed guidance produced by the Diocese and can be found here.

Primary RE Subject Curriculum Leader https://www.bdes.org.uk/uploads/7/2/8/5/72851667/jd_-_primary_re_leader2.pdf

Health and Safety

The teaching and learning of RE follows the agreed whole school policy for the Health and Safety of the school. Specific references for the use of candles to wherever possible be battery operated when used in class. Class visits to Church for both Mass, Sacramental preparation are permitted as our Church is on site and accessible through the school car park.

Legal right of withdrawal

Parents of pupils in VA schools are permitted, by law, to request that their child is withdrawn from receiving all or part of religious education and/or collective worship given at the school and any such request shall stand until such time that the parent's request is withdrawn.

<https://www.catholiceducation.org.uk/schools/religious-education/item/1003623-right-of-withdrawal-from-re>

<file:///C:/Users/teacher/Downloads/RightZofZWithdrawalZfromZREZandZcollectiveZworship.pdf>

Link Governor

Father Simon Ellis is the Link Governor for RE

Review date

Policy to be reviewed July 2025