

# St. Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary School

*'Nurturing Hearts and Minds.'*



## Religious Education Handbook/Policy

## **Our Mission Statement**

**Let the light of Jesus shine through in all we think and say and do.**

### **Aims of our Mission**

#### ***Loving***

Using the teaching of Jesus to provide a loving school community where all love God and one another.

#### ***Learning***

Instilling a love of learning in a caring Catholic environment, which enables pupils to develop their true potential.

#### ***Preparing***

Enabling all pupils to become well-balanced individuals and preparing them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

### **Motto**

Letting the light of Jesus shine through.

### **Prayer *(for children – with actions)***

‘Jesus, let your light shine through, in all we think and say and do.’

## **THE AIMS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

The aims of Religious Education in St. Mary Magdalen’s School is that the programme must include clear and succinct learning objectives which take into account the religious and educational needs for our children including those from supporting Catholic homes and those for whom the school may be their first and perhaps only experience of Church.

- Religious Education is for all. It is a core subject, which is central to the life of a Catholic school and is about the Christian vision for the human person.
- It is a collaborative activity which respects and promotes the child’s innate capacity for wonder, awe and reverence, offering them a sense of self worth through their experience of belonging to a caring community, and an awareness of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.

## **OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the 'Come and See' RE Programme are to:

- Provide opportunities for celebration, prayer and reflection in implicit and explicit ways. It will be taught discretely and developmentally. It will include the deepening of knowledge and understanding of key theological ideas, and their application to life.
- Provide children with the language of religious experience – in religious activities, places, stories, symbols and rituals, people and objects.
- Offer opportunities for the children to apply and use their knowledge and skills in cross-curricular studies to deepen their understanding and think creatively so that children are instilled with a love of learning and a desire to go on learning.
- Offer a “systematic presentation of the Christian event, message and way of life” in ways appropriate to the age and stage of development of the child.
- Appreciate that adults involved understand the underlying theological as well as educational principles.
- Include appropriate materials about other Faiths/Religions – allowing for an engagement with others' beliefs and values which will help to develop an understanding of and respect for other faith traditions.
- Ensure that 10% of curriculum time, in St. Mary Magdalen's, is planned for explicit Religious Education and is in accordance with the Liverpool Archdiocesan pastoral needs and practices. Ensure that is as academically challenging as other core curriculum areas.
- To support the Sacramental journey for the children by working in collaboration with the Parish and catechists.

## **THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMME**

To fulfil our aims and objectives we use the '*Come and See*' programme of Religious Education recommended by the Archdiocese of Liverpool. Central to this programme is the exploration of three basic human questions and three Christian beliefs that are the Church's response in faith within the Catholic tradition.

**Where do I come from? - Life,**

**Who am I? - Dignity and**

**Why am I here? - Purpose**

Links are also made with the experience of other faith traditions.

## **OVERVIEW OF CONTENT**

'Come and See' is developed through three themes across each term based on the documents of the Second Vatican Council – which are gradually explored each time in greater depth.

### **Church**

**Autumn - Domestic Church – *Family***

**Spring – Local Church – *Parish/Diocese***

**Summer – Universal Church – *Worldwide***

### **Sacrament**

**Autumn – Belonging - *KS1 – Baptism/KS2 – Confirmation/Ordination***

**Spring – Relating – *Eucharist***

**Summer – Inter-relating – *Reconciliation/Anointing of the Sick***

## **Christian Living**

**Autumn – Loving – *Advent/Christmas***

**Spring – Giving – *Lent/Easter***

**Summer – Serving – *Pentecost***

## **AUTUMN**

### **Domestic Church – *Family***

This theme focuses on life as a gift, myself as unique and loved creation, the creative love that can be expressed in family groups.

### **Belonging - *KS1 – Baptism/KS2 – Confirmation/Ordination***

This theme focuses on the call to belong, the creative potential that belonging develops; and the sacraments of the gift of God's life and friendship.

### **Loving – *Advent/Christmas***

This theme focuses on the capacity for entering into loving relationships and the perfect gift and revelation of God's love, Jesus, born of Mary, born as one of us.

## **SPRING**

### **Local Church – *Parish/Diocese***

This theme focuses on the people of God gathered in Christ, united in the journey of faith, in caring for one another, in sharing their story and in celebration.

### **Relating – *Eucharist***

This theme focuses on the invitation to know Jesus, to live in communion with him and one another.

### **Giving – *Lent/Easter***

This theme focuses on Jesus' loving self-giving on the cross, the Father's love that raises him to new life and the challenge to Christians to follow Jesus' example of self-giving.

## **SUMMER**

### **Serving – *Pentecost***

This theme focuses on the on-going mission of Jesus Christ in the Church through the power of the Holy Spirit.

### **Inter-relating – *Reconciliation/Anointing of the Sick***

This theme focuses on the love, compassion and forgiveness of God the Father revealed in Jesus and poured out by the Spirit to bring forgiveness and reconciliation in the sacrament of Reconciliation.

### **Universal Church – *Worldwide***

This theme focuses on the same love revealed in the diversity of the world and its people, and in the gifts of the Spirit that bear fruit in love, joy, justice and peace for all people.

## **CHANGES**

**The Come and See Programme will be being phased out across the school from September 2024 and replaced with 'To Know you More Clearly' RED.**

**At St. Mary Magdalen's, we will be introducing from Year 3 upwards and staff from KS1 and EYFS will attend training from the Autumn Term.**

The RED takes a six 'Branch' approach, with each Branch being covered within a half term, although the sixth Branch may be taught at different points in the year. The Branches: Branch 1 - Creation and Covenant (Season of Creation) Branch 2 - Prophecy and Promise (Season of Advent) Branch 3 - Galilee to

Jerusalem (Season of Christmas) Branch 4 - Desert to Garden (Season of Lent) Branch 5 - To the Ends of the Earth (Season of Pentecost) Branch 6 - Dialogue and Encounter - understanding how to listen when others speak, develop attitudes of respect, and embrace similarities and differences.

| THEMES & TOPICS                                 | EARLY YEARS 1 & 2                                                    | YEAR 1 & FS 1                                                                 | YEAR 2 & FS 2                                                                                           | YEAR 3                                                                                    | YEAR 4                                                                                                           | YEAR 5                                                                                         | YEAR 6                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Domestic church</b><br><b>family</b>         | <b>Myself</b><br>God knows and loves each one                        | <b>Families</b><br>God's love and care for every family                       | <b>Beginnings</b><br>God at every beginning                                                             | <b>Homes</b><br>God's dream for every family                                              | <b>People</b><br>The family of God in Scripture                                                                  | <b>Ourselves</b><br>Created in the image & likeness of God                                     | <b>Loving</b><br>God who never stops loving                                       |
| <b>Baptism/confirmation</b><br><b>belonging</b> | <b>Welcome</b><br>Baptism; a welcome to God's family                 | <b>Belonging</b><br>Baptism an invitation to belong to God's family           | <b>Signs &amp; symbols</b><br>Signs & symbols in Baptism                                                | <b>Promises</b><br>Promises made at Baptism                                               | <b>Called</b><br>Confirmation: a call to witness                                                                 | <b>Life choices</b><br>Marriage commitment and service                                         | <b>Vocation &amp; commitment</b><br>The vocation of priesthood and religious life |
| <b>Advent/Christmas</b><br><b>loving</b>        | <b>Birthday</b><br>Looking forward to Jesus' birthday                | <b>Waiting</b><br>Advent a time to look forward to Christmas                  | <b>Preparations</b><br>Advent; preparing to celebrate Christmas                                         | <b>Visitors</b><br>Advent: waiting for the coming of Jesus                                | <b>Gift</b><br>God's gift of love & friendship in Jesus                                                          | <b>Hope</b><br>Advent; waiting in joyful hope for Jesus; the promised one                      | <b>Expectations</b><br>Jesus born to show God to the world                        |
| <b>Local church</b><br><b>community</b>         | <b>Celebrating</b><br>People celebrate in Church                     | <b>Special people</b><br>People in the parish family                          | <b>Books</b><br>The books used in Church                                                                | <b>Journeys</b><br>Christian family's journey with Jesus                                  | <b>Community</b><br>life in the local Christian community: ministries in the parish                              | <b>Mission</b><br>Continuing Jesus' mission in diocese [ecumenism]                             | <b>Sources</b><br>The Bible, the special book for the Church                      |
| <b>Eucharist</b><br><b>relating</b>             | <b>Gathering</b><br>The parish family gathers to celebrate Eucharist | <b>Meals</b><br>Mass; Jesus' special meal                                     | <b>Thanksgiving</b><br>Mass a special time for saying thank you to God for everything, especially Jesus | <b>Listening &amp; sharing</b><br>Jesus gives himself to us in a special way              | <b>Giving &amp; receiving</b><br>Living in communion                                                             | <b>Memorial sacrifice</b><br>The Eucharist the living memorial of Jesus' sacrifice             | <b>Unity</b><br>Eucharist enables people to live in communion.                    |
| <b>Lent/Easter</b><br><b>giving</b>             | <b>Growing</b><br>Looking forward to Easter                          | <b>Change</b><br>Lent a time for change                                       | <b>Opportunities</b><br>Lent; an opportunity to start anew in order to celebrate Jesus' new life        | <b>Giving all</b><br>Lent a time to remember Jesus' total giving                          | <b>Self discipline</b><br>Celebrating growth to new life                                                         | <b>Sacrifice</b><br>Lent a time of aligning with the sacrifice already made by Jesus           | <b>Death &amp; new life</b><br>Celebrating Jesus' death & resurrection            |
| <b>Pentecost</b><br><b>serving</b>              | <b>Good News</b><br>Passing on the Good news of Jesus                | <b>Holidays &amp; holydays</b><br>Pentecost: feast of the Holy Spirit         | <b>Spread the word</b><br>Pentecost a time to spread the Good News                                      | <b>Energy</b><br>Gifts of the Holy Spirit                                                 | <b>New life</b><br>To hear & live the Easter message                                                             | <b>Transformation</b><br>Celebration of the Spirit's transforming power                        | <b>Witnesses</b><br>The Holy Spirit enables people to become witnesses            |
| <b>Reconciliation</b><br><b>Inter-relating</b>  | <b>Friends</b><br>Friends of Jesus                                   | <b>Being sorry</b><br>God helps us to choose well Sacrament of Reconciliation | <b>Rules</b><br>Reasons for rules in the Christian family Sacrament of Reconciliation                   | <b>Choices</b><br>The importance of examination of conscience Sacrament of Reconciliation | <b>Building bridges</b><br>Admitting wrong, being reconciled with God and each other Sacrament of Reconciliation | <b>Freedom &amp; responsibility</b><br>Commandments enable Christians to be free & responsible | <b>Healing</b><br>Sacrament of the Sick                                           |
| <b>Universal Church</b><br><b>world</b>         | <b>Our world</b><br>God's wonderful world                            | <b>Neighbours</b><br>Neighbours share God's world                             | <b>Treasures</b><br>God's treasure; the world                                                           | <b>Special places</b><br>Holy places for Jesus & the Christian                            | <b>God's people</b><br>Different saints show people what God is like                                             | <b>Stewardship</b><br>The Church is called to the stewardship of Creation                      | <b>Common good</b><br>Work of the worldwide Christian family                      |

## **THE PROCESS**

### **KNOWLEDGE/UNDERSTANDING/ SKILLS/ATTITUDES**

The process for delivering the topics in *'Come and See'* has three stages – *Explore, Reveal* and *Respond*, which enable pupils to develop knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes.

The process encompasses a variety of teaching and learning styles, which enable the needs of individual pupils to be met.

### **THE APPROACH CHOSEN**

**In the Foundation Stage**, the children are taught through a variety of processes – whole class core input, adult directed group activities and continuous provision. Religious Education makes an active contribution to the areas of learning outlined in the Foundation curriculum.

**In Key Stages 1 and 2**, the structure within Explore and Reveal follows the same format: a learning focus, content, some key questions followed by one of the suggested activities that has develop the **Skills** that are appropriate to the level of the pupil. During the Respond part of the topic, children are asked to Remember, Rejoice and Renew their learning. Evidence of this is collated into a 'Whole Class Respond Journal' which will be passed on when the children move up a year group.

### **PLANNING**

**Long-term planning** – *'Come and See'* The Yearly framework overview of themes/topics will remain the same each year. *See appendix 1*

**Medium-term planning** – *'Come and See'* An important part of the planning process and an essential part of the understanding of each topic is for teachers to have the opportunity to reflect on the theme pages (Come and See for yourself) at the start of each topic. The Subject Leader as part of a whole staff meeting can lead this, or it can be carried out individually or in Key Stages. At the beginning of the academic year, the dates for each topic (and other faith units) are established by the Subject Leader and distributed to staff. This yearly overview of topic dates also shows when parents/carers are invited in to help the children celebrate their learning – through Celebrations and Showcase Assemblies.

**Short-term planning** – The *'Come and See'* Programme will be used throughout the school. In order to ensure well-being, teachers use a variety of planning approaches (suited to them) to ensure the coverage of each topic. They take into account the topic overview sheet, the intended outcomes, Standard Indicators and then annotate the teacher document with ideas that make use of the different **Skills** to provide differentiation both for children with specific needs or those who need additional challenge to take them onto the next step of learning. Children, who are working within the P Scales, have access to a bank of activities (available on the website) that are cross-referenced into the programme's themes. As with any other subject, children learn in different ways, so this planning also takes into account a variety of learning styles and provides for the use of a range of different media – story, drama, dance, music, video, ICT, discussion and debate.

### **ASSESSMENT**

Assessment is focused by the overall aims and objectives of Religious Education. In *'Come and See'*, it is related to the concepts, skills and attitudes to be developed through the exploration of the themes and the learning outcomes for each topic. Through the use of **Skills**, assessment establishes what pupils know, understand and can do. It does not assess faith or the practice of faith. Assessment in *'Come and See'* emphasises a wide range of achievement.

### ***In our school it involves:***

**Informal assessment** – This is facilitated in a range of ways. For example, it can be carried out when responding to work in books or when listening to children in group or whole class discussion. The *'Come and See'* RE programme enables teachers to make effective use of ongoing teacher assessment using the

Standard Indicators through the **Skills**. At the beginning of each topic, the Standard Indicators help to facilitate differentiation and also help teachers to reflect where children are working in relation to their Age Related Expectations.

**Formal assessment** – All year groups complete one piece of formally assessed work each term. These assessment pieces are either from the Christian Living Theme, the Church Theme or the Sacramental Theme. The three-year planner, assigned by the Diocese, indicates which theme is to be covered and the 'Assessment Learning Focus activity' within the 'Come and See' programme is also identified.

*See appendix 2*

Following each formal assessment, teachers gather together during staff meetings to moderate samples of assessed work against the Standard Indicators. When possible: Subject Leaders within our local cluster gather to moderate samples of work and share good practice; Teaching Staff have opportunities where they can meet with other staff in the same year group to moderate their assessed work. This ensures a consistent approach to the assessment process. The moderated pieces of work are held by the Subject Leader in a 'Moderation File'. There is a portfolio of work held between the cluster of moderated samples of work.

The Archdiocese are working to collate a bank of moderated assessment task samples of work for each Year Group to support Cluster Moderation.

The use of FORMAL and ONGOING assessment paints a termly picture of the attainment of each child. It also shows whether a pupil is progressing as they should. Where a pupil appears to be off track, the teacher will highlight this on the class tracker and then build in further opportunities to support this child to make the necessary progress to move back on track. This information is passed from class to class when the children move up a year and it is also used as part of the transition process for Year 6 children when they move on to All Hallows Catholic High School. Termly data is added to our whole school tracker – Insight.

## **RECORDING**

This provides evidence of and celebrates the individual's achievement. Teachers employ a variety of methods best suited to the learning outcomes and individual needs.

- Written comments on children's work.
- Outcomes of tasks on class display, entrance hall displays, Church displays along with presenting work during celebrations.
- Use of Ipads in class to keep digital records that can be uploaded to the Website as News or on the Class pages.

**REPORTING** *The four dimensions to reporting in St. Mary Magdalen's include:*

1. Reporting to children – providing feedback through informal discussion and marking.
2. Reporting to colleagues – through relaying information of achievement of pupils and areas studied. Keeping colleagues updated on current initiatives, resources etc.
3. Reporting to parents/carers – informing them of progress and achievement of their children through parent/teacher discussion and written end of year reports.
4. Reporting to parents/carers, governors, parish and external agencies – providing information about the content and quality of RE and achievement of pupils through the school website, newsletters, Open Days, Information evenings, school Masses, Carol Services, end of topic celebrations, Parish events and Governor's meeting.

## **EVALUATION OF TEACHING**

**This ensures that the school regularly evaluates and develops the quality of RE teaching.**

The review and evaluation of teaching of the 'Come and See' programme is undertaken by the Headteacher and Subject Leader in conjunction with all staff during Subject Leader time and regular staff meetings. Following the monitoring schedule, along with lesson observations, book studies, pupil discussions and professional dialogue, teaching is thoroughly evaluated. New ideas, strategies, guidelines and updates from the Diocese are shared and discussed with colleagues whenever the need arises or following professional development training. These opportunities enable staff to share effective practice/resources. Teaching resources are generally discussed on an individual basis.

## **EVALUATION OF LEARNING**

Children are enabled to evaluate their own learning by:

- Using the Respond stage in each topic where the class teacher enables the children to recall and review work done throughout the topic.
- At the end of each topic, children decide which aspects of their learning are going to contribute to their class celebration.
- The use of pupil discussions where children have the opportunity to honestly and openly feedback their thoughts on learning and the curriculum.
- Monitoring learning through the evidence in books. Books are regularly checked by the Subject Leader against a range of criteria to ensure that children are: receiving a wealth of experiences, accessing interesting learning opportunities, being given meaningful feedback to develop their learning and having the chance to learn about other faiths.

## **STAFF DEVELOPMENT**

Staff are updated following the Subject Leader update, where new initiatives, resources, ideas and strategies for learning are discussed with staff in order for their knowledge to grow. Staff who may need additional support or updating, are enrolled (where available) on the various Diocesan courses. Cluster training (facilitated by the Diocese) takes place when required to ensure that staff are kept fully informed of new initiatives.

## **STAFF/STUDENT INDUCTION**

New teaching staff, LSAs and students are asked to read the handbook in order to become familiar with the expectations of a teacher in a Catholic School. The Subject Leader/Head teacher will give support and guidance to all new staff/students but especially to those who are not Catholic.

## **STAFF COMMUNICATION**

Staff meetings/Emails are used to distribute information, share Diocesan updates, discuss and evaluate planning, organise diary dates for new topics, celebrations and collective worship. This time is also used to discuss Sacramental Preparation, co-ordinate Parish/School events and termly local, Diocesan and Global fundraising activities. These meetings provide a forum to discuss concerns and share ideas – particularly those gained through in-service training, discuss resources to enhance provision. Dates for celebrations, Collective Worship and Class Assemblies are timetabled in at the beginning of each year by the subject leader and forwarded through email to all staff. At the start of each academic year, staff are given a monitoring overview that indicates what monitoring will be happening and when, so as not to overload year groups at the busy times. The subject leader is always available to support any member of staff.

## **RESOURCES**

### **STAFF MEMBERS**

### **TEACHING**

**General Resources** are in the Deputy Head's office and the hall/corridor cupboards. They are maintained by the subject leader. These include:

- Other faith boxes of artefacts.
- A variety of posters.
- A Collective Worship box.
- Cloths and candles for worship.
- Class sets of Bibles that are age appropriate.
- Prayer books.
- Music CDs and powerpoints of lyrics.

### **Resources for each class**

These are stored in each class and are maintained by the class teacher.

This includes a Collective Worship box for each class with a variety of resources/artefacts, age appropriate Bibles, a variety of prayer books and Old/New Testament Bible story books, cloths to match the liturgical colours, battery operated candles, pebbles, baskets, prayer cards etc. Each year Teachers are asked to complete an inventory to ensure that resources for Collective Worship are in a good condition, appealing and appropriate. Additional resources are purchased where necessary so that they reflect the Liturgical Calendar and the topics that are being taught.

### **RELATIONSHIP OF R.E. TO THE WHOLE CURRICULUM**

- See policies and guidelines for Collective Worship and Assemblies.
- The Catholic nature of our school is interwoven into each curriculum area.

### **Links with Parents/carers**

Communication is important, as, for some children, school will provide their only experience of Church and Catholicism in practice. To involve and inform parents/carers we incorporate the following methods:

- A weekly newsletter is sent out which includes a summary of the story and themes for the whole school collective worship. It also has a section to celebrate births, birthdays or pray for those within the school/parish community who need our prayers. This contains details of dates for upcoming whole school celebrations, Parish/School events, Sacramental updates, charitable work or fundraising initiatives as well as celebrating the children who have been working hard over the week and have received merit certificates.
- Our School App is a great place for parents/carers to see what is happening in school on a day to day basis. These 'Tweets' fully reflect the breadth of our curriculum and our school values.
- RE topic overviews are on the website for parents/carers to see.
- A 'Termly Toolkit' session is scheduled at the beginning of the Autumn and Spring terms, where the teachers have the opportunities to meet with the parents/carers and discuss the term ahead, special events and how they can support at home.
- A short Parents/carers' meeting is held in November, where parents/carers are given a brief update on how their child has settled into the new academic year. We then have a more formal Parents/carers' Evening in the Spring term and following the formal end of year report in the Summer term, parents/carers have an opportunity to discuss any concerns.
- There is an Open Day in the Autumn term when current parents/carers and prospective parents/carers are welcomed and have the opportunity of looking at the school including RE displays etc.
- An invitation to Class Worships, Class Showcase Assemblies and School/Parish Masses, Liturgical events.

- There is a special meeting for the new intake parents/carers in the Summer term during which the RE Subject Leader/Headteacher gives a brief description of the RE curriculum, Sacramental Preparation and Collective Worship.
- Information evenings are held when appropriate, to keep parents/carers up to date with changes to the Religious/sacramental programmes. These are held as part of our cluster of catholic schools where appropriate.
- Online questionnaires.
- Our wonderful and thriving PTFA is involved in many aspects of the Catholic life of the school.

### **Links with the Parish**

- We have a new Parish Priest, Father Ian McParland who started in August 2022.
- There is a close communication between school and the Parish Priest.
- All children attend Mass regularly through school. Special feasts/occasions are observed throughout the year. The children attend a class Mass at least each half term where they read the readings, are invited to prepare prayers of intercession and lead in the offertory. The children in KS2 are fully involved with the Wednesday Masses and the children in KS1 gradually become more and more involved as the year progresses and they grow in confidence.
- The Parish newsletter contains school news, information re. Sacramental Preparation etc.
- The school newsletter contains information about Masses and Parish meetings.
- The Wednesday Word is sent out via email each week.
- The Parish is committed to providing catechists who lead in the co-ordination and delivery of the sessions in preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist.
- The SVP provide support for the children in Year 5 (after receiving the sacrament of Eucharist) to attend a retreat as a way of continuing to deepen their relationship with God. They also offer support for our families who have limited income.
- We have a Year 3 Mini Vinnies group of children who spend time thinking about how to work for the good of the communities that we belong to – School, Parish, Archdiocese and our Global neighbours.
- Current RE work is displayed in Church for parishioners to enjoy.

### **Sacramental Preparation**

At school we work in partnership with the Parish Priest, catechists and parents/carers to support the delivery of the '*With You Always*' Sacramental programme. Information meetings are held, to which the respective class teachers attend. The staff, Subject Leader and Headteacher also attends and support the sessions that are held after Mass. The PTFA provide a special celebration cake that the children enjoy after Mass.

### **SELF EVALUATION DOCUMENT (S.E.D)**

*See Appendix 3*

### **OUTCOMES**

The outcome of Religious Education at St Mary Magdalen's School is: religiously literate and engaged young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills – appropriate to their age and capacity – to reflect spiritually, and think ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.

### **EVALUATION OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION HANDBOOK**

The RE Subject Leader and RE Governor will review this handbook briefly each Autumn to ensure that it is current and reflective of our practice in school.

Agreed by Governors: Autumn 2017

Reviewed and updated: Autumn 2022

Next review: Autumn 2024