

St Mary's Catholic School – Penzance

Policy: RE and Collective Worship

RE policy for St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursery Penzance

Mission Statement:

Faith is the heartbeat of our school, as we walk with Jesus through life. St Mary's provides a safe, happy, positive place to learn, where everyone is encouraged to reach their full potential. By showing respect, love and care to each other, without exception, everyone is valued in our school family.

Aims:

Curriculum religious education in Catholic schools aims to promote

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

Objectives:

The objectives of curriculum religious education in Catholic Schools are:

- to develop knowledge and understanding of the mystery of God and of Jesus Christ, of the Church, and the central beliefs which Catholics hold
- to develop awareness and appreciation of Catholic belief, understanding of its impact on personal and social behaviour and of the vital relationship between faith and life, life and death;
- to encourage, study investigation and reflection by pupils
- to develop appropriate skills: for example, ability
 - to listen;
 - to think critically, spiritually, ethically and theologically;
 - to acquire knowledge and organise it effectively;
 - to make informed judgements;
- to foster appropriate attitudes: for example, respect for truth; respect for the views of others; awareness of the spiritual, of the moral responsibility, of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life and especially the challenge of living in a multicultural, multi faith society.

(Curriculum Directory P.10)

The outcome of religious education is religiously literate young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills – appropriate to their age and capacity – to think spiritually, ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.

Teaching and learning:

10% of curriculum time is RE teaching and learning not including Masses, assemblies, class worship and prayer.

At St Mary's we use the 'God Matters' curriculum strategy adopted by the Diocese. This approaches the teaching of RE in a cross-curricular manner which fits in with our whole school creative curriculum.

A variety of methods are used to teach RE and make the Bible Stories and Catholic worship more meaningful. These include:

- whole class teaching
- group work
- individual study and research
- role play and drama
- use of ICT
- videos
- visiting speakers
- visits to church
- using pictures and artefacts to stimulate thought and discussion

Within the strategy there are opportunities to study other faiths with extra resources available to teachers in the RE resource area.

Equal Opportunities and Inclusion:

A central message of the Catholic faith is that although we are all different, God loves each one of us equally, regardless of background, gender or ability. It is therefore vital that we recognize and cater for the individual needs of children, acknowledging that all children have different gifts and talents and that these should be celebrated.

Learning tasks and expectations should be matched to the abilities of the children to enable them to achieve success, helping them to develop to their full potential and to develop a positive self-image. We aim to ensure that resources do not reinforce any kind of stereotypes. It is important that the children are provided with images, which reflect the multi cultural society in which we live, enhancing their awareness and knowledge of other faiths and cultures, respecting the rights of the individual at all times. This is essential in preparing children to take their places in a multi – cultural society. We encourage parents and our Parish community to join us when appropriate.

Assessment:

The role of assessment in RE is not to assess individual children's personal faith or spirituality, but to feed back into planning and teaching to ensure teaching builds on children's knowledge and understanding and children are encouraged in the development of their faith. The 'God Matters' strategy has an assessment element .

Monitoring:

The Head and RE coordinator will review the planning and undertake book and activity file scrutiny in line with the school monitoring policy. Lesson observations will take place annually.

Collective Worship:

Collective worship is at the heart of our role as a Catholic School. St Mary's is fortunate in having a dedicated chapel to use in school. All classes are encouraged to use the chapel for individual or collective worship. As a school we worship together and as Key Stages; as classes around a focal point and with our Parish in school or church Masses. Music and silence are important to foster the reflective sense as well as the learning of the main Catholic and school prayers and hymns. We encourage children to take an active part in both planning and leading collective worship at St Mary's.

AIMS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP:

Collective Worship in our school aims to provide opportunities for:

- ✓ Contemplation of the mystery of God
- ✓ Reflection on spiritual and moral issues
- ✓ Exploration of belief and deepening faith
- ✓ Response to and celebration of life
- ✓ Experiencing a sense of belonging and developing a community spirit
- ✓ Developing a common ethos and shared values
- ✓ Enrichment of religious experience
- ✓ Growth in liturgical understanding
- ✓ Reinforcement of traditional Catholic prayers
- ✓ Reinforcement of positive attitudes
- ✓ Experience of 'wonder and awe', 'coming to terms with' life, 'giving worth' to others

Parents and the Parish are invited to join with us for Masses, assemblies and special occasions. Children are prepared for First Holy Communion within the Parish with the support of the school and the RE Leader.

Date of review: September 2014

Date of adoption:

Date of next review: September 2016