

THE FEDERATION OF ST MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



Religious Education Guidance

EYFS

Aims of Religious Education

Curriculum Aim

The staff of St Mary's will work to give each child full access to a broad and balanced curriculum, encouraging in each individual a sense of self-worth and self-esteem. Opportunities are offered for children to apply and use their knowledge and skills in cross-curricular studies to deepen their understanding of religious truths and think creatively.

Introduction

This document was created to allow parents to see what is being taught in RE in the current year group and how, as a school, we will develop our understanding of Christianity, Judaism and another world religion (Islam, Hinduism or Sikhism). We teach RE through a curriculum based programme called 'Come and See'. If you have any further questions please seek guidance from Miss McCormack (RE Leader).

Statement of intent

In our school Religious Education is the core subject. For us, Religious Education is for all. Religious Education is as academically respected as other core curriculum areas. Within the classroom, teachers use a variety of styles and strategies, to reinforce the Christian message we as a Catholic school uphold.

In St. Mary's, our mission through Religious Education, is to give each individual child the opportunity to experience celebration, prayer and time for personal reflection. It is a collaborative subject which respects each child's own inner spiritual self, and it allows for wonder, awe, reverence and self-exploration. It is taught discretely and developmentally. It includes the deepening of knowledge, and understanding of key theological ideas and their application to life.

Through 'Come and See' we, as a Catholic school, aim to develop our children's religious growth. We strive to give each child the opportunity to explore the language of religious experience – through stories, visitors, religious education visits, artefacts, religious activities, collective worship, I.C.T, drama, art and music.

As a school we work as closely together as we can with the home and our Parish Priest (Father Vincent Fedigan) and Parish communities of (St Mary's and John's, St David's and St Patrick's Church) so that we can present the Christian event, message and way of life in a systematic way with regard to each individual child and their potential.

We include appropriate materials about Other Faiths – Judaism and other World Religions and we encourage our children to be tolerant and respectful towards other faiths and religions. Engagement with their own and others beliefs and values will help develop and nurture good attitudes and dispositions so that children are instilled with a love of learning and a desire to go on learning. In St. Mary's we aim to foster a loving relationship between our children, staff and members of the school community. This relationship reflects the commandment of Jesus 'to love one another as I have loved you.'

Engagement with difficult questions of meaning and purpose which everyone has to face enables our children to think critically about their own questions of meaning and purpose.

Domestic Church - Family	Explore	The importance of my name
	Reveal	God knows and loves me and each one by name
	Respond	Acquire the skills of assimilation, celebration and application of the above
Judaism Week Special days/ritual objects	Look	There are special days
	Discover	Hanukkah. The story of the oil lamp in the Temple
	Respect	God cares for his people
Baptism/Confirmation – Belonging	Explore	What it is to welcome and be welcomed
	Reveal	Baptism: a welcome to God's family
	Respond	Acquire the skills of assimilation, celebration and application of the above
Advent/Christmas - Loving	Explore	What a birthday is; waiting for a birthday
	Reveal	Advent: looking forward to Christmas, the birthday of Jesus
	Respond	Acquire the skills of assimilation, celebration and application of the above
Local Church – Community	Explore	What a celebration is
	Reveal	How the parish family celebrate
	Respond	Acquire the skills of assimilation celebration and application of the above
Eucharist – Relating	Explore	How and why people gather together
	Reveal	The joy of gathering together to celebrate at mass
	Respond	Acquire the skills of assimilation, celebration and application of the above
Lent/Easter – Giving	Explore	Spring is a time when things begin to grow
	Reveal	Lent – a time to grow in love to be more like Jesus and to look forward to

		Easter
	Respond	Acquire the skills of assimilation, celebration and application of the above

Pentecost - Serving	Explore	That everyone has good news to share
	Reveal	Pentecost: the celebration of the Good News of Jesus
	Respond	Acquire the skills of assimilation, celebration and application of the above

Reconciliation – Inter-relating	Explore	We can make friends
	Reveal	Jesus had good friends. what Jesus tells us about friendship
	Respond	Acquire the skills of assimilation, celebration and application of the above

Multi Faith Week Islam – Special days/ritual objects	Look	Special objects
	Discover	Prayer mats and the Qur'an
	Respect	What is special for Muslims

Universal Church – World	Explore	What we love and wonder about our world
	Reveal	God gave us this wonderful world
	Respond	Acquire the skills of assimilation, celebration and application of the above