

# St Mary's RC Primary School



## Religious Education

Religious education (R.E.) is about engaging with the deepest questions of life and finding reasons for the hope which is within them (1 Peter 3:15). It is about the Christian vision of the human person. It is the core subject which is central to the life of St Mary's Primary School.



R.E. is a systematic study of the mystery of God as revealed through the Bible and the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, the teachings and traditions of the Church, the lives of the saints and the relationship between faith and life.

### Our Mission

At St Mary's School our mission is to value and respect each individual as a child of God. They are central to and are shared by the whole school community – the children, staff, family, governors and parish.



Our mission statement aims to ensure that relationships within the school are positive and that we provide a happy caring and secure school environment. In fulfillment of these aims we wish to encourage in each child, a love of God, of the world and to develop self-respect and respect for others.

## Our Aim



As a Catholic school, St Mary's aims to work closely with the home and parish to create an atmosphere where through teaching and example, our children will be helped to enter into a loving relationship with God our Father,

Jesus and with each other as members of God's family and so continue to lay the foundations of the Catholic faith.

## The Religious Education Programme



In July 2012, a new Catholic Primary Religious Education programme for Foundation and Key Stages 1 and 2 , called '**Come and See**', was written by a group of primary experienced diocesan advisers. Central to the programme are three basic human questions concerning the mystery of life, its dignity and purpose;-

**Where do I come from? Life – Creation**

**Who am I? Dignity – Incarnation**

**Why am I here? Purpose – Redemption**

These three doctrines form part of the Christian's search for meaning in life which finds its response in the life of faith.

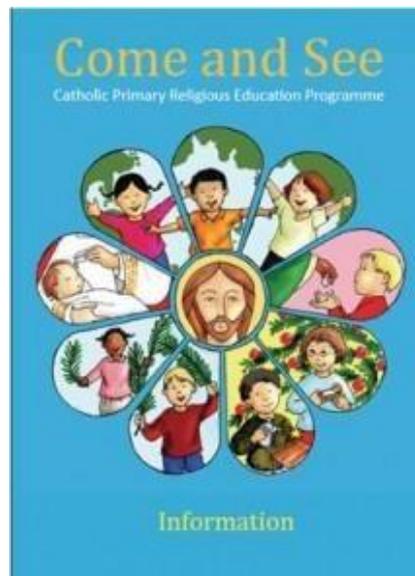
In '**Come and See**' these three big questions are considered in the light of the Scriptures and Tradition of the Church.

Three themes are gradually explored each time at greater depths. They are:

**Church – Community of Faith**

**Sacraments – Celebration in ritual Christian**

**Living – Way of life**



**Come and See**

This programme is in response to the needs of children today in their faith journey. At the heart of the programme is the mystery of God's self-revelation of love through Jesus Christ. The programme gives our children the opportunity to search, to explore, to discover and to respond to the mystery of faith in the light of the Scriptures and the Tradition of the Church.

**Come and See** is an invitation to an exploration and a promise of life for everyone. The invitation is open to all. In response to the question; *'where do*

*you live?*' which was asked by the disciples, Jesus invited them to; 'Come and See.' (John 1:39) The disciples went with Jesus and spent the rest of that day with him.'



Those who receive the invitation may also offer it to others. The Samaritan woman at the well was so inspired by Jesus.....that she returned to her village as a witness to his love and invited the other villagers to '*Come and see the man who told me everything I have ever done. Could he be the Messiah?*' (John 4:28-30)

Children are especially welcome to come and see the wonder of all that is within them and beyond them. Jesus said to his disciples, '*Let the children come to me.*' (Mark 10:14)

### **Applying Religious Education in our Daily Lives**

The children will be helped to develop a sense of wonder and awe at God's creation and works through the example set and the Gospel values lived and shared. The school's rules and P.S.H.E. support the teaching of RE, which strengthens the right attitudes e.g. good self-image, self esteem, honesty, tolerance and respect for difference.

*'Something that has existed since the beginning, that we have heard, and that we have seen with our own eyes; that we have watched and touched with our hands: the Word who is life – this is our subject.'* (1 John 1:1-3)

### **Time Allocation**

Delivery of a topic requires approximately ten hours. The Bishops of England and Wales require that 10% of the taught week is given to curriculum religious education up to the end of year 6.

### **Assessment and Recording**

At the end of each topic the children may complete a concept map which is begun at the start of the topic and the children add to it at the end of the topic

all they have learnt. The teachers assess the children's knowledge and understanding of the topic, both verbal and written.

The topic for formal assessment set out by the diocese will be assessed and The Record of Pupil's Attainment filled in thrice a year. The levels will be recorded.

### **Collective Worship and Prayer: The Prayer Corner**



The task of improving the quality of religious education offered in our school is always closely linked to achievements in every other area of education endeavor. In particular, our school will constantly strive to create that distinctively Catholic ethos which is the result of truly Christian relationships and values and in which prayer, worship and spirituality have central place. Each class has an R.E. area or prayer corner reflecting the Liturgical Year or R.E. topic. These will be used as a visual aid for the children when they pray at the

beginning, middle and end of the day.