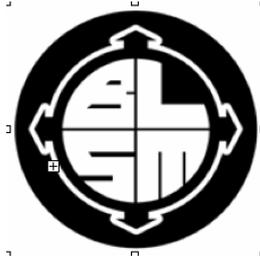


St Mary's CE Primary Academy

Policy for Religious Education



“Everything is possible for one who believes.” Mark 9:23

Dream, believe, achieve.

Head Teacher:	Erica Holt
Chair of Governors:	Mike Lovett
Date:	March 2021
Date of next review:	March 2023

Rationale

St Mary's promotes an important set of Christian values, which underpin our teaching in all areas of the curriculum, especially Religious Education. The teaching of Religious Education plays an important role in developing children's spiritual and moral welfare whilst learning and respecting the views and religious beliefs of others.

Aims

- Know about and understand Christianity as a diverse global living faith through the exploration of core beliefs, using an approach that critically engages with biblical text;
- Gain knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews, appreciating diversity, continuity and change within the religions and worldviews being studied;
- Engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose raised by human existence and experience;
- Have respect for other people's views and to celebrate diversity.
- Explore their own religious, spiritual and philosophical ways of living, believing and thinking.

Legal Framework

RE at St Mary's is provided in line with the legal requirements:

The basic curriculum will include the provision for Religious Education for all pupils on the school roll;

The content of RE shall reflect the fact that religious traditions in the UK are in the main Christian, while taking account of the teaching practices of the other principal religious traditions represented in the UK;

The RE which is provided shall be in accordance with the locally Agreed Syllabus for Northamptonshire (SACRE 2019-2024)

Scheme of work

The Northamptonshire Agreed Syllabus 2019-2024 forms the basis for teaching of RE at St Mary's. RE is based around termly units where Christianity and Judaism are the major religions studied at KS1, at Lower KS2 Christianity and Islam is studied and at Upper KS2 Hindu and Sikh traditions are explored. We offer opportunities for children of all abilities to develop their skills and knowledge in each unit, and we ensure that the planned progression built into the scheme of work offers the children an increasing challenge as they move through school.

Time Allocation

The time allocated for RE will be 45/60 minutes per week at KS1 and 1 hour per week at KS2. RE will form part of the planning for EYFS. RE curriculum times does not include Collective Worship.

Entitlement

All children, whatever their ability and including those with special needs follow the RE Syllabus. In this subject, learning opportunities are provided which enable all the pupils to make progress. Suitable learning challenges are set to respond to the different needs of each child. Where activities outside the classroom are planned, considerable time and attention is given to risk assessment so that the activity is available for all pupils.

Right of withdrawal

In keeping with the law, parents may withdraw their children from RE provided they give written notification to the school. The school will ensure that suitable supervision is provided.

Teachers may also exercise their right to withdraw from teaching RE if they wish to do so but must give notice of their intention in writing to the Governing Body.

Assessment

Objectives for each unit of work and lesson are shared with the children. Objectives and strategies for assessment are incorporated into short term planning.

Assessment is ongoing throughout written work, questioning and discussion.

Assessment is carried out informally twice a year in relation to National Curriculum level descriptors.

Feedback to pupils about their own progress in RE is achieved through the marking of work and verbal comments. Ongoing assessments and other significant features noted about RE are used in reporting to parents at the end of the year.

Monitoring and Review

Monitoring and reviewing the quality of the teaching of RE and standards of the children's work is the responsibility of the RE Subject Leader. Support for the teachers who implement this RE policy is provided by the Subject Leader who will also keep staff informed about current developments within the subject.

A strategic lead and direction for the subject within the school is provided by the Subject Leader who in turn will be supported by the designated Church Governor. The Governor participates in learning walks and work scrutiny in order to support the Subject Leader and the school in delivery of the RE curriculum.

Links to other areas

Equal opportunities

The teaching of RE endeavours to ensure that all pupils receive equal access to educational opportunities regardless of their religious beliefs, gender, race, ability, social background or physical capacity. Care is taken in RE to avoid the reinforcement of negative or stereotypical images and RE aims to celebrate and appreciate cultural diversity through a variety of materials, tasks and experiences, in order to reflect the cultural diversities of our society.

PSHE, Citizenship and Community Cohesion

RE looks at moral codes and values that underpin people's behaviour. It promotes values and attitudes that develop respect and sensitivity for others and enables discussion of a range of views, opinions and beliefs which help to prepare children to become valuable citizens in a culturally diverse society. St Mary's promotes a series of Christian values within school and at home that are discussed, developed through RE, and other areas of the curriculum.

We try to ensure visits and visitors from different Faith Communities and cultural backgrounds within the immediate community are planned into the RE Programme of Study where possible. This helps to develop community cohesion through RE.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSE)

RE plays a key role in pupil's PSE and makes a distinct contribution to their social and cultural development. Through teaching religious education in our school, we provide opportunities for spiritual development. Children consider and respond to questions concerning the meaning and purpose of life. We help them to recognise the difference between right and wrong through the study of moral and ethical questions. We enhance their social development by helping them to build a sense of identity and worth through the teaching of RE and reflection time.

English

RE embeds skills of literacy in a variety of ways; speaking and listening, drama, reading different texts and writing in different genres. It can enrich and enhance English through the range of stories and RE scriptures that children encounter as part of the RE curriculum.

Science

There are many opportunities for cross-curricular links to science within RE. Children will have opportunities to look at the lives of the saints who dedicated time to a scientific field, for example: Saint Anatolius of Laodicea explored the natural sciences, Saint Richard Pampuri and Saint Gianna Beretta Molla were doctors and Saint Abbo of Fleury was an astronomer. In year 5 and 6 children explore whether it is possible for people to be open to scientific explanations as well as holding Christian beliefs and children will look at both sides of the argument when exploring creation.

Art

At St Mary's we explore prayer within lessons and worship and use this as an opportunity to incorporate music and movement or dance which provides children with the opportunity to develop spiritually and make connections between scripture and art. Throughout the ages, artists have used art to depict scenes from Scripture or events in the lives of Jesus, Mary, and the saints. Across all

year groups children are exposed to art work where they have to analyse paintings; comparing art work to the scriptures in how they may compliment or contradict each other, but also to evaluate what the Artist point of view may have been.

Geography

In Geography, we explore what religions are prevalent in different locations of the world and how migration has contributed to the diversity of religions within countries, like England, that were predominately Christian, but now are home to many other religions such as Islam, Judaism, Buddhism and Hinduism.

History

Within History children are given the opportunity to explore ancient religions within the Mayan and Egyptian era. The religious beliefs held by the Anglo Saxons and Vikings are looked into more depth and children get an insight into how the Vikings beliefs turned to Christianity. Children will explore questions on how ancient beliefs impact beliefs today and the comparisons that can be made. We look at famous historical figures who were deeply religious, and how their beliefs profoundly influenced their actions whether this was directly or indirectly. Children are given the opportunity to reflect on the nature and content of religious belief, and the impact it has on individuals and society.