



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Glenure Road, Eltham, London SE9 1UF | 0208 850 7835

office@stmary-rc.greenwich.sch.uk | www.stmaryrc.org.uk

Headteacher: Mr Jonathan Sims, Chief Executive: Mr David Garrido

'Nurturing Our God-Given Talents'

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School RE Policy

This policy is underpinned by our school mission and values:

Mission:

Nurturing our God-Given Talents

Values:

Respect Resilience Truth Faith Love Mercy

Person responsible: RE Team (Jonathan Sims, Susan Williams, Elizabeth Shallice)

Linked Policies: Prayer and Worship Policy, RHE Policy

Governing body: Curriculum

Introduction

The purpose of Religious Education at St Mary's is to nurture Catholic Faith, and its teachings, in our children. By helping them to live this faith, we hope to encourage our children to develop a better relationship with God and others around them.

Central to our ethos are the opportunities for prayer and worship which lie at the heart of our faith. We will endeavour to promote and encourage these at every level, together with the skills and attitudes necessary to live out the Christian message in the modern world. Religious Education (R.E) should promote pupils' cultural, social, mental, emotional, spiritual and physical development and prepare children for the opportunities and responsibilities that are to come. This should be in the context of a moral and ethical Christian framework.

Aims

- To provide staff and children with the knowledge, understanding and awareness of the Catholic faith and its beliefs.
- To enable staff and children to communicate with God through prayer.
- To enable staff and children to develop their spirituality.
- To help staff and children to explore and express their sense of awe and wonder at the world God has created
- To encourage staff and children to respect those holding different beliefs
- To help staff and children grow in awareness of themselves and develop positive attitudes to their own emotions, life, and learning.
- To enable staff and children to grow in their awareness of others and to develop relationships in a secure and supportive environment



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- To become aware of issues involving justice and the rights of the individual.

Catholic Life and Mission

Children are taught about the unique charism of St Mary's which has its roots in the work of Sr Catherine McAuley who founded The Sisters of Mercy in Baggot Street, Dublin Ireland. The school has traced its history back to 1824 and subsequent missionary work of the Sisters. They are taught that they should live out the school values which are inspired from Catherine McAuley.

Religious Education

R.E is a core subject at St Mary's It is delivered mainly through the religious education programme *'The Way, The Truth, The Life'*, but is also encouraged through links with home, the Parish Church, the local community and other subject areas, especially SMSC. We believe that all aspects of R.E should be woven into the fabric of school life. We recognise that everyone at St Mary's staff, children and parents, are on their own personal journey of faith.

Assessment

Children are assessed using the current assessment system developed by the Diocese. This involves looking at the children's understanding throughout the whole topic taught. Children will be assessed according to their knowledge and understanding and engagement and response. This is entered onto Insight, every term.

Prayer and Liturgy

Opportunity to Pray

Prayer is an essential part of collective worship. It is an important way of expressing our faith and talking to God. Helping children to pray, to learn our prayers, explore different styles of prayer and enable children to write their own prayers are all important parts of R.E. We have morning, lunch time and evening prayers as a class daily, to begin and end our day with a prayer. See prayer policy for more details.

Prayer and Liturgy

Every child in school plans, leads and evaluates their own prayer and liturgy session, starting in Nursery to Y6. This takes place weekly in class. Normally this will be done in pairs and follows a suggested guidance. Year Six children lead KS2 assembly on Monday and KS1 assembly.

Collective Worship: Mass and Services

We celebrate Mass on Holy Days of Obligation throughout the year and other occasions such as International Sisters of Mercy Day.



St Mary's Catholic Primary School is part of the South East London Catholic Academy Trust, a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales with company number 13260387. www.selcat.org.uk



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The children are encouraged to take part through reading, drama, dance, bringing the Offertory, welcoming, singing and altar serving. We also have an Advent service and Ash Wednesday service for the whole school. Mass is also celebrated with each KS2 class planning Mass that is delivered in the Convent.

Singing

Singing is a central to the school's religious life and students enthusiastically sing parts of the Mass and hymns.

Parental Involvement

Medium term plans are uploaded onto our school website and a newsletter is sent each half term, to inform the parents of the topics for that term and how they can support their child's spiritual growth, learning and understanding. Parents are invited to any of the masses and class assemblies as we recognise and value the vital role of parents as the first educators of their children.