**St. Mary's C. of E. Primary School**

 **‘Through God’s love, we strive to be the best we can be.’**

Religious Education Policy

Revised: January 2017

Review date: January 2020

**Mission Statement and Values**

**“Through God’s love, we strive to be the best we can be.”**

St Mary’s is an inspiring and creative school which fosters a love of learning as well as developing skills for life. We strive to enhance every child’s moral, spiritual, intellectual, social and physical well-being and celebrate every child’s gifts.

As a faith school we hold **love** at the centre of all we do. This and the following values reflect the ethos of our school.

**Respect** – ourselves, each other and our environment

**Courage** – to stand up for what is right, overcome our fears and embrace new challenges

**Truth** – in the choices we make and our dealings with family, friends, school and community

**Hope** – that inspires us to look forward in confidence to a better life for all

Religious Education (RE) is an integral part of the children’s education at St Mary’s.  In our teaching of RE, we are always striving for excellence, reflecting the school’s distinctive Christian character.

St Mary’s CE Primary School is a Voluntary Aided School and as such the management of Religious Education is a distinctive role of the Governors and Deputy Head Teacher. The teaching of Religious Education at St Mary’s maintains a balanced approach between learning about Religion (Attainment Target 1) and learning from Religion (Attainment Target 2) where we promote tolerance, understanding and respect for all.

**Aims**

Our aims for Religious Education are:

• To teach children about Christianity and provide them with a working knowledge of the Bible and the life of Jesus.

• To promote understanding and a sensitivity towards those with religious beliefs different from Christianity.

• To develop the ability to think about questions of belief and value, to foster spiritual awareness and a sense of wonder.

• To provide experience of a living and practical faith.

• To provide a clear understanding of the role of the Christian church in the local community and across the world.

• To provide an understanding of Christian festivals, rites of passage and symbols.

• To develop skills and attitudes such as investigation, interpretation, reflection and empathy.

**Our Commitments:**

The Governing Body of St Mary’s CE Primary School have adopted the London Diocesan Board of Education Syllabus for RE which reflects the National Framework for RE, the National Society Statement of Entitlement and the requirements of SIAMS;

**•** At least 5% of curriculum time is devoted to RE.

• Christianity plays a central role in RE, taking up to 2/3 of the time available.

• Christianity is at the centre of everything we do.

• Appropriate teaching about the Jewish and Islamic faiths and world views is included in the RE curriculum.

• For all lessons to be planned thoroughly and taught confidently with clear learning objectives.

• To present activities and information in an imaginative way relating this to the children’s own lives and experience, wherever possible.

• To develop the content of the scheme of work through a variety of teaching and learning styles.

• To develop the understanding of religious language, concepts and symbolism.

• To use appropriate artefacts and books to enhance teaching and learning, when possible.

**Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting.**

The RE Subject Leader, in partnership with the Senior Leadership Team is responsible for the monitoring and reviewing of the teaching of RE in school and for reporting standards in RE to the Governing Body. This includes, work scrutiny, pupil interviews, lesson observations, learning walks and the review of assessment data. Other contributors to the monitoring are LDBS advisors and the SIAMs report.

The RE Leader is responsible for ensuring that RE is appropriately resourced.

Formative assessments are carried at the end of the each topic. The children are assessed against AT1 and AT2.Termly assessment data is recorded on our school assessment tracking system. Class teachers report on standards in RE to parents in the children’s annual school report.

**Parental Rights of Withdrawal in a Voluntary Aided School.**

As an inclusive school that respects each other’s similarities and differences we encourage full participation in Religious Education. However, where there are concerns we invite parents to discuss the benefits of reflection and teaching RE in today’s challenging world.

Parents still have the right to withdraw their children from Religious Education. If this is something a parent wishes to do we ask that they speak to the Headteacher.