

The Curriculum Directory and R.E. Teaching at St. Mary's

Mission Statement

St. Mary's school community follows the teachings of Jesus Christ, working together to develop the whole child, in a spiritual, moral, academic, physical, social and emotional way, within a caring and supportive environment.

At St. Mary's we use the 'Resource Framework for Religious Education in Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Westminster' programme to deliver the learning opportunities to be offered to pupils as set out in the Religious Education Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools utilising the Levels of Attainment in Religious Education and the Diocesan Agreed Understandings as a measure of attainment to provide our staff and others with a measure of assessment of learning in Religious Education.

We use a whole school approach to the topics, the same topic being taught across the whole school, including in the Foundation Stage at the same time, although at different levels.

The Religious Education Curriculum Directory

Since September 1999 we are required to formally take account of the 'Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools' in our planning. We believe that Religious education is at the very heart of the curriculum of our schools, where it rightly belongs.

The Directory is based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church published in 1992.

It is not a syllabus for use in the classroom.

Its purpose is to guide and inform the teaching of religious education by expressing clearly the opportunities for study, investigation and reflection to be offered to pupils, and the knowledge and understanding, which should be acquired by them

It describes the content of religious education for catholic schools and focuses on what is to be taught.

There are four areas of study within the programme:

- ❑ Revelation
- ❑ Church

- ❑ Celebration
- ❑ Life in Christ

Areas of Study and Sources

AREA OF STUDY	VATICAN II	CATECHISM
Revelation	<p>Dei Verbum</p> <p><i>Dei Verbum</i> (official title of the Vatican's English translation: Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation – <i>Dei Verbum</i>) was declared by Pope Paul VI on November 18, 1965, following approval by the assembled bishops by a vote of 2,344 to 6. The phrase "Dei Verbum" is Latin for "Word of God" and is taken from the first line of the documents, as is customary for titles of major Catholic documents.</p>	Part 1: Profession of Faith
The Church	<p>Lumen Gentium</p> <p><i>Lumen Gentium</i>, the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, is one of the principal documents of the Second Vatican Council. This dogmatic constitution was declared by Pope Paul VI on November 21, 1964, following approval by the assembled bishops by a vote of 2,151 to 5.¹¹ As is customary with significant Roman Catholic Church documents, it is known by its first words, "Lumen Gentium", Latin for "Light of the Nations".</p>	Part 1: The Profession of Faith
Celebration	<p>Sacrosanctum Concilium</p> <p><i>Sacrosanctum Concilium</i>, the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, is one of the constitutions of the Second Vatican Council. It was approved by the assembled bishops by a vote of 2,147 to 4 and declared by Pope Paul VI on December 4, 1963. The main aim was to achieve greater lay participation in the Catholic Church's liturgy.</p>	Part 11: Celebration of the Christian Mystery Part IV: Prayer
Life in Christ	<p>Gaudium et Spes</p> <p><i>Gaudium et Spes</i> (<i>Joy and Hope</i>) is an overview of the Catholic Church's teachings about humanity's relationship to society, especially in reference to economics, poverty, social justice, culture, science, technology and ecumenism. Approved by a vote of 2,307 to 75 of the bishops assembled at the council, it was declared by Pope Paul VI on 7 December 1965, the day the council ended. As is customary with Catholic documents, the title is taken from its Latin opening:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Gaudium et spes, luctus et angor hominum huius temporis, pauperum praesertim et quorumvis afflictorum, gaudium sunt et spes, luctus et angor etiam Christi discipulorum...</p> <p>The joys and hopes, the grief and anguish of the people of our time, especially of those who are poor or afflicted, are the joys and hopes, the grief and anguish of the followers of Christ as well.</p>	Part 111: Life in Christ

The aims of classroom religious education are:

- ❑ To present engagingly a comprehensive content which is the basis of knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith;
- ❑ To enable pupils continually to deepen their religious and theological understanding and be able to communicate this effectively;
- ❑ To present an authentic vision of the Church's moral and social teaching so that pupils can make a critique of the underlying trends in contemporary culture and society;
- ❑ To raise pupils' awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities in order to respect and understand them;
- ❑ To develop the critical faculties of pupils so that they can relate their Catholic faith to daily life;
- ❑ To stimulate pupils' imagination and provoke a desire for personal meaning as revealed in the truth of the Catholic faith;
- ❑ To enable pupils to relate the knowledge gained through Religious Education to their understanding of other subjects in the curriculum;
- ❑ To bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life and between faith and culture.

The objectives of classroom religious education can be summarised as:

- ❑ The development of knowledge and understanding of the mystery of God and of Jesus Christ, of the Church, and of the central catholic beliefs
- ❑ The development of an appreciation of how Catholic belief shapes personal behaviour, the connection between faith and life
- ❑ The development of key skills, such as critical thinking, intelligent questioning, clear decision-making
- ❑ The development of the right attitudes, such as respect for truth, respect for others, awareness of the need to live alongside other faiths

Those responsible for Religious Education in our schools should:

- ❑ Be prepared to give living witness to what they teach;
- ❑ Recognise that they share in the teaching office of the Church exercised in the person of the local bishop and enshrined in the trust deed of the school;
- ❑ Fulfil their professional responsibilities with regard to all that develops and enhances the life of the Catholic school;
- ❑ Plan and teach schemes of work that are engaging and accessible so that all pupils may progress appropriately in their knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith;
- ❑ Have high expectations of all their pupils;
- ❑ Ensure that 10% of the curriculum is devoted to Religious Education;
- ❑ Ensure that Religious education contributes positively to the broad and balanced curriculum of a Catholic school through cooperation and dialogue with other subjects;
- ❑ Take care continually to deepen their own knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith;
- ❑ Take seriously the duty of every Catholic to form his or her own conscience;
- ❑ Be given opportunities for their own spiritual and professional development as Catholic educators.

The outcome of excellent Religious Education is religiously literate and engaged young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills – appropriate to their age and capacity – to reflect spiritually, and think ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.