

RE

Intent

Here at St Mary's we have clear Christian vision and values for education rooted in theology which enables all people to flourish and live and learn together. Our theologically rooted Christian vision drives all that we do and spiritual development is an intrinsic part of the whole curriculum.

At St Mary's, we believe that it is important for all our pupils to learn from and about religion as part of their personal development. The aim of Religious Education in our school is to help children to acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and the other principal religions represented in Great Britain and the wider world; to appreciate the way that religious beliefs shape life and behaviour, develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues and enhance their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Religious Education is taught throughout the school in such a way as to reflect the overall aims, values, and philosophy of our Church School. It plays an important role, along with all other curriculum areas, particularly PSHCE, in promoting social awareness and understanding in our children. We encourage our pupils to ask questions about the world and to reflect on their own beliefs, values, experiences, behaviour, religious ideas and attitudes as well as consideration, bravery, loyalty and truthfulness. We include and promote British Values, ensuring that children are aware of their rights and responsibilities as UK citizens. Our curriculum encourages creativity, imagination, enquiry, debate, discussion and independence.

Implementation

The teaching and learning in our school uses an approach that engages with biblical text and theological ideas. As pupils move through the school, the curriculum is organised sequentially and prior knowledge is built upon. We value the religious background of all members of the school community and hope that this will encourage individuals to share their own experiences with others freely. All religions and their communities are treated with respect and sensitivity and we value the links, which are, and can be made between home, school, and a faith community.

We foster close links with the local churches and have regular assemblies led by the vicar, youth workers and local ministers. Collective worship enables the spiritual flourishing of all those in the school community.

Christian values are woven through all curriculum areas and evident in everything we do. Pupils are not only taught about different faiths, they are given opportunities to reflect on their own beliefs and appreciate different viewpoints of others. We ensure that there is a distinction between learning about and learning from religion. Big questions are encouraged. We often have special RE themed days or weeks where we focus upon specific Christian beliefs. Children are encouraged to share their own prayers.

Impact

The children at St Mary's enjoy learning about and from in RE. Through this learning, the children are able to make links between their own lives and those of others in their community and in the wider world, developing an understanding of other people's cultures and ways of life. Pupils are also able to reflect on their own beliefs, values, experiences, behaviour, religious ideas and attitudes and have an understanding of our core values of love, determination, respect, honesty, courage and compassion. The impact of this work is often seen through courageous activity. Children are encouraged to speak out against an issue of injustice, often on behalf of those whose voice is not heard.