

# **THE FEDERATION OF ST MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**



## **Religious Education Guidance**

**Year 4**

# **Aims of Religious Education**

## **Curriculum Aim**

The staff of St Mary's will work to give each child full access to a broad and balanced curriculum, encouraging in each individual a sense of self-worth and self-esteem. Opportunities are offered for children to apply and use their knowledge and skills in cross-curricular studies to deepen their understanding of religious truths and think creatively.

## **Introduction**

This document was created to allow parents to see what is being taught in RE in the current year group and how, as a school, we will develop our understanding of Christianity, Judaism and another world religion (Islam, Hinduism or Sikhism). We teach RE through a curriculum based programme called 'Come and See'. If you have any further questions please seek guidance from Miss McCormack (RE Leader).

## **Statement of intent**

In our school Religious Education is the core subject. For us, Religious Education is for all. Religious Education is as academically respected as other core curriculum areas. Within the classroom, teachers use a variety of styles and strategies, to reinforce the Christian message we as a Catholic school uphold.

In St. Mary's, our mission through Religious Education, is to give each individual child the opportunity to experience celebration, prayer and time for personal reflection. It is a collaborative subject which respects each child's own inner spiritual self, and it allows for wonder, awe, reverence and self-exploration. It is taught discretely and developmentally. It includes the deepening of knowledge, and understanding of key theological ideas and their application to life.

Through 'Come and See' we, as a Catholic school, aim to develop our children's religious growth. We strive to give each child the opportunity to explore the language of religious experience – through stories, visitors, religious education visits, artefacts, religious activities, collective worship, I.C.T, drama, art and music.

As a school we work as closely together as we can with the home and our Parish Priest (Father Vincent Fedigan) and Parish communities of (St Mary's and John's, St David's and St Patrick's Church) so that we can present the Christian event, message and way of life in a systematic way with regard to each individual child and their potential.

We include appropriate materials about Other Faiths – Judaism and other World Religions and we encourage our children to be tolerant and respectful towards other faiths and religions. Engagement with their own and others beliefs and values will help develop and nurture good attitudes and dispositions so that children are instilled with a love of learning and a desire to go on learning. In St. Mary's we aim to foster a loving relationship between our children, staff and members of the school community. This relationship reflects the commandment of Jesus 'to love one another as I have loved you.'

Engagement with difficult questions of meaning and purpose which everyone has to face enables our children to think critically about their own questions of meaning and purpose.

<b>Domestic Church - Family</b>	<b>Explore</b>	Our family trees
	<b>Reveal</b>	The family of God in scripture
	<b>Respond</b>	Acquire the skills of assimilation, celebration and application of the above

<b>Judaism Week Holy Book</b>	<b>Look</b>	Books are important
	<b>Discover</b>	The Torah
	<b>Respect</b>	The importance of the Torah

<b>Baptism/Confirmation - Belonging</b>	<b>Explore</b>	The response to being chosen
	<b>Reveal</b>	Confirmation: a call to witness
	<b>Respond</b>	Acquire the skills of assimilation, celebration and application of the above

<b>Advent/Christmas - Loving</b>	<b>Explore</b>	The gift of love and friendship
	<b>Reveal</b>	Advent and Christmas: the Church's seasons of preparing to receive God's gift of love and friendship in Jesus
	<b>Respond</b>	Acquire the skills of assimilation, celebration and application of the above

<b>Local Church - Community</b>	<b>Explore</b>	Belonging to a community
	<b>Reveal</b>	The life of the local Christian community
	<b>Respond</b>	Acquire the skills of assimilation, celebration and application of the above

<b>Eucharist - Relating</b>	<b>Explore</b>	Giving and receiving every day
	<b>Reveal</b>	The Eucharist challenges and enables living and growing in communion
	<b>Respond</b>	Acquire the skills of assimilation, celebration and application of the above

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<b>Lent/Easter – Giving</b>	<b>Explore</b>	Self-discipline is important
	<b>Reveal</b>	Celebrating growth to new life through self-
	<b>Respond</b>	Acquire the skills of assimilation, celebration and application of the above

<b>Pentecost - Serving</b>	<b>Explore</b>	The wonder and power of the Holy Spirit
	<b>Reveal</b>	The new life of the Easter message is spread through the power of the Holy Spirit
	<b>Respond</b>	Acquire the skills of assimilation, celebration and application of the above

<b>Reconciliation – Inter-relating</b>	<b>Explore</b>	Building bridges of friendship
	<b>Reveal</b>	The importance of admitting wrong and being reconciled with one another and God
	<b>Respond</b>	Acquire the skills of assimilation, celebration and application of the above

<b>Multi Faith Week Islam – Holy Books</b>	<b>Look</b>	Important books
	<b>Discover</b>	The Qur'an. The 99 beautiful names of God
	<b>Respect</b>	The importance of the Qur'an for Muslims

<b>Universal Church – World</b>	<b>Explore</b>	Ordinary people who do extraordinary things
	<b>Reveal</b>	Different saints show people what God is like
	<b>Respond</b>	Acquire the skills of assimilation, celebration and application of the above