



Our Mission Statement:

*“Love one another as I have loved you...
By this all men will know that you are my disciples”
John 13. 34*

Status

Statutory

Rationale

This policy outlines the purpose, nature and management of Religious Education in our school.

Purpose

St Mary's Catholic Primary School is an essential part of the Catholic community in Mid Wales. The children, staff and governors recognise its uniqueness as a Catholic school with Christ's love as its foundation.

“Catholics believe that Religious Education is not one subject amongst many but the foundation of the entire education process. The beliefs and values it communicates should inspire and unify every aspect of school life.” (Bishops Conference of England and Wales) At St Mary's we recognise that faith is not confined to churches and Sundays but it is lived in all our daily activities. We acknowledge that the parents and the family are the primary educators of a child in the faith; the school and parish community support them in this task.

Religious Education at St Mary's is aimed at providing faith experiences which will help each pupil discover, understand, celebrate and respond to God's love personally and communally. This is carried out within the context of Christianity, specifically according to the doctrines of Catholicism. There is reference to other faith traditions to reflect the diversity of the world in which we live.

The school is a Christian community committed to Gospel values and united in mutual respect and a sense of belonging. We recognise that our children come from a range of backgrounds and abilities and our teaching of Religious Education will reflect this.

Relationship with other policies

The effectiveness of this policy is relevant to all of the school's policies and should be read in conjunction with them.

Aims

At St Mary's, we recognise that Religious Education is not one subject among others but is in fact the heart and the centre of the whole curriculum. In this school, the Catholic faith is both taught and lived. Through a wealth of significant experiences we aim to enable each child to grow in:-

- awareness of self
- awareness of others

- development of an interest in and ability to reflect upon the world around him/her
- knowledge of the Church's teachings and practice
- knowledge of and receptiveness to Christ's love and teaching

In order to achieve these aims, we shall

- welcome and care for everyone and each other, promoting strong links between home, school parish and community
- recognise that Christ is in and around us and celebrate His love through our prayer and worship
- value and respect the uniqueness of each individual on their journey of faith and experience, starting from wherever he/she is
- foster a sense of self worth, self discipline and respect for everyone
- ensure that St Mary's is a place where everyone has a right to hold an opinion different from others, a right to be heard and where we listen to each other with respect
- stretch our talents and learning skills in all our activities and recognise and rejoice in the talents of others
- work in close partnership with parents, recognising our shared responsibility for their children
- be of service to the local community and beyond.

Religious Education has two aspects:-

1) the implicit or unstructured Religious Education those opportunities which arise in the course of a school day from which each child develops the basic sensitivities and attitudes (the wonder of existence and growth, reverence for life, development of moral discernment) all of which are developed by the whole school curriculum

and

2) the explicit or structured Religious Education – those time-tabled or planned periods of time given to the explicit consideration of Religious Education in the classroom and expressions of faith through liturgy, prayer, the catechism and the sacraments, special events and activities.

In addition to the overall aims and objectives of our Religious Education programme, each topic in "Come and See" has its own general aims and specific objectives.

Each term the "Come and See" topics focus on one of the basic questions about life, its dignity, its purpose and a central Christian belief which addresses this question.

Time Allocation

It is the policy of the school to give two hours teaching time to Religious Education at KS1 and two and a half hours at KS2.

Implementation

The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of the whole school community.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

Assessment in Religious Education adheres to Diocesan guidelines. Reporting to parents will take place at parents' evenings and in each pupil's annual written report.

Conclusion

At St. Mary's School we view the acquisition of knowledge of the Christian way of life to be of the utmost importance and so teaching of all aspects of Christianity will be given high priority.

Date for next review- Autumn 2017