

**St. Mary's Catholic Primary School,
Wednesbury**



**Religious Education
Policy**

Date of issue: May 2019

Review: September 2022

This policy is under pinned by the school's mission statement:

'Our community, growing and learning together with Christ.'

Rationale: "The Catholic vision of education promotes the dignity and freedom of every person as created in the image and likeness of God."

Religious Education is a core subject at St Mary's Catholic school. It must engage the pupil's intellect, heart and imagination. The beliefs and values studied in Catholic R.E. should draw together every aspect of the life of a Catholic school. Religious Education should also promote tolerance, respect and understanding between those of different faiths.

Pupil Entitlement: Pupils will be taught two hours per week at Key Stage 1 and two hours at Key Stage 2. This core entitlement will be enhanced by Sacramental preparation, assemblies, Masses, liturgies and school prayer groups.

Aims of Religious Education:

- To support every member of the school community on their journey of faith by developing this faith when it is present and to facilitate its emergence when it is not.
- To promote knowledge and understanding of Catholic faith and life.
- To develop religiously literate young people.
- To encourage pupils to be aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.
- To promote the dignity and freedom of every person as created in the image and likeness of God by making pupils aware of other denominations and faiths.
- To experience feelings of wonder and awe about the natural world.
- To develop moral and ethical convictions and ask questions about the meaning and purpose of existence.

Provision: The programmes of study as outlined in the Catholic Directory will form the basis of the scheme of work. The "Learning and Growing as the People of God" scheme will form the main basis of teaching and learning.

Teaching methods may vary but should be pupil-centred, starting with the pupils own situation and experience.

Lessons are based on four areas of study:

1. Revelation:

- To understand the importance of story in the human quest for meaning and the scripture as expression of how we try to understand the nature of God.
- To consider the personal and the community response to God.
- To consider the sacred writings of other faith communities.

2. Church:

- Belonging to community at various levels.
- That having been created in the image of the True God we are called to be that community which is the Church.
- Church is a witness to the Good News of Jesus.

3. Life in Christ:

- Values which underpin beliefs and action in the human family.
- Following Christ is a call to holiness.
- Reflecting the values which Christ expressed in his life and teaching.
- Explore the values and way of life of other world faiths.

4. Celebration

- Celebrations which mark the development and growth of each person.
- Spiritual growth and development is rooted in the church's sacramental life which is expressed in signs and symbols throughout the liturgical year.
- The place of prayer in the life of the Catholic Community.
- Knowledge and understanding of prayer in other faiths.

We should always be conscious of the need to foster the partnership between home, school and parish. This partnership should be our hallmark.

Prayer/Worship

This is integral to our daily school life and children can be seen worshipping at various points throughout the school day.

Each class has a dedicated Saint and the display board outside each classroom show cases the learning about their class Saint.

Each classroom has a prayer area, which is changed in accordance with the liturgical year. Key vocabulary from each unit in 'Learning and Growing as the people of God' is displayed in the prayer area.

More information regarding the prayer life of the school can be found in our Collective Worship Policy.

Monitoring/Assessment and Evaluation

Monitoring is carried out by the R.E. Leader and supported by the Senior Leadership Team. Assessment takes the form of a four year cycle with the focus on:

- The Liturgical Year.
- Scripture.
- Celebrating the Sacraments.
- Living as Christians.

A self-evaluation form is completed for R.E. that falls in line and supports judgements that are required for a Section 48 inspection.

Conclusion: This policy should be read in conjunction with the School Improvement Plan, the Inclusion Policy, Assessment Policy, SEN Policy, the Equal Opportunities and Race Equality Policy, all subject policies and DES guidelines.

Revised and reviewed March 2019