

RE Policy



Date agreed: June 2021

Review date: June 2024

Our vision

Our vision statement 'Explore, Enjoy, Excel together; be amazing' captures the ambition that we have for our children to be the best that they can be. We believe that every child is created uniquely and so it is our role to make sure that their individual gifts are nurtured so that children can reach their aspirations, believe in themselves and work together to achieve great things.

Our vision finds its root in Psalm 139, verse 14: 'I will praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made'. It is derived from the fact that we are all unique, all fearfully and wonderfully made, made in God's image with talents and dreams that we want to nurture at St Mary's. So it is about valuing individuals, but more broadly it is about us as a community.

Our vision motivates us to be a school community who through our vision and values create warm, supportive, positive relationships, allowing every person (staff, pupils, parents, governors and more) to 'be amazing' and 'be the best that they can be.'

RE Policy

In our school our Christian vision shapes all we do.

To unpack our vision further, the school community have come up with values which we now use to bring this vision to life:

Explore: explore your talents and dreams, explore life, explore big questions, reexplore faith, explore them together, have confidence to take risks

Enjoy: who you were made to be, enjoy the everyday, be in the moment, enjoy the present, enjoy learning, enjoy friendships and enjoy belonging to our diverse community

Excel: give your best, unlock your God-given potential, go above and beyond, 'let your light shine'

Be amazing: be all that you have been born to be!

Our vision underpins everything we do and drives our future direction. Our recent partnership with St Helen's Primary School started with the two school visions and our shared partnership vision directly supports us at St Mary's on achieving our own vision. It's our belief that as two Church of England Primary Schools, we can go further when we go together.

How our values and vision weave together:

Our values are central to the way that we live together as a school community. Like a tapestry, they weave in and out of our vision and through everything that we want to achieve.

'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 educate for dignity and respect encouraging all to live life well together.'

RE Statement of Entitlement from the Church of England Education Office Feb 2019

Policy Statement

Religious Education (RE) has a very high profile within the St Mary's Primary School curriculum and makes a significant contribution to preparing pupils for life in modern Britain. Learning activities provide fully for the needs of all learners. Pupils will be inspired by the subject and develop a wide range of skills such as enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection, to deepen their understanding of the impact of religion on the world. Christianity is taught as a living and diverse faith, focused on the teachings of Jesus and the Church, alongside a range of religions and worldviews. Religious Education encourages pupils to learn from different religions, beliefs, values and traditions while creating a safe space for them to explore their own beliefs and questions of meaning.

Legal Requirements

As a Voluntary Aided School, at St Mary's Primary School our governing body determines our RE curriculum, which is in accordance with the school's trust deed and is discussed with the diocese. The school teaches religious education according to South Gloucestershire agreed syllabus and Discovery RE with additional teaching on Christianity from Understanding Christianity syllabus.

Section 48 of the 2005 Education Act requires the inspection of religious education in schools which have a religious character. This is the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS)

Managing the right to withdraw

Parents have a right by law to withdraw their children from the Religious Education curriculum. In this event, we will undertake responsibility for their supervision with regard to health and safety. Information on these arrangements are clear on our website. There will always be opportunity for parents to discuss the contents of the RE curriculum should they have concerns.

Aims of RE

- To enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living faith that influences the lives of people worldwide and as the religion that has most shaped British culture and heritage.
- To enable pupils to know about and understand other major world religions and world views, their impact on society, culture and the wider world, and to appreciate the diversity, continuity and change within those religions and world views
- To engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose
- To contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own beliefs and values.

Teaching and Learning

In line with the Church of England RE Statement of Entitlement [2019] at St Mary's Primary School we aim to provide:

- A curriculum that enables pupils to acquire a rich, deep knowledge and understanding of Christian belief and practice
- A curriculum that draws on the richness and diversity of religious experience worldwide
- The opportunity for pupils to deepen their understanding of the religion and world views as lived by believers
- A pedagogy that instils respect for different views and interpretations; and, in which real dialogue and theological enquiry takes place
- Engaging and varied learning activities that provide for the needs of all learners, supported by high quality resources
- The opportunity for pupils to develop a wide range of skills including enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection
- RE that makes a positive contribution to SMSC development and also to pupils' understanding of British values
- An assessment process which has rigour and demonstrates progression based on knowledge and understanding of core religious concepts

Implementation

- Religious education may be taught in a 'whole class' setting but with flexibility to allow for discussion, questioning and reflection in small groups and individually
- Visits to local churches and other places of worship are encouraged
- A variety of teaching approaches are encouraged:
 - Teacher presentations, role play, drama and story telling
 - Questions and answer sessions, discussions and debates
 - Individual and group research
 - Photographs, pictures and maps
 - IT, film, podcasts, radio, websites, to research and communicate ideas.

Curriculum balance and time

Reflecting St Mary's School's trust deed, Christianity should be the majority religion studied and should be at least 50% of curriculum time. Sufficient dedicated curriculum time, meeting explicitly RE objectives, should be given to RE. This should aim to be close to 10% but no less than 5% in key stages 1 and 2

Resources

R.E. resources will be held in 'The Hub' and available to all staff. They include books, videos, artefacts, posters, photo packs etc.

Planning materials and Schemes of work are on J drive in RE Subject Folder.

Monitoring, Evaluation, Assessment, Recording, Reporting

- Governors have responsibility for monitoring how the RE in the school reflects its Christian vision
- The head teacher has overall responsibility for monitoring and evaluation.
- The RE subject leader will assist the head teacher by monitoring long term and medium term plans.
- The RE subject leader will assist the head teacher by monitoring RE through work scrutiny.
- The subject leader will keep a file of examples of work to demonstrate continuity and progression.
- The subject leader will manage resources.
- The subject leader will endeavour to keep up to date with information, initiatives and developments in religious education and disseminate this as appropriate.
- The subject leader will be aware of staff development needs and encourage continuing professional development.
- The subject leader will facilitate the sharing of good practice.
- The subject leader will be responsible for drawing up an action plan for religious education. Generally this will be an annual plan and should be informed by this policy.
- The subject leader will liaise with the Diocesan adviser with responsibility for Religious Education

Date of last review: June 2021

Next Review : June 2024

Headteacher signed:

Date:

Chair of Governors signed:

Date: