

World Religions/Other Faiths Policy

St. Mary’s R.C. Primary School

Eccles

Manchester

M30 0FJ

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| Our Mission Statement  On our journey of faith with Jesus as our guide,  we share friendship, value learning and show respect for ourselves and others  as we live, learn, play, work and pray together  in our community.  “We Share, We Value, We Respect” |

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| **Revised and adopted by Governing Board** | **Current Review** | **Next Review** |
| September 2014 | September 2022 | September 2023 |

*“On our journey of faith, with Jesus as our guide, we share friendship, value learning and show*

*respect for ourselves and others, as we live, learn, play, work and pray together in our community.”*

**Initial Statement**

The role of leader is to ensure impact in moving the school forward through monitoring of planning, scrutinising of work and observing class lessons. All findings are reported to the head teacher, class teachers and governors.

It is the responsibility of the subject leader, supported by all school staff, to raise standards in this subject area and work to provide the widest range of opportunities possible. This is linked to the subject leader’s performance management and the school improvement plan when necessary.

**What is World Religions/Other Faiths?**

In the world today, the presence of other faiths and religions is something that touches all of our lives in a variety of ways. This subject is motivated by the desire to teach pupils in a Catholic context about other faith communities, to enable pupils to prepare properly for life in a multi-cultural, multi-racial, multi-faith society. The school is committed to the highest standards of pupil achievement based on positive attitudes where children learn to question and explore and seek explanations.

**Aims**

* To promote respect and understanding of all mankind.
* To teach knowledge of world religions and other faiths.
* To educate the whole child.
* To develop this dimension of life-experience.
* To show understanding and tolerance of all beliefs.

**The teaching and learning of World Religions/ Other Faiths at St. Mary’s**.

World Religions/Other Faiths is a foundation curriculum area and at St. Mary’s school we ensure that the children cover all of the requirements of the general guidelines in the ‘World Religions and People of Other Faiths – a whole school approach for our Catholic Schools’. This is a comprehensive scheme that covers all the following areas:

* Judaism – taught in Year 1 and Year 3
* Buddhism – taught in Nursery and Year 2
* Hinduism – taught in Reception and Year 4
* Islam – taught in Year 5
* Sikhism – taught in Year 6

Throughout the year a World Faiths Week takes place, with each year group focusing on the religion/faith stated above and the school comes together at the end of that week for a special World Faiths assembly.

In addition to this the school R.E. scheme approved by Salford diocese, ‘The Way, The Truth and The Life’, covers elements of world faiths and other religions within its programme of work.

In line with the school’s teaching and learning policy there will be a mix of class teaching and group work. Whole class teaching will take place when it is deemed to be the most effective way of putting ideas over.

**Equal Opportunity**

At St. Mary’s school we aim to provide a broad and balanced curriculum, which promotes co-operative learning, with equal opportunity for all. The promotion of equal opportunities is the concern of all our teachers, who ensure that irrespective of race, gender or disability, all pupils receive their entitlement to other faiths education.

**Cross-Curricular Links**

We believe that all children benefit from other faiths in terms of its contribution to overall capability and from the way that it links with other areas of the curriculum – for example, literacy, numeracy, history, music and art. Teachers within individual year groups will make direct connections to the PSHCE curriculum which will enable issues of developing confidence, playing an active role as citizens, respecting differences, having worthwhile and fulfilling relationships, developing independence and responsibilities and experiencing community involvement to be promoted.

**Gender / Multicultural Issues**

World Religions/Other Faiths contributes significantly to the personal development of pupils. Children are encouraged to see that it is part of the life of all cultures and peoples both now and in the past and that we can all participate in knowledge and understanding of other faiths. The choice of content will be guided by the scheme of work and will promote inclusion through sensitivity to the range of children’s backgrounds both economic and cultural.

# **Planning**

Within each year group work is planned in units as outlined in the school scheme of work. These Medium Term Plans include a summary of objectives, tasks, teaching methods, assessment, vocabulary, resources required and a focus on safety and links with other subjects where appropriate. In line with school policy, the planning will be monitored on a regular basis by the subject leader.

**Progression**

We expect all children to progress in this work in a number of areas, these include:

* Using specific vocabulary
* Becoming more independent during activities
* Moving from familiar to less familiar contexts
* Increasing personal knowledge and making more links between areas of other faiths
* Increasing accuracy in all factual elements
* Making more informed choices about other citizens linked to their beliefs

**Continuity**

The school scheme is designed so that children have the opportunity to return to concepts and skills spirally. The plan refers to skills, vocabulary and IT. It ensures that children return to aspects of the subject within the meaningful contexts offered.

**Key Skills**

The World Religions/Other Faiths lessons planned at St. Mary’s offer children the opportunity to develop a number of key skills, these include becoming effective citizens through:

* values
* ethos
* school environment, relationships and organisation
* working independently or with others
* improving own learning
* appropriate use of IT
* partnerships with parents and local communities

World Religions/Other Faiths will offer children the chance for discovery both within the classroom and in the wider environment. Children will participate in pairs, groups, as a whole class or as individuals. At St. Mary’s, communication and recording will take a variety of formats including discussions, drawings, written work, and through the use of IT. Wherever possible, positive cross-curricular links will be made with other subject areas, as we are concerned that children see other faiths as part of their world.

Each individual unit of work on World Faiths will be taught across 1 or 2 weeks. This will be supplemented throughout the year by additional work within ‘The Way, The Truth and The Life.’

Each class will also celebrate one of the main feasts or holy days of their World Faith

**Differentiation**

The school planning recognises the needs of children working within the three ability bands for each year group, ie those who are working at the expected level, below the expected level and above the expected level. Differentiated levels of expected outcome for the end of each unit are detailed on the MTP’s. Children who have a special educational need, will have their needs outlined on an IEP should their learning fall either side of the spectrum covered by the school documentation.

**Inclusion/Special Needs**

World Religions/Other Faiths is for everyone and so it is taught in line with the school’s equal opportunity policy. We believe that it is an important aspect of everyone’s life now and in the future. World Religions/Other Faiths education should account for children’s difference abilities, gender, culture, religion, so that it celebrates similarities and differences, ensures access and presents positive images. Children with specific barriers to learning will have an IEP which outlines the strategies which will enable them to be included in all aspects of the curriculum.

**Equality Duty**

At St. Mary’s we are committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for all pupils, staff and all those receiving services from the school. We aim to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity in which people feel free to disclose their state and to participate fully in all aspects of school life. We welcome our responsibilities under the Equality Duty to –

1. eliminate unlawful discrimination
2. advance equality of opportunity
3. foster good relations

**Bilingual Children**

Bilingual or multilingualism is valued as an achievement. As primary teachers of world religions and other faiths we should ensure that such children are not impeded by any lack of familiarity with vocabulary. Differentiated support will by provided where appropriate.

**Assessment**

Assessment of pupil achievement in world religions and other faiths aims to assist pupils in understanding their own progress, aid teachers in their planning, as well as informing the school’s monitoring system of progression and attainment.

Formative assessment will be on-going throughout each unit and will be used to inform future planning. This will be based on the lesson objectives outlined and taught for each individual element of a unit of work.

Summative assessments will be made at the end of each unit and recorded on a group assessment sheet in line with the school’s policy on assessment.

Children’s work will be scrutinised on a regular basis by the World Religions and Other Faiths subject leader, in line with school policy.

**Monitoring and evaluation of achievement and standards**

Monitoring and evaluation of achievement and standards in World Religions and Other Faiths teaching at St. Mary’s links to the school improvement plan when appropriate and is the responsibility of the subject leader and the Senior Leadership Team. Class teachers monitor the achievement of the children through teacher assessment and their own teaching through regular self-review. Throughout the year, the subject leader will also gain evidence from monitoring the planning, attending class and school assemblies and observing classroom practice.

An annual review is held by the subject leader. The general results of this evaluation are then reported to the staff as appropriate and used by the subject leader at performance management so that discussion and action can follow to further improve the children’s achievements.

**Health & Safety**

At St. Mary’s school we consider safety to be an integral part of all our teaching in this subject. The general teaching requirement for health and safety as outlined in the National Curriculum Handbook applies for this subject. Occasionally, when children are engaged in a variety of open-ended investigations, there is always the possibility that something could go wrong and therefore teachers need to be vigilant. There should be awareness among staff that not everything that gets printed in books is safe to do!

***Electrical Equipment:*** *No mains powered electrical equipment should be used or brought into school from home unless it has been subject to the schools annual safety check by the LA. Children must not plug in or switch on any appliances.*

*For any further assistance with health & safety issues the other faiths co-ordinator should be approached and will endeavour to assist with up-to-date information.*

**Resources**

We are committed to build up the schools resources for other faiths. These are stored centrally in the schools resource area. In addition some items which are subject or age specific may be kept within individual classrooms. The resources will be audited yearly by the co-ordinator.

**Use of IT**

* Providing a range of information sources to enhance their knowledge and understanding of World Religions/Other Faiths.
* Supporting the development of their understanding of the role World Religions/Other Faiths plays in the lives of individuals and the wider world.
* Providing access to images of World Religions/Other Faiths.
* Contributing to pupil’s awareness of the moral impact of IT on the changing world.
* Where units involve recording, IT can assist. Also, units may be enhanced by source material from the internet etc.
* Useful websites are listed and displayed in the IT Suite.

**Staff Development**

The development of all staff is an important part of the school’s approach to improving standards of achievement and teaching in World Religions/Other Faiths. Annual and other reviews which take place will include teachers’ training needs. These are reflected in the School Improvement Plan for St. Mary’s school.

The subject leader will undertake training which will enhance their own knowledge of issues, as well as keeping up-to-date with current issues regarding the teaching of World Religions/Other Faiths within the primary sector. Information and changes to current practice will be disseminated to the Senior Leadership Team and the staff as a whole during staff meetings and INSET sessions.

**Monitoring, Evaluation and Review of the Policy**

The policy will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed in line with the established routines and procedures in school.

All teachers will be consulted about staff development in the subject. This may lead to discussion, awareness raising, training and ultimately amendments to practice and policy.