

Religious Education Policy



Through respect we will work together in Christ to
develop the whole person

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Leader: Mr Mark Edwards

St Matthew's R.C. Primary School: Religious Education Policy

SMSC Statement

At St Matthew's Catholic Primary School we recognise that the personal development of pupils, spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, plays a significant part in their ability to learn and achieve. We therefore aim to provide an education that provides pupils with opportunities to explore and develop their own values and beliefs, spiritual awareness, high standards of personal behaviour, a positive, caring attitude towards other people, an understanding of their social and cultural traditions and an appreciation of the diversity and richness of the cultures.

SMSC:

- ✚ beliefs, religious or otherwise, which inform their perspective on life and their interest in and respect for different people's feelings and values
- ✚ sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them, including the intangible
- ✚ use of imagination and creativity in their learning
- ✚ ability to recognise the difference between right and wrong and their readiness to apply this understanding in their own lives
- ✚ understanding of the consequences of their actions
- ✚ interest in investigating, and offering reasoned views about, moral and ethical issues.
- ✚ willingness to reflect on their experiences.
- ✚ use of a range of social skills in different contexts, including working and socialising with pupils from different religious, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds
- ✚ willingness to participate in a variety of social settings, cooperating well with others and being able to resolve conflicts effectively
- ✚ interest in, and understanding of, the way communities and societies function at a variety of levels.

This policy is intended to ensure:

In our Catholic school, we strive to develop the whole person. We believe that each person is a unique individual, with a God given dignity. The RE curriculum here at St. Matthew's provides explicit teaching to help children become socially, emotionally, intellectually and spiritually integrated members of society. The RE curriculum provides explicit teaching to help children become confident, caring, competent and rational adults by contributing to their better understanding of themselves and the world in which they live. Religious Education is at the heart of the curriculum and the ethos of our school. The aim of our Religious Education is to provide our pupils with the understanding and skills to think spiritually, ethically and theologically and to be aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.

Aims:

We believe that the main aims of Religious Education are:

1. To help pupils develop a respect for moral values, for each other and for themselves.
2. Help pupils recognise and appreciate the spiritual and religious dimensions of life and provide opportunities for celebration, prayer and reflection.
3. To foster a respect and love of their own Catholic Faith, and a tolerance and respect for those of other races and religions.
4. To lead our pupils in a deeper knowledge and understanding of the Catholic tradition and the ways in which it seeks the significance of human life.

Planning and Delivery:

The R.E. curriculum is prepared and taught by the relevant class teacher. In order to fulfil of aims and objectives we follow the 'Come and See' programme of Religious Education recommended by the Archdiocese of Liverpool.

Progression, Differentiation and Assessment:

'Come and See' programme explores Christian belief through three key themes, Church, Sacraments and Christian Living. Each theme is explored through various topics taking into account the ages and stages of development of pupils in the primary years. Each topic follows a set cycle of 'Explore, Reveal, Respond.' This process ensures children have had chance to explore how the topic relates to everyday life, explore the Church's teachings and respond to faith questions,

and take their learning forward, using their insights to shape their own lives. Children are also given the opportunity to study two 'Other Faiths' topics each year covering Judaism and Sikhism.

Collective Worship:

A daily collective worship is held in each classroom, three times per week. This lasts approximately one minute for each year of the children's lives. A lighted candle is used as a focal point while a variety of prayer styles are used, such as scripture, reflective music, collective and silent prayer, song, stories and silent reflection. Children are encouraged to engage in its planning and delivery with the support of the class teacher in Key Stage 1 and independently in Key Stage 2. Every Monday a whole school collective worship is held in the hall. A Key Stage collective worship also takes place weekly. Regular class and whole school masses take place where parents are invited to join the school in worship. Come and See assemblies are held at regular intervals throughout the year where parents are invited to join the children in celebrating their work from the Come and See curriculum.

Organisation and Teaching Methods:

The R.E. curriculum will be delivered through a wide variety of teaching methods and an approach that encompasses drama, music, art, dance, history, philosophy and literacy.

IMPACT OF CORONA VIRUS 2020

Due to school closure in March 2020, the curriculum moved to a dual curriculum until the end of the 2019/20 academic year. This focussed on consolidating their knowledge of the RE objectives making use of Come and See online resources. Children had to engage in activities through online platforms such as Class Dojo. Teachers followed adapted plans sent by the archdiocese to ensure that children were not missing out on the topics that were meant to be taught while they could not attend school. For the 2020/21 academic year, a recovery curriculum will be in place to ensure there are opportunities to deliver missing learning and make sure there are no gaps in children's knowledge.