



TRINITY ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY



This policy has been written to underpin our core values with particular reference to our Christian values and our Rights Respecting ethos.

The Importance of Religious Education in the School Curriculum

This policy has at its heart the Trinity St Mary's mission statement which is:

Trinity St Mary's is a multi-cultural community based on Christian values and principles. Children, parents, staff and governors work together to promote a happy, supportive and secure learning environment.

As a result, there will be a greater emphasis throughout the RE curriculum towards Christianity. Inherent within this will be an explicit support for the aims and structure of the Anglican Church

We adopt an inclusive approach and we encourage all parents to allow children to participate in this important curriculum area.

The aims of religious education are to help pupils to:

1. Develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other principal faiths enabling them to respond to beliefs, practices and values found in the world around them.
2. Value personal reflection and experience of others through which a significant contribution can be made to their spiritual development.
3. Respond to moral and ethical issues in the light of their understanding and knowledge of the faiths.
4. Learn to care and respect the belief and faith of others and to work co-operatively with others of differing views.
5. Enhance their cultural development through understanding the different faiths and their cultures - particularly those reflected in the school community.
6. Be prepared for being adult citizens in a diverse world and so be able to promote respect for and empathy towards people of differing beliefs.

The Curriculum

Our school curriculum for religious education meets the requirement of the 1988 Education Reform Act.

There are two interrelated categories.

1. Pupils acquire knowledge about and understanding of religions.
2. Pupils should be enabled to reflect on and respond to human experience.

Curriculum time for RE

Foundation stage: stories and suitable activities will be incorporated into the areas of learning required by the Foundation Stage

KS1: 45 minutes per week

KS2: 1 hour per week

Scheme of Work

Trinity St. Mary's School uses the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education's Scheme of Work.

Two main learning objectives are covered in all R.E lessons-

AT1 focuses on the factually based, knowledge and understanding enriching element of RE.

AT2 encourages pupils in the development of their capacity and skill to respond thoughtfully to and evaluate what they learn about religions.

Foundation Stage

The spiritual dimension for the Foundation stage will be developed through the six areas of learning from the basis of the Foundation Curriculum. Children will learn about themselves, their relationship with others and their world. There will be stories from different religions that will form the basis of RE for Reception but these are designed to fit in with specific themes and topics.

KS1

At Key Stage 1 pupils will learn through their own experiences and those of others. They will learn about Christianity and Judaism and Islam.

KS2

At Key Stage 2 pupils will be provided with more opportunity to discuss aspects of faith and how and why people live or have lived their lives through faith. Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam are studied alongside Christianity.

Assessment

The basis of assessment in RE follows the Assessment for Learning programme. Teachers will be continually assessing individuals' performance. This may be through observation, discussion, listening or a collection of evidence (photographs).

Teachers annotate planning with Assessment for Learning comments and adapt the planning where appropriate.

At the end of each unit teachers use the Southwark and National 'I can' statements to assess the children against the topic they have covered.

TSM and St Mary's Church

Trinity St Mary's School has a strong relationship with the Church of St Mary's. This is also reflected in the teaching of RE.

Each Thursday at TSM, Mother Wilma (Vicar) presents a whole school Christian assembly. Throughout the school year, she also leads Christmas and Easter services at the St Mary's Church, which are attended by all the children and the parents are invited too. During the academic year, Mother Wilma teaches R.E throughout the school. Mother Wilma also supports the Newly Qualified teachers with the SDBE Christian units of work, through one-to-one meetings and staff meetings.

St Mary's Church is a resource for the teaching of RE and all children visit the church on a regular basis for RE, history or art lessons.

Resources

There are sufficient resources in our school to be able to teach all RE units.

Inclusion

RE is taught to all children, whatever their ability. RE forms an important part of the school curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced education to all children. This is done by setting suitable challenges and responding to each child's differing needs.

Contribution of RE to the teaching of other subjects

English: RE contributes significantly to the teaching of English at TSM by actively promoting the skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening.

ICT: Where appropriate ICT is used in RE by pupils and teachers.

PSHE: Through RE pupils are taught about the values and moral beliefs that underpin individual choices of behaviour. By promoting tolerance and understanding of other people, pupils will learn to be a positive member of our diverse society.

Spiritual, moral, social, cultural development:

Through the teaching of RE, opportunities for spiritual development are provided. Pupils consider and respond to questions concerning the meaning and purpose of life. As a learning community we recognise the difference between right and wrong through the study of moral and ethical questions. Pupils develop a sense of identity.

REVIEW: November 2018