



VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is to create a community based on Catholic faith and values where every child is empowered to be the best he or she can be, nurtured by outstanding teachers, staff and governors

Religious Education and Collective Worship Policy 2021



St Martha's Catholic Primary School **Religious Education (RE) and Collective Worship Policy**

1. Aims

- To develop our children's knowledge about God's greatness. To teach our children that God loves us, is always with us and wants us to do good in His name.
- To give children the opportunity to celebrate traditional Catholic traditions, celebrations and feasts.
- To give all children the opportunity to worship God.
- To give children the opportunity and build confidence in leading worship and feel that their own faith is valued.
- To teach children different ways in which we can worship and that it can bring joy and support.
- To teach children ways in which we can love and respect God, ourselves and others.
- To teach children vocabulary of worship and faith.
- To teach children that we live in a diverse community of different cultures and faiths. These must be respected.
- To create a school where all children feel they are safe to explore their faith and beliefs. Where they can share their experiences and can feel support from God, their peers and staff. They can ask questions, explore, evaluate and develop their learning of their own faith and other faiths.
- To teach children how we can live by the Gospel values. To celebrate successes and gifts, champion justice and care for God's world.

2. Worship and Liturgy

Prayer and worship are embedded into our daily routine.

- Prayers at the beginning, before and after lunch and at the end of the day
- Children are taught different ways to worship during assemblies. They also have the opportunity to lead worship.
- Children learn about worship during RE lessons – they have opportunity to write prayers, songs, poems, share reflections.
- Children learn about the power of prayer through the Rosary in May and October, charitable days and times of difficulty and celebration.

During these times children are taught how to and are encouraged to be prayerful and reflective to develop their relationship with God and to build and understand their faith. We endeavour to allow children confidence to express themselves in a way they feel comfortable and impart knowledge of traditional Catholic prayers and traditions.

Assemblies

Assemblies are planned and led by staff, children or special visitors. All assemblies have an aspect of worship and in most assemblies worship is the main focus. Assemblies follow the liturgical year of the church and on current events. We celebrate and teach children about Catholic feasts and festivals but also bringing an awareness of other faiths, to enable our children to build a respect and understanding for all people.

Classes create an assembly to share with parents on a rolling rota throughout the year.

Masses

Children learn the responses and the reason why we say them during regular assemblies. We go to Mass as a whole school twice termly plus holy days of obligation. Ash Wednesday is celebrated with a liturgical service and children receive ashes. Mass is celebrated at our local parish church and we celebrate alongside parents and people of the parish. Some children are altar servers. Children from year 2 and above take part in reading and presenting the offertory. Our choir lead the singing. From Year 2 children have class masses termly.

During the year, some children visit Walsingham. Year 6 children have a special Mass in the Red Mount Chapel to celebrate the end of their time at St Martha's.

3. Teaching and Learning

The curriculum- Catholicism

At St Martha's we follow the Diocesan Primary Religious Education Curriculum to fulfil our aims for our children's learning. We use the recommended resources from 'Come and See' and 'The Way and The Truth and The Life'. We endeavour to provide the varied and broad provision we offer in the rest of the curriculum, this is set out in the teaching and learning policy. To ensure this we use the '5 E's' (Engage, Enquire, Explore, Evaluate and Express) method for planning. Each unit of learning starts with a big question to be answered. This method ensures our children have the opportunity to wonder, ask questions, explore the answers and express their learning of faith in a creative and meaningful way.

As part of our RE learning we ensure to offer children a cross curricular approach to learning. In addition, we arrange visits and visitors to enhance the experience

for our children. This enables them to explore their beliefs and faith in a way meaningful to them as an individual.

Displays

Each classroom has a display which is developed throughout a unit of work

Other Faiths

We explore other faiths throughout the year. In the Spring Term we have a Judaism week and in the Summer Term we explore Islam. Each year group has a specific focus and brings together their learning to create a display. We follow the same creative planning method to ensure it is engaging and meaningful. Other faiths and traditions are celebrated throughout the year to suit a year group's curriculum or in assemblies.

Assessment

At St Martha's the teachers regularly mark and celebrate RE learning as described in the marking and feedback policy. To assess attainment we use the descriptors written by the Bishop's Conference Department for Catholic Education and Formation. It is recorded on Pupil Asset, which is used across all subjects in our school. This framework is used to support staff in planning, delivering and assessing children in RE

4. **Impact and Monitoring**

The RE leader carries out regular termly monitoring of RE in variety of formats: Lesson observations, talking to staff and children, looking at learning (planning, books, assessment) and learning walks. This is to ensure that our children are receiving the best provision we can offer, look for areas to develop and how best to support staff in developing our children's experience of RE learning. This monitoring is fed back to the Head of School and Executive Head Teacher.

The RE Leader attends the regular training and discussions run by the diocese and will attend any other training course deemed as relevant. The knowledge is cascaded by the RE leader to the rest of the staff in staff meetings.

Reviewed: April 2021

Next review date: April 2022