

St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary School



Religious Education Policy

Governors' Committee Responsible:	Full Governing Board
Status:	Statutory
Review Cycle:	Every two years
Date Written/Last Review:	21 June 2023
Date of Next Review:	20 June 2025

MISSION STATEMENT

We are a Roman Catholic community, placing God at the centre of our lives. Christian values permeate every aspect of the school day. As a small friendly school, we aim to produce the warmth and intimacy of the family. We recognise each individual as special and loved by God, caring for one another and fostering love, trust and respect.

When mistakes are made we recognise them as opportunities for learning and consequent reconciliation.

We aim to help all children fulfil their potential. We have high expectations of the children; we want them to do their best socially, personally, academically and spiritually.

We recognise each child's full entitlement to education. We value children's uniqueness and endeavour to nurture their potential. We strive to promote in them a sense of personal worth and self-confidence, as well as an awareness of their responsibilities to self and others.

Childrens' Mission Statement



We are a special caring family loved by God.

Learning together in faith and love.

We do our best for others and ourselves.

Our mistakes are our opportunities.



Mission Statement

Our Faith is at the heart of all that we do at St Mary Magdalen's. It is an integral part of each school day and provides unique opportunities for reflection and celebration.

The first paragraph of our Mission Statement clarifies how we, at St Mary Magdalen's, ensure that Religious Education (RE) becomes not just a lesson, but also a way of life.

Mission Statement for Children

In order to make sure that our Mission Statement is an accessible and relevant part of our school life for parents/carers, pupils and staff alike we have developed a child friendly Mission Statement. This Statement is on display in all of our classrooms and is used as a means of explaining our beliefs, words and actions by staff and pupils. We also use it as an integral part of our School Behaviour Policy.

Rationale for RE

- We believe RE to be the core of the core curriculum.
- We believe RE is central to the educative mission of the Church.
- We are aware that evangelisation and catechesis are happening in our school for some pupils. We are clear that the specific contribution RE makes to the Catholic life of the school is primarily education and will be planned, taught, assessed, and monitored with the same rigour as other curriculum subjects.
- We understand RE to be the systematic study of the teaching of the Church and the mystery of Christ.

'At the heart of Catholic education lies the Christian vision of the human person. This vision is expressed and explored in religious education. Therefore, religious education is never simply one subject among many, but the foundation of the entire education process. The beliefs and values studied in Catholic religious education inspire and draw together every aspect of the life of a Catholic school. [...] All pupils have the right to receive an overall education which will enable them, in the light of the faith of the Church, to engage with the deepest questions of life and find reasons for the hope which is within them (*1 Peter 3:15*). Religious Education is, then, the core subject in a Catholic school'.¹

Religious Education in schools is 'regarded as an academic discipline with the same systematic demands and the same rigour as other disciplines'.² As such it is to be taught, developed, and resourced with the same commitment as any other subject.

The outcome of RE is 'religiously literate young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills – appropriate to their age and capacity – to reflect spiritually, and

¹ Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, *Religious Education in Catholic Schools*, (London: Catholic Media Office, 2000), p. 6.

² *The Religious Education Curriculum Directory*, (London: Department of Catholic Education and Formation of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, 2012), p. 3.

think ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life'.³

At St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary School we hold a daily act of worship and promote pupils' spiritual and moral development.

The Aims of Religious Education

- to promote knowledge and understanding of Catholic faith and life;
- to promote knowledge and understanding of the response of faith to the ultimate questions about human life, its origin and purpose;
- to promote the skills required to engage in examination of and reflection upon religious belief and practice.

At St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary School our Foundation Governors comply with their statutory responsibility to preserve and develop the religious character of our school.

Curriculum Time Allocation

In line with the Bishops' Conference recommendations, 10% of curriculum time is allocated to RE. This does not include collective worship or worship through hymns.

We recognise that parents/carers are the first teachers of their children. At St Mary Magdalen's we aim to support our parents/carers in this important mission by informing them of what their children are learning in RE and by demonstrating our core values in our school community.

Programme of Study

To fulfil the above aims and to address the four areas of study outlined in the Curriculum Directory – Revelation, Church, Celebration and Life in Christ – the *Come and See* scheme of work is used as recommended by the diocese.

Process

We teach RE through the process of Explore, Reveal and Respond. It follows the pattern of the human search for meaning, God's initiative in Revelation, and our response of faith.

'Teaching in Religious Education [...] should help people to be attentive to the meaning of their experiences, illumined by the light of the Gospel, so that they may respond to God more fully. Experience can also make the Christian message more intelligible'.⁴

³ *The Religious Education Curriculum Directory*, (London: Department of Catholic Education and Formation of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, 2012), p. 6.

⁴ *The Religious Education Curriculum Directory*, (London: Department of Catholic Education and Formation of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, 2012), p. 7.

We enrich our RE programme with extra resources which have been worked upon in partnership with St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School and St Osmund's Catholic Primary School.

RE

The school recognises the importance of children having a sound understanding of their faith, its stories, teachings, and practices. Religion lessons aim to inspire and engage pupils, developing their understanding and skills whilst recognising the unique nature of the subject and the importance of cultivating a sense of awe and wonder. Inclusion is an important part of all of our teaching and learning and pupils achieve highly in RE and make good progress both during the year and throughout their time at the school.

Methodology

A variety of teaching and learning strategies will be used from across the curriculum adapted appropriately to the needs and learning styles of pupils.

We recognise that religious growth and development are not confined to just timetabled RE lessons but that it is the Catholic School's responsibility to ensure the whole curriculum provides spiritual and moral development.

Assessment, Monitoring, Recording and Reporting

- Assessment of standards is carried out according to diocesan guidelines using the criteria in *Levels of Attainment in Religious Education* agreed by the Bishops' Conference.
- Each teacher keeps records of pupils' progress.
- Moderation meetings are held on a regular basis in-house and with our locality Catholic schools.
- Monitoring of teaching and learning is overseen by the Headteacher and the Subject Leader and reported to the governors each year.
- Progress and achievement in RE is reported to parents/carers in a written report at the end of each academic year.

Policy Review

This policy will be monitored, evaluated, and reviewed and updated every two years.

Management of the Subject

The RE Subject Leader, has responsibility for leading, managing and supporting the delivery of and training in RE.

Other Faiths

Other faiths are taught from Reception to Year 6. These are Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism and Islam. This includes educational visits to places of worship where appropriate.

Collective Worship

Pupils participate in a wide variety of collective worship throughout each week including whole school, phase, and class acts of worship. We also encourage pupils to take time for prayer and reflection on a more personal level and provide opportunities for larger celebrations with the wider school and church community. Our pupils are reverent and reflective at times of collective acts of worship. The pupils are knowledgeable about their faith, which they act upon visibly through prayer and worship. Children lead acts of collective worship throughout the year and plan and carry out their own acts of collective worship (see Collective Worship Policy).

Catholic Life of the School

Our pupils take pride in their faith and live out the Church's teachings through their words and actions. They have an acute understanding of what is right and wrong. They achieve happiness through self-respect and respect for others. They embrace and understand their own community and are always curious and interested in the wider community and how they can contribute to a better world for all. Throughout the year they direct and contribute to our learning environment, acts of worship, charitable activities, fundraising, and celebrations all of which develop the Catholic character of our school and prepare them for their lives beyond the school gates.

Contribution to the Common Good in Education and Going Forth

Through the opportunities provided for spiritual, moral, and social formation at St Mary Magdalen's our pupils will develop a distinctive and vital contribution to social cohesion in our society.

Spiritual and Moral Development

The mission of St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary School is to support the spiritual and moral development of all of its members. Each curriculum subject offers the opportunity to deepen pupils' understanding of God's action in their lives.

Newsletters

RE Newsletters are sent home to parents/carers each term.

Links to Other Policies

This policy links to the following policies and procedures:

- Collective Worship
- Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)
- Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE)


APPENDIX 1

The Role of the RE Subject Leader

The RE Subject Leader will be responsible for:

- working with senior leaders on monitoring teaching and learning, planning and standards through lesson observations and work scrutinises according to school practice;
- organising and maintaining the school portfolio of pupils' work;
- organising in-house moderation of standards meetings;
- organising joint INSET with locality Catholic primary Schools;
- self-evaluation to identify strengths and area for development;
- ensuring appropriate training and keeping up to date with current thinking, policy and developments and feeding back to staff;
- organising and leading in-house staff training and development;
- identifying training needs of staff to ensure their suitability to teach effective RE;
- supporting and advising colleagues in the delivery of RE;
- liaising with the Headteacher, governors, parents/carers, and the Education Service on matters relating to RE;
- auditing, managing, and developing resources within a given budget.

Signed



(for and on behalf of the Governing body)

Date 22/06/2023