

## Rationale for RE

### RE Intent

At St. Mary's School we provide our pupils with a broad, balanced curriculum which is underpinned by the gospel values given to us by Christ.

Our mission is to 'Inspire others in the light of Christ.' The RE curriculum guides, informs and enriches the curriculum and the life experiences for the children. The core values and virtues of our Catholic Education remain central to the life of our school and we want our children to have a sense of self-worth through their experience of belonging to a caring community and to giving in return to their community. We aim to develop the importance of values, whilst respecting the differences of others.

Social justice equality for all and is at the heart of our curriculum. As a Catholic school, the core values of our curriculum are built upon Catholic Social Teaching which is based on the belief that God has a plan for creation. The curriculum promotes that God has a special place in His story for each of us, whoever we are. Our part in this plan isn't just limited to things 'spiritual', or things we might do on Sundays, but that it involves every aspect of our lives, from the things we reflect or pray about, to how we live as responsible global citizens. The teachings of Pope Francis are central themes that our curriculum promotes, fostering a care for our common home (*Laudato Si*) and for one another (*Fratelli Tutti*). Our curriculum sets out an intention that everyone has a vocation for the common good, a call to be 'mission advocates', to live out our faith humbly for the service of others and to treat everyone as brothers and sisters.

We will use the 2025 Religious Education Directory program of study – *To know You More Clearly* - alongside other schools in the Plymouth diocese to create a common ground on which to explore and learn about the life and work of the church. Faith and church transcend language barriers and disabilities allowing all children to access and develop their understanding at the level they need for this exact point in their life. As a school subject we aim to grow their understanding to allow RE to be a guiding light, a support and a source of strength and comfort in their life.

Our curriculum is inclusive, so that every child can achieve their potential. Not all children learn at the same rate or in the same way. We need to adapt to this since actions often speak louder than words, teachers will lead by example and actions. RE is not just the taught aspect in RE lessons it is an attitude to life and people. Teachers have the freedom to structure lessons with respect to the needs and understanding of the SEND children to allow them to make supported progress according to their needs.

To see and understand

To discern and make a fair judgement

To respond and act with kindness and compassion

## Implementation

At St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, we believe that RE should be accessible to all ages and abilities. The children will take part in academic study through the lenses of the Catholic Church on a personal level and with class discussions. We aim for an academically rigorous curriculum based on the new RED curriculum 2025/6..

Across the school RE will be part of our daily life in prayer and actions. There will be liturgies, masses, quiet prayer time and meditation alongside the specific RE lesson. The children use the eight bees, based on the Beatitudes, to clearly and simply explain the ethos of the school.

Be kind  
Be brave  
Be fair  
Be forgiving  
Be a peacemaker  
Be compassionate  
Be true to yourself  
Be humble



## Aims

The aims of religious education are:

- To engage in a systematic study of the mystery of God, of the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, the teachings of the Church, the central beliefs that Catholics hold, the basis for them and the relationship between faith and life;
- To enable pupils continually to deepen their religious and theological understanding and be able to communicate this effectively;
- To present an authentic vision of the Church's moral and social teaching to provide pupils with a sure guide for living and the tools to critically engage with contemporary culture and society;
- To give pupils an understanding of the religions and worldviews present in the world today and the skills to engage in respectful and fruitful dialogue with those whose worldviews differ from their own;
- To develop the critical faculties of pupils so to bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture;
- To stimulate pupils' imagination and provoke a desire for personal meaning as revealed in the truth of the Catholic faith;
- To enable pupils to relate the knowledge gained through religious education to their understanding of other subjects in the curriculum.

### Early years Foundation stage

The religious Education Curriculum is enriched by ways of knowing and throughout the curriculum children will experience, be taught through, and learn by understanding, discerning, and responding. Children will be enabled to SEE- JUDGE - ACT. EYFS children will use age appropriate language.

Ways of Knowing		
Understand 	Discern 	Respond 
See	Judge	Act
What will I see and hear to help me understand?	How will I discover more?	What can I do now?

The curriculum will be firmly rooted in the best principles of EYFS of learning through play and exploration. The children will hear and discuss the relevant Bible Stories and develop their knowledge and understanding of what it means to them.

### Years 1- 6

In years 1- 6 we continue to develop our RED curriculum in collaboration with Clifton and Plymouth dioceses. The RED document authorised by the Bishops will continue to develop into a detailed and comprehensive curriculum designed by our teachers and for our children.

The **spiral** structure of the curriculum enables a build-up, layering a critical dimension each year, deepening pupils' understanding of the story of salvation, developing a common language, and exploring the 'memory of the Church' and her teachings and how these have formed part of the history of ideas in the development of humanity.

The structure invites teachers to expose students to the beauty of Catholic Christianity and its shaping influence on culture through art, music, literature, science, and architecture historically and to the present day, which equips young people to dialogue with the beliefs and vision of the Church beyond intellectual remits and exposing them to the transcendent, a powerful pedagogy.

### Religious Education Directory RED\_- To Know you more clearly

"The primary purpose of Catholic Religious Education is to come to know and understand God's revelation which is fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ."



Each half term there will be a theme based around the liturgical year

Branch One - Creation and covenant

Branch Two - Prophecy and promise




Branch Three - Galilee to Jerusalem

Branch Four - Desert to garden

Branch Five - To the ends of the Earth

Branch Six - Dialogue and encounter

## 2.2 The structural elements of the programme of study

	Understand 	Discern 	Respond 
Aim	In this way of knowing, you are aiming to help pupils to be able to <b>understand deeply</b> the <b>meaning</b> of sacred texts, religious beliefs, sacred rites, and the lives of individuals and communities who are shaped by these texts, beliefs, and rites.	In this way of knowing, you are aiming to help pupils to be able to <b>judge wisely</b> in response to <b>different interpretations</b> of the meaning, significance, and implications of texts, beliefs, rites, and ways of life so that they can arrive at justified conclusions about what is true, what is good, and what is beautiful.	In this way of knowing, you are aiming to help pupils <b>reflect personally</b> and <b>with integrity</b> on what they have learned and consider the <b>implications for action</b> these may have for their own lives and the world in which they live.
Skills	In this way of knowing, pupils will deepen their understanding by developing the skills to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remember and apply the meanings of key texts, beliefs, and concepts.</li> <li>Provide explanations by making links between religious texts, beliefs, and practices.</li> <li>Interpret and analyse the meaning of texts, practices, and rituals and their historical and cultural connections.</li> </ul>	In this way of knowing, pupils will increase in wisdom, through dialogue with others, by developing the skills to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Think creatively and critically, testing ideas by imagining other possibilities.</li> <li>Compare different interpretations of religious expression, different ways of celebrating rites, and different ways of life, explaining differences within and between religions and worldviews.</li> <li>Critically evaluate differences to arrive at wise judgements about what is true, what is good, and what is beautiful.</li> </ul>	In this way of knowing, you will invite pupils to respond personally and with integrity by developing the skills to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reflect on the meaning of what they have learned for their own lives.</li> <li>Dialogue with others to understand themselves and others better.</li> <li>Imagine how their own lives and the future of the communities to which they belong could be transformed by what they have learned.</li> </ul>

Each lesson will develop the children's knowledge, skills and understanding through lenses. The four lenses are

- Hear
- Believe
- Celebrate
- Live

### **Dialogue and encounter lens themes**

- Other religions
- Worldviews
- Relationship between Catholics and other religions / views
- Importance of dialogue
- Message to give
- Communication
- Vocation
- Living faithfully in a pluralistic world.

### **Liturgies and masses**

Music forms a special part of our prayer life, liturgies and masses. The children write their own prayers, participate respectfully and increasingly contribute more to each liturgy or mass. Scripture is explored in class and celebrated in a community space either the classroom, the school hall, the chapel or our local church. We encourage all children to participate spiritually and emotionally in the prayer life of the school, meditations, spiritual journals and our lessons.

### **Catholic Social Teaching**

We invite our children to be part of our mission to 'Inspire others in the Light of Christ'.

To hold the Gospel values close to our hearts and care for God's creation – Our Common Home. There is a regular focus on the Catholic Social Teaching aspects of Catholicism and our God given responsibility to take the task seriously and with an increasing sense of social justice.



Human dignity

KS1 Everyone is special



Common good

KS1 thinking of everyone



Participation

KS1 taking part



Subsidiarity

KS1 Everyone should have a say



Stewardship

KS1 Caring for God's gifts



Preferential options for the poor    KS1 Putting people in need first



Solidarity

KS1 Showing we care



Distributive justice

KS1 Sharing fairly



Promoting peace

KS1 Being peacemakers

## Impact

### Assessment

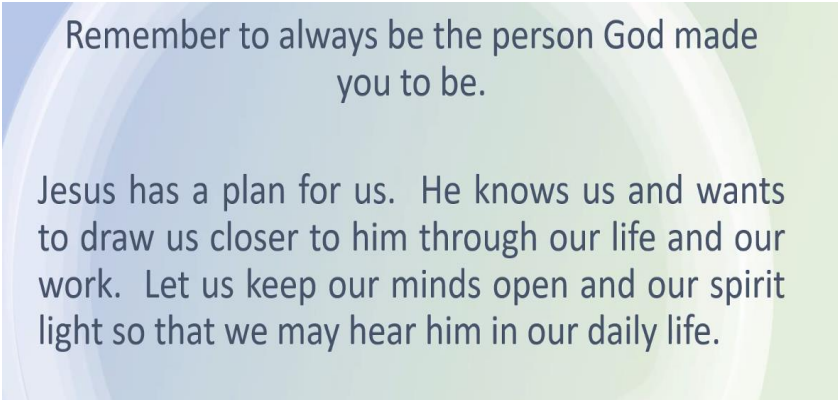
At St. Mary's pupils achieve well in RE and are well prepared for the next stage of their education. We assess RE both summatively and formatively. We hope as you walk around our school you will...

- **SEE** children treating others with respect and compassion
- **JUDGE** children's knowledge and understanding through listening to their opinions and examining their work
- **ACT** as a school we will react through prayers and practical help to others in need in our community and in a global context

**Contribution of Mini Vinnies** – demonstrating love in action.

This team of children changes each year allowing pupils to make a positive impact of the life of the school. Sometimes the actions are so small, such as helping out a child who is having difficulties at playtime, but the impact is huge. At other times, the team is visible, guiding parents around the school or leading a whole school liturgy. A collection of small actions that make a difference.

The impact of our RE curriculum is that the children become religiously literate and consciously engaged young people who have the knowledge, understanding, and skills - appropriate to their age - to reflect spiritually, and think ethically and theologically. The children will recognise the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.



Remember to always be the person God made you to be.

Jesus has a plan for us. He knows us and wants to draw us closer to him through our life and our work. Let us keep our minds open and our spirit light so that we may hear him in our daily life.