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## Religious Education Policy

DATE APPROVED BY SMNG	Feb 16		
REVIEW DATE <b>Every 2 years</b>	Spring 2018		
SIGNED HEAD TEACHER		DATE	23/2/16
SIGNED CHAIR OF GOVERNING BODY		DATE	23/2/16



## Religious Education Policy

"Growing in God's Grace"

St Mary's School is an inclusive school founded on Christian principles and values. We aim to develop the uniqueness of every child through a stimulating curriculum with an environmental focus, encouraging them to realise their full potential as global citizens.

The school has a diverse community, welcoming children from many different faith and cultural backgrounds. Through our Religious Education (RE) teaching, we aim to allow children the opportunity to explore the beliefs and practices of individuals and communities within the major religions of the world.

### **Aims:**

At St Mary's, our RE teaching aims to support our school mission statement and provide children with the means to:

- To develop an understanding of Christian beliefs and practices
- To understand the importance of the Bible and the role of the Church
- To develop an understanding and knowledge of the other principal world faiths found in the United Kingdom
- To encourage children to talk about their own beliefs and to respect the beliefs of others
- To understand that belief can be expressed in many ways including art, music, dance and ceremonial rites in different cultures of the world
- To ask challenging questions about life, belief and issues of right and wrong
- To explore the concepts of respect, love, forgiveness, sacrifice, self-esteem
- To instil a sense of awe and wonder

### **Teaching and Learning:**

Religious Education is a core subject at St Mary's and is taught for one hour a week.

The RE curriculum is based on the scheme of work for the Diocese of Canterbury in discussion with the Rector of St Mary's Church.

- Equal emphasis is on learning about and learning from Religious Education
- There are clear outcomes for each topic
- Differentiation is according to children's age and understanding

- A range of teaching methods will be used to engage and inspire a sense of awe and wonder. ICT will be included where appropriate
- There will be focus on a particular Christian value each half term
- Visitors to and visits from the school will be an important part of the RE curriculum
- Teaching will draw on the children's experiences and allow time for reflection
- The faiths taught in RE will be Christianity, Judaism, Sikhism, Islam and Hinduism
- Children's work will be recorded in a variety of ways
- Displays will be used in the classroom to stimulate discussion and celebrate children's ideas
- Staff are able to undertake appropriate training in the teaching of RE from a number of providers, including the London Diocesan Board for Schools (LDBS)

**Assessment:**

- Assessment is facilitated by the use of the LDBS assessment tracker and using the EYFS framework
- Assessment is on-going and used to plan lessons with appropriate challenge
- Feedback is shared termly with the parents, either at the Parent Consultation evenings or in the annual written report

**Equal Opportunities, Inclusivity and Accessibility:**

- At St Mary's, we aim to provide a stimulating education to meet the needs of all our pupils. The school is inclusive. Every child is valued and helped to grow in mind, body and spirit.
- All pupils will have access to the RE curriculum through effective resourcing, differentiation and support
- Parents have the right to withdraw their child from RE lessons, but we would ask that they discuss this with the headteacher in the first instance

**Subject Leadership:**

- The subject leader is currently the headteacher
- Monitoring of teaching and learning in RE will be part of our whole school monitoring cycle
- The Rector will monitor RE on behalf of the Governing Body
- The Rector, headteacher and subject leader (when separate) will review and address the targets for RE in the school development plan