



STMARY'S
MIDDLEWICH

Curriculum Aims

At St. Mary's, we are a proud Catholic school, with Christ at the heart of everything we do. We believe that every child is a gift from God, created in his own image and likeness. Our Mission Statement affirms that our aim is for every child to reach their full potential.

Our school's curriculum places a strong emphasis on the learning and development of its pupils; it is broad, balanced and challenging, ensuring pupils develop the skills necessary to succeed in life after primary school. Our welcoming and nurturing environment, based on the Gospel values, also allows every individual to grow spiritually, morally, socially and culturally.

We recognise that our children are the leaders of tomorrow and that we must prepare them to play an active and responsible role in society.

The Diocese of Shrewsbury recognises the importance of Catholic education:

'Our educational mission entails the ongoing development of the entire potential of every person. It seeks to promote the well-being and freedom of every person made in the image and likeness of God and finding fulfilment in God alone.'

We aim:

To provide a Catholic Christian education based on the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, in which the values of the Gospel underpin all aspects of school life;

To provide a friendly, nurturing environment in which the dignity of each person as a child of God is recognised and developed; and to promote the full potential of each child through a curriculum which develops spiritual, academic, creative, social and emotional growth;

To provide a curriculum which is enriching and challenging, where pupils experience the opportunity to learn in a wide range of contexts.



INTENT

Why do we teach what we teach?

Religious Education (RE)

Our aim is to ensure the subject of religious faith is studied in the context of the faith community and reflects its missionary character.

As we are a Catholic school, Religious Education is given priority and 10% of our curriculum time is spent on Religious Education. At St Mary's, we believe that Religious Education and the Catholic life of our school should be at the centre of all our learning.

We want children to form a relationship with God through the teaching they receive and the experiences provided within our school and the wider community.

Though the RE curriculum we hope to support children on their faith journey and our main aims are:

- To enable children to learn that Jesus wants us to think of others before ourselves.
- To develop a meaningful relationship with God as a loving and forgiving Father.
- To learn and be brought up in the teachings of the Catholic Faith.
- To find out about the life and teachings of Jesus and relate these teachings to our own lives.
- To recognise and value our own uniqueness.
- To respect and care for people around us.
- To be aware of and respect other religions and beliefs in the world

We focus on three areas which enable us to deliver quality RE with Christ at the heart of everything we do.

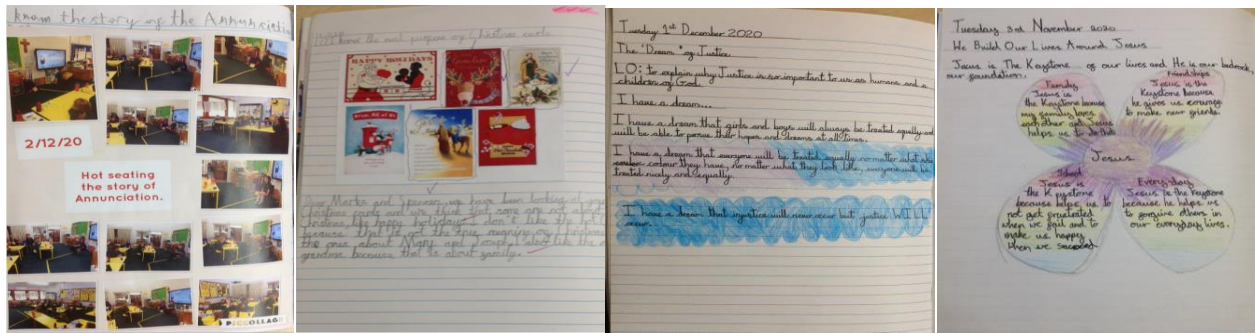
Catholic Life and Mission
Religious Education
Collective worship

IMPLEMENTATION

How do we teach what we teach?

We aim to provide quality Religious Education through "The Way the Truth and the Life" scheme of work for EYFS, years 5 and 6. These year groups follow six carefully planned themes and assessment is built into each theme. Years 4 - 6 use the 'Vine and Branches' scheme of work. The Vine and Branches curriculum presents the expected outcomes in six curriculum branches that correspond to the six half-terms of a school year. The model curriculum is rooted in the narrative of salvation history and leads pupils on a journey in each year of schooling that gives a sequence to the learning. As they revisit each branch in each year of school they come to a deeper understanding of its significance for Catholic belief and practice. The six curriculum branches are: creation and covenant, prophecy and promise, Galilee to Jerusalem, desert to garden, to the ends of the Earth, and dialogue and encounter.

The children take great pride in their RE work and a creative approach which includes Drama, Art, Music and singing has been adopted to explore the themes covered.



RE in the Early Years

Children in the foundation stage also follow six themes within The Way, the Truth and the Life, however the Early Years curriculum is organised across seven areas of learning rather than subject areas. Children will learn through first-hand experiences to explore, observe, problem solve, predict, think critically, make decisions and talk about their experiences.



They will explore the themes in terms of special people, books, times, places and objects or artefacts. They will Listen to and talk about stories. They are introduced to religious words and use their senses to explore religion and beliefs. They reflect on their own feelings and experiences. They use their imagination and curiosity to develop their appreciation and wonder of the world in which they live.



Catholic Life and Mission

The Catholic life of St Mary's is rich in opportunities for the children to encounter and deepen their relationship with God. The children have experiences within school and the wider community. These experiences help to make our school special and enhance the lives of our children, staff and parents. They complement and enhance the RE curriculum. The Foundation Stage, Key stage 1 and 2 pupils take part in a wide variety of activities which include Advent prayer trails, Lenten Activities provided by the local high school and CAFOD assemblies.



In Key Stage 2 children take an active role in planning activities to enhance the Catholic life of the school including Lenten prayer trails, Rosary club, Chapel Group, assemblies and visiting groups and speakers.



Religious Education

The school uses The Way, The Truth and The Life (WTL) and The Vine and Branches. The proper study of Sacred Scripture is at the heart of our religious education. We aim for pupils to gain a thorough grasp of this sacred book. When teaching religious education, teachers try to meet pupils where they are, demonstrating an openness to uncertainties and welcoming questions whilst outlining the central figure of Jesus and the claims of Catholic teachings. We aim to foster a culture of curiosity about religion and what a life of faith might mean. Pupils are encouraged to live in an open and neighbourly spirit sharing the joys and the hopes, the griefs and anxieties of people today.

Collective Worship

Although 'prayer and liturgy' is in addition to the 10% teaching time designated for RE. It is an integral part of our Catholic teaching. Children and teachers plan and deliver class reflections, assemblies and school masses. These are often related to the current theme within the specific RE scheme for a year group or a topical issue. The children participate with reverence and respect and all classrooms have a focal point that reflects the liturgical year. The school's wider community is invited to share in these experiences and parents are always eager to join the children for class assemblies and masses.



INCLUSION

All children receive Quality First Teaching in RE. Any child with identified SEND may have work different from their peers in order to access the curriculum dependent upon their needs. The creative nature of the RE curriculum allows all children to access a wide variety of activities and experiences.

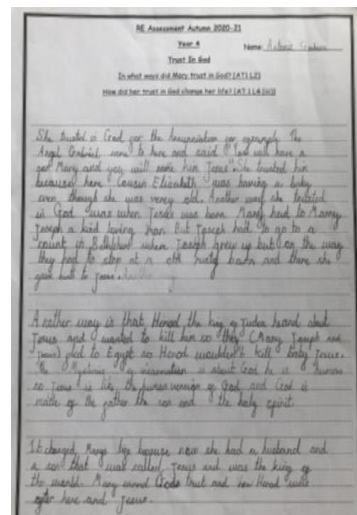
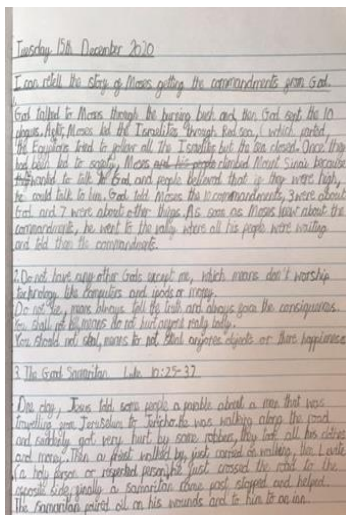
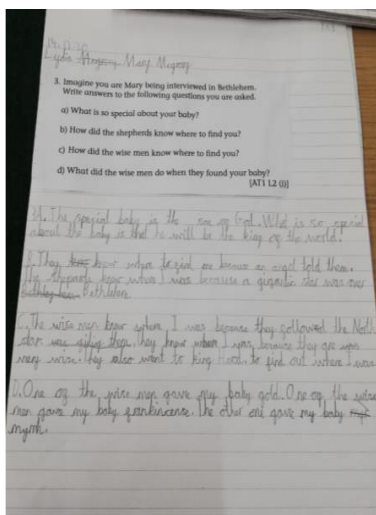
IMPACT

How do we measure what we teach?

Assessment

RE in our school is progressive and planned to meet the needs of all children. Assessments are carried out regularly. Moderation across a cluster of primary schools ensures judgements are accurate and standards consistent.

The standard achieved for each topic is recorded and then an overall judgement is given at the end of the year.



Continuing Professional Development


Professional development for staff is always ongoing through staff meetings delivered by the RE Lead or provided through the Diocesan CPD Programme. The RE lead attends 3 coordinator days organised by the Diocese and cluster group meetings with other RE coordinators. Newly qualified teachers attend relevant courses on the teaching of RE in a Catholic school. All staff are regularly updated with any changes.

Relationships, Sex and Health Education - RSHE

All teaching flows from appreciation that life is a gift from God and will be presented within the context of loving relationships, fully reflecting the teaching of the Church. The school uses the Ten Ten programme for RSHE. Ten Ten's programme for Catholic primary schools, Life to the Full, teaches Relationships Education and Health Education within the context of a Christian understanding of human sexuality rooted in the wisdom and teaching of the Catholic Church. By using this programme, we hope that our pupils, staff, parents and wider community

not only have high-quality RHE but also a rich foundation for growth, personal development and happy, fulfilled relationships.

St Mary's RE & PSHE Curriculum Map 2024-25

Subject	EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
RE New Vine and Branches topics for years EYFS, 1 – 4  Examples of SMSC.docx	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> God's Great Plan Mary, Our Mother Families and Celebrations Following Jesus The Resurrection Miracles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation and Covenant Prophecy and Promise Galilee to Jerusalem From Desert to Garden To the Ends of the Earth Dialogue and Encounter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation and Covenant Prophecy and Promise Galilee to Jerusalem From Desert to Garden To the Ends of the Earth Dialogue and Encounter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation and Covenant Prophecy and Promise Galilee to Jerusalem From Desert to Garden To the Ends of the Earth Dialogue and Encounter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation and Covenant Prophecy and Promise Galilee to Jerusalem From Desert to Garden To the Ends of the Earth Dialogue and Encounter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Creation God's Covenant Inspirational People Reconciliation Life in the Risen Lord Other Faiths 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Kingdom of God Justice Exploring the Mass Jesus the Messiah The Transforming Spirit Called to Serve
PSHE Ten Ten	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building Relationships Asking for help Showing awareness of similarities and differences Growth Mindset Identifying Risks Keeping Healthy How to take care of our bodies Name emotions Show empathy Regulate emotions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Let the children come God loves you Special people Treat others well and say sorry Being safe Good and bad secrets Physical contact Harmful substances Can you help me? Part 1 & 2 Three in One Who is my neighbour? The communities we live in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Let the children come I am unique Girls and Boys Clean and healthy (my body) Feelings, likes and dislikes Feeling inside out Super Susie gets angry The cycle of life Three in One Who is my neighbour? The communities we live in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get up! The Sacraments Jesus, my friend Friends, families and others.... When things feel bad Sharing online Chatting online Safe in my body Drugs, alcohol, tobacco First Aid heroes A community in love What is church How do I love others? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get up! We don't have to be the same Respecting our bodies What is puberty? Changing bodies Male/female discussion groups (optional) What am I feeling? What am I looking at? I am thankful Life cycles A community in love What is church How do I love others? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calming the storm Is God calling you? Under pressure Do you want a piece of cake? Self-talk Sharing isn't always caring Cyberbullying Types of abuse Impacted lifestyles Making good choices Giving assistance The Holy Trinity Catholic Social Teaching Reaching out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calming the storm Gifts and talents Girls' bodies Boys' bodies Spots and sleep Body image Peculiar feelings Emotional changes Seeing stuff online Making babies (Part 1) Making babies (Part 2) Menstruation Build others up The Holy Trinity Catholic Social Teaching Reaching out