



## Religious Education Policy

<b>Date:</b>	May 2019	<b>Review:</b>	May 2022
--------------	----------	----------------	----------

# Our Mission Statement

**'WE ARE A FAMILY WHO LOVE, BELIEVE AND ACHIEVE TOGETHER.'**

### Rationale

At St Margaret Ward, we believe that Religious Education is at the heart of our curriculum as we strive to proclaim the Gospel Values.

We see our role as supporting parents in leading their children to a greater understanding of who God is and to celebrating with a deeper faith and more understanding, the liturgy of the Church.

We believe that Religious Education provides children with opportunities to recognise, affirm and celebrate the gifts and talents they and others have been given to develop the skills which will enable them to think and question more deeply and lead, ultimately to a greater understanding and appreciation of their faith.

In proclaiming the Gospel message, we endeavour to share the Gospel spirit of love in all that we do and say by providing a warm, family atmosphere reflecting our values of: Ambition, Kindness, Respect and Teamwork.

We teach that God is love and faithfulness, but understanding of this concept can only grow from our own experiences of kindness, respect and teamwork. Therefore, every effort is made to create, in our school and in our classrooms, a community where the children know they are loved and feel confident and secure.

Through our teaching of Religious Education, we endeavour to enrich the lives of the individuals in our school.

Religious Education is a core subject in our Catholic school and because of this it is planned, taught, assessed and monitored with the same rigour as other curriculum subjects.

### Aims for Teaching Religious Education

- To assist fully in the fulfilment of the School's Mission Statement by witnessing the Mission day to day.
- Use Scripture to enable us to become familiar with the person, life and teachings of Jesus and to teach children the truths and practices of our Catholic faith.
- Assist our Faith Community to grow in understanding, experience, and knowledge of the Church.
- Utilise every opportunity to create suitable conditions for faith development.
- To nurture spirituality.
- To embrace our Faith Community by loving, respecting and valuing each other and demonstrating this in everything we do.
- Promoting an atmosphere of reconciliation within which differences are resolved with patience and understanding so that each new day brings a fresh start

- Developing each child to his/her full potential through a broad, balanced curriculum and through extra-curricular activities.

### Strategies for Teaching and Learning

#### Curriculum Organisation

At St Margaret Ward, the requirements of the curriculum are met mainly through 'The Way, the Truth and the Life programme recommended by Shrewsbury Diocese.

The Way, the Truth and the Life programme incorporates two attainment targets determined by the Bishops' Conference. They are:

Learning about the Catholic Faith (AT1)

Learning from the Catholic Faith (AT2)

In each topic, pupils will cover elements from both AT1 and AT2. These are set out in the form of specific key learning objectives and are listed at the start of each section in the Teacher's books so they can be used as a guide in curriculum planning.

Through the programme of study, the children are given opportunities to search and question using strategies to help them to focus on the development of ways of thinking, feeling and acting, enabling the children to become more reflective, open and enquiring. This will begin the process that will lead to a genuine understanding and the basis of a mature faith commitment in adult life.

#### Time

As a Catholic school, in accordance with the Bishops' requirements we dedicate 10% of our curriculum time to the discrete teaching of Religious Education. Collective worship, hymn practice and assemblies are timetabled separately.

#### Attainment Targets and strands

There are 2 attainment targets for RE:

Attainment Target 1 (AT1) is learning ABOUT religion

Attainment Target 2 (AT2) is learning FROM religion

Within each attainment target there are strands of educational progression which relate to specific skill and attitudes.

In AT1 these are

AT1 (i) Beliefs, teachings and sources

AT1 (ii) celebration and ritual

AT1 (iii) social and moral practices and way of life

In AT2 these are:

AT2 (i) engagement with own and others' beliefs and values

AT2 (ii) engagement with questions of meaning and purpose

## Planning

There are six topics to be covered in each year group and each topic lasts for half a term.

### The Way, the Truth and the Life overview.

	Autumn One	Autumn Two	Spring One	Spring Two	Summer One	Summer Two
Nursery	God's Wonderful World	My Family	The Holy Family	Good Friends	New Life	Our Church Family
Reception	God's World	God's Family	Getting to know Jesus	Sorrow and Joy	New Life	Our Church Family
Year One	God's Great Plan	Mary our Mother	Families and Celebrations	Following Jesus	The Resurrection	Miracles
Year Two	The Chosen People	Mysteries (The Trinity)	The Good News	The Mass	Easteride	The Church is Born
Year Three	The Christian Family	Mary, Mother of God	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Celebrating the Mass	Celebrating Easter and Pentecost	Being a Christian
Year Four	The Bible	Trust in God	Jesus, the Teacher	Jesus, the Saviour	The Early Christians	The Church
Year Five	Creation	God's Covenants	Inspirational People	Reconciliation	Life in the Risen Jesus	Other Faiths
Year Six	The Kingdom of God	Justice	Exploring the Mass	Jesus, the Messiah	The Transforming Spirit	Called to Serve

## Assessment

Assessment is focused by the overall aims and objectives of Religious Education.

Assessment provides pupils and teachers with a clear understanding of pupil's attainment that is, their strengths, areas they need to improve and what they need to do next to improve. It does not assess faith or the practice of faith.

Assessment of RE is both formal and informal. Assessment is ongoing throughout a topic and formal assessment takes place at the end of topics (1, 3 and 5 one year and topics 2, 4 and 6 the following year) in the form of each child completing a specific assessment task in their books, the results of which are recorded on class tracking sheets. 3 identified children have the marking of their work recorded on a Context sheet which is kept in the assessment folder. I Can Statements are stuck in each child's book at the start of each topic and highlighted as they achieve a statement.

Assessment of RE may take the form of:

- General observation of children engaged in classroom tasks and activities including role-play and hot seating
- Contributions made to classroom discussions
- Review of lesson activities
- Conversations with individuals, groups or class
- Marking of written work
- Thoughts and observations shared during Collective Worship
- Work completed at home

Children's overall level for the different units are analysed by the RE Coordinator looking at both attainment and progress in RE, as in the other core subjects. This analysis is shared with the SLT and Governors as well as staff.

### Expectations

In line with national expectation, the majority of pupils in KS1 are expected to work within the range of levels 1-3, with most children achieving level 2 at the end of Key Stage 1.

The majority of pupils in KS2 are expected to work within the range of levels 2-5, with most children achieving level 4 at the end of Key Stage 2.

### Recording

Recording provides evidence of achievement. This may take the form of:

- Notes from observations and on lesson plans
- Written comments on children's work
- Visual evidence – photographs, displays, videos or recording of drama/celebrations
- Class Collective Worship Books
- Pupil's self-assessment
- Portfolio on Seesaw

### Monitoring

- There is an annual review of the RE Curriculum Policy.
- Work Scrutiny and Lesson or Collective Worship Observations are timetabled throughout the year, with return visits to see how suggestions for improvement have been implemented. These are carried out by the Headteacher and RE Subject Lead.
- Tracking Data is analysed by the RE Subject Lead ( Deputy head) and reported back to the SLT, Governors and staff.
- Lessons and Collective Worship are modelled by our SLT as part on ongoing CPD, particularly for new staff and staff who are non-Catholics.

### Pupils with Special Needs and Disabilities

At St Margaret Ward, the curriculum is designed to provide access and opportunity for all children who attend our school. If a child is identified as having a special need, we do all we can to meet these individual needs in accordance with current school policy which follows the guidance contained in the SEND Code of Practice.

### Retreat/Day of Reflection

Every child in KS2 has the opportunity to visit the Marist Centre, in Chorlton, to participate in a day of reflection. The themes are as follows:

Year 3 – Reconciliation/First Forgiveness

Year 4 – Lent

Year 5 – Lent

Year 6 – Moving On (Preparation for transition to High School)

### Sacramental Programme

There is a school-parish programme for the preparation of children in the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion. We join as a Three Parish community for both planning and parents meetings throughout the year as home, school and parishes work closely together to support the children on their Journey of Faith.

### Community Links

It is our aim to work closely with parents in the development and practice of a relationship in home, school and parish that nurtures into the presence of God in our daily lives. We also create a climate in which child centred Masses and services reflect both the major religious festivals and the content of our religious schemes of work.

### Faith Community

We aim to raise the awareness of the needs of others as well as provide support, enrich the curriculum, and broaden the experiences of our children. This is ongoing through:

- Regular Class, Whole School Masses and Community Masses to which parents and parishioners are invited.
- Class religious assemblies to which parents and parishioners are invited.
- SLT led assemblies focusing on Statements to Live By and other relevant topics including Laudato Si.
- Fundraising for CAFOD, Francis House Hospice for Children, RNLI, Sudan Babies, Macmillan, Royal Legion and Act for Africa.
- Advent and Lenten Services, during which our Faith Community is led in drama, prayer and singing to enrich their understanding and nurture their spiritual growth.
- Building strong links with Brentwood (school attended by children with SEND).
- Food collections during Harvest for Cornerstones Day Centre in Manchester and Hampers, at Christmas, given to vulnerable families in our school community.
- Designing Christmas cards which are distributed by Irwell Valley Homes (in the Sale West area) during their Christmas Community meal for lonely and isolated people.

### Mini Vinnies

The Mini Vinnies meet fortnightly and discuss how they can live out the motto of: Think – See -- Do. They lead the school in some fundraising events as well as acts of Collective Worship. The children participate in assemblies, informing the rest of the school about what they do. Mini Vinnies visit a local care home at Christmas time to distribute Christmas cards and bring Christmas cheer through sharing of stories and singing.

We take every opportunity to implement implicit and unstructured Religious Education as and when the opportunities arise, through leading by example and upholding Gospel values such as justice, dignity, honesty, forgiveness, tolerance and respect at all times.

### Inter-Faith Week

This takes place annually where each year group learns about a different World Religion. A range of Teaching and Learning activities are organised; visitors are invited to talk to staff and children about their Faith and to lead workshops. Our Parish Priest, Fr Ned, comes into school to talk to the children. Children within the school who are of a different Faith also share their knowledge and experience.

### Links with Parents

Parents and parishioners are welcomed when visiting St Margaret Ward. The development of the partnership between home, school and parish is supported by the governors, staff and parents. Parents are provided with information about what is being taught in Religious Education on a half-termly basis. They are informed of their child's progress in an end of year written report as well as through discussion at Parents' Evening in the Autumn and Spring terms. Our school's website, Twitter page, Catholic Life blog (on Seesaw) and the class blogs give parents an insight into their child's education and events taking place at school. The Headteacher's Termly newsletter details events that have taken place relating to the Catholic Life of our school.

#### Role of Governors

- The RE Subject Lead meets termly with the RE named Governors to provide a detailed update on RE and Collective Worship.
- Governors attend school Masses and celebrations.
- Governors are presented with a Termly report from the Headteacher about the Catholic Life of the school.
- Governors attend training led by the Diocese or organised through our school.