

Diocesan Education Team

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

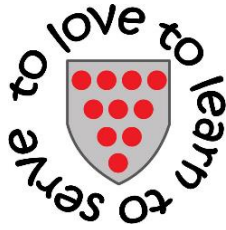
DIOCESE OF
WORCESTER

Guidance from the Diocesan Board of Education



St Mary's CE Primary School Policy for Religious Education

Author: Rev. Duncan Hutchison – Diocesan Education Adviser
Edited by D Clewes (R.E. subject lead at St Mary's Primary School)



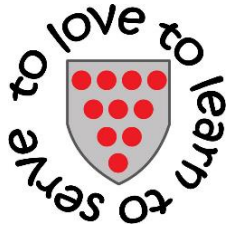
Diocesan Education Team

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

DIOCESE OF
WORCESTER

Contents

Introduction	3
Legal Position of Religious Education in School.....	3
The Church of England's Statement of Entitlement.....	3
Religious Education and the school's Christian Vision.....	3
Religious Education Intent.....	4
School Approach to Religious Education.....	4
Organisation & Time Allocation.....	5
Assessment / Recording & Reporting.....	6
Responsibilities for RE in School.....	6
The Right of Withdrawal from Religious Education.....	7
Review	7



Diocesan Education Team

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

DIOCESE OF
WORCESTER

Religious Education and the school's Christian Vision

At St Mary's Primary School, we hold at the centre of what we do words of Jesus from John's Gospel, with children 'Learning to Love Life in all its Fullness' (John 10:10). We aim to help each pupil fulfil their potential and flourish in all aspects of their personhood including physically, academically, socially, morally and spiritually. We aim that pupils have self-confidence and are able to make excellent progress in all subjects, including Religious Education, whatever their background or circumstance. We aim for our pupils to discover more about themselves, others and God, encouraging children's values and spiritual development to be explored and experienced, rooted in Christian narrative. We aim for a safe space for our children to develop their understanding of people, cultures, faiths and relationships, essential as preparation for living in our richly diverse world.

Introduction

This policy has been written in the light of the [Church of England's Vision for Education](#) (Autumn 2016), [Valuing all God's Children](#) (Summer 2019) and through reflection on the 2018 [SIAMS Evaluation Schedule](#) for schools.

Name of School: St Mary's CE Primary School

Legal Position of Religious Education in School

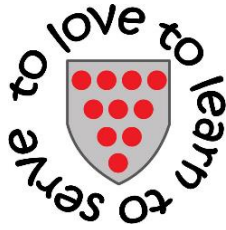
Religious Education (RE) is unique in the curriculum as it is neither a core or foundation subject. The 1988 Education Act states 'Religious Education has equal standing in relation to core subjects of the National Curriculum in that it is compulsory for all pupils'.

St. Mary's is a Church of England Academy and follows the Worcestershire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.

The Church of England's Statement of Entitlement

The Church of England's [Statement of Entitlement](#) (February 2019) outlines the aims and expectations for RE in Church of England schools and guides this school's approach to RE.

It begins by stating: 'Religious Education in a Church school should enable every child to flourish and to live life in all its fullness (John 10:10). It will help to educate for dignity and respect encouraging all to live well together'. Quoting from the Church of England's *Vision for Education: Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good*, it continues: 'Such an approach is offered through a commitment to generous hospitality, being true to our underpinning faith, but with a deep respect for the integrity of other religious traditions (and worldviews) and for the religious freedom of each person'.



Diocesan Education Team

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

DIOCESE OF
WORCESTER

Curriculum Aims

Children will:

1. Know about and understand a range of religions and worldviews, so that they can:
 - describe, explain and analyse beliefs and practices, recognising the diversity which exists within and between communities and amongst individuals
 - identify, investigate and respond to questions posed, and responses offered by some of the sources of wisdom found in religions and worldviews
 - appreciate and appraise the nature, significance and impact of different ways of life and ways of expressing meaning.
2. Express ideas and insights about the nature, significance and impact of religions and worldviews, so that they can:
 - explain reasonably their ideas about how beliefs, practices and forms of expression influence individuals and communities
 - express with increasing discernment their personal reflections and critical responses to questions and teachings about identity, diversity, meaning and value, including ethical issues
 - appreciate and appraise varied dimensions of religion.
3. Gain and deploy the skills needed to engage seriously with religions and worldviews, so that they can:
 - find out about and investigate key concepts and questions of belonging, meaning, purpose and truth, responding creatively
 - enquire into what enables different individuals and communities to live together respectfully for the wellbeing of all
 - articulate beliefs, values and commitments clearly in order to explain why they may be important in their own and other people's lives

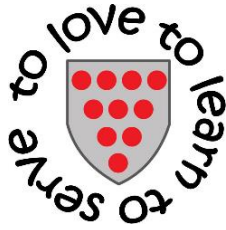
Building on these themes, R.E. at St Mary's supports and strengthens the ethos and values which are at the heart of what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. The importance placed on the development of the whole child spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in our R.E. curriculum.

Religious Education Intent

The intent of Religious Education at St Mary's CE Primary School is to ensure that all children are able to Live Life in all its fullness (John, 10:10) by following our core Christian values of respect, friendship, forgiveness, compassion, trust, humility, peace and honesty.

School Approach to Religious Education

In-line with all church schools, this school has duty to provide accurate knowledge and understanding of religions and world views.



Diocesan Education Team

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

DIOCESE OF
WORCESTER

Aims

- To enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living faith which influences the lives of people worldwide and as the religion which has most shaped British culture and heritage.
- To enable pupils to know and understand about other major world religions and views and their impact on society
- To contribute to the development of pupils' spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own beliefs and values.

(Statement of Entitlement, Church of England Education office, June 2016)

A wide range of imaginative teaching methods and pupil groupings ensure effective RE sessions. We appreciate the positive impact that local faith communities can have on pupils' experience in RE. Therefore, this school encourages visits to places of worship and welcomes visitors from different faith communities. We recognise it is vitally important that teachers demonstrate respectful attitudes towards all faiths, modelling the attitudes and responses we would expect from our pupils. We aim to incorporate at least one visit to a place of worship per year group, in addition to regular visits to St Mary's Church.

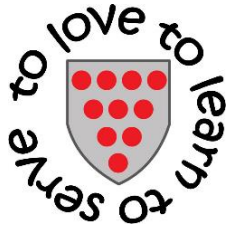
As identified in the *Statement of Entitlement*, teaching and learning in RE in this school will provide:

- A challenging and robust curriculum based on an accurate theological framework
- An assessment process which has rigour and demonstrates progression based on knowledge and understanding of core religious concepts
- A curriculum that draws on the richness and diversity of religious experience worldwide
- A pedagogy that instils respect for different views and interpretations; and, in which real dialogue and theological enquiry takes place
- The opportunity for pupils to deepen their understanding of the religion and world views as lived by believers.

RE that makes a positive contribution to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development.

Organisation and Time Allocation

In accordance with the structure of Worcestershire Agreed Syllabus we have agreed that, as a minimum:



Diocesan Education Team

- In the Foundation Stage pupils will encounter Christianity and other faiths, as part of their growing sense of self, their own community and their place within it. They will be introduced to a range of faith traditions.
- At Key Stage 1 pupils study Christianity and Judaism or Islam.
- At Key Stage 2 pupils study Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Islam and also consider non-religious worldviews.

Assessment / Recording & Reporting

The Worcestershire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education sets out a structure for recognising pupil achievements and each pupil can work progressively towards achieving the expected end of Key Stage learning outcomes as outlined in the syllabus.

As a school we track progress in RE through half termly assessments. Children are judged as Working Towards, Expected or Greater Depth by their R.E. teacher using a range of evidence.

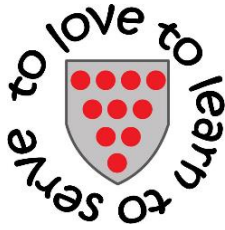
School reports are sent home in the Summer term of each year and the RE report is considered with reference to assessment records as well as pupils' individual work.

Responsibilities for RE in School

The Headteacher has ultimate responsibility for ensuring that the legal framework for RE is carried out and that the teaching of RE fits within the school's distinctively Christian vision. At St Mary's CE Primary School some of the responsibilities for RE may be delegated to other members of staff.

The **Subject Leader** is responsible for:

- ensuring personal subject knowledge and expertise are kept up-to-date by participating in Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for RE and share good practice
- attending RE clusters / hub meetings
- providing and sourcing in-service training for staff as necessary
- ensuring the staff are familiar with the syllabus and supporting resources such as *Understanding Christianity*
- supporting and clarifying approach to planning, delivery and assessment being clear about the subject's intent, implementation and impact
- acquiring and organising appropriate resources, managing a budget when necessary
- monitoring the teaching and learning of RE through regular lesson observations, work scrutiny, learning walks, analysis of data and pupil voice and being able to discuss impact and standards, all in conjunction with the Headteacher / Senior Leadership Team
- contributing to the SIAMS self-evaluation process, including, but not limited to Strand 7.



Diocesan Education Team

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

DIOCESE OF
WORCESTER

The **Headteacher and Governors** must ensure:

- RE has a high profile within the curriculum
- that the legal framework for RE is upheld within the school
- that all pupils make progress in achieving the learning outcomes of the RE curriculum
- the subject is well led and effectively managed and that standards and achievement in RE and the quality of the provision are subject to regular and effective self-evaluation
- those teaching RE are suitably qualified and trained in the subject and have effective and regular opportunities for CPD
- teachers newly-appointed to church schools are provided with support offered by the diocese to enable them to become effective teachers of RE
- that clear information is provided for parents on the RE curriculum and the right to withdraw
- RE is resourced, staffed and timetabled so that the school can fulfil its legal obligations on RE and pupils make good progress
- appropriate support is in place to ensure the effective provision of RE.

The Right of Withdrawal from Religious Education

At St Mary's CE Primary School we wish to be an inclusive community but recognise that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from RE on the grounds of conscience. However, the right of withdrawal does not extend to other areas of the curriculum when, as may happen on occasions, spontaneous questions on religious matters are raised by pupils or there are issues related to religion that arise in other subjects such as history and citizenship. Where parents make a request to withdraw their child(ren) from the teaching of RE, the school will, as a matter of courtesy, ensure that the parents are aware of the following:

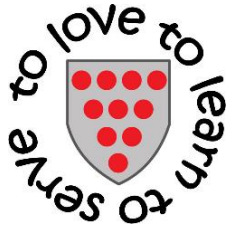
- the learning objectives covered in RE so that parents can make an informed decision
- what supervision arrangements will be in place for child(ren).

We would ask any parent considering this to contact the Headteacher to discuss any concerns and anxieties about the policy, provision and practice of RE at St Mary's.

Review

This policy will be subject to the normal cycle of policy review and will be reviewed and ratified by the governing body every 1-3 years. Furthermore, there may be occasions where this policy is reviewed outside the normal review cycle, including but not limited to:

- a change in Agreed Syllabus
- a change in legal position framework for RE



Diocesan Education Team

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

DIOCESE OF
WORCESTER

Approved by:	The Governing Board	Date: Autumn 2023
Last reviewed on:	1.9.2023	
Next review due by:	1.9.2024	