



R.E. Policy

Policy Agreed	October 2019
To be Reviewed	
Written by	Mrs Lockett
Signed	
Designation	

ST MALACHY'S SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

St. Malachy's is a Catholic School where we will all do our best to do the work of Jesus.

We will study, pray, play and celebrate together.

We will care for each other and look after each other, just like a big family. It is important to remember that we are all good and clever in different ways.

We will learn important lessons that will help us when we are grown up.

In our school, it will be fun and we will strive to make it a safe place.

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St Malachy's School Prayer

Almighty God, we give thanks for our school for it is a special place.

Fill it with faith, hope, joy, peace and love.

As we learn and as we play, help us to find our gift and share it with the world.

St. Malachy pray for us...

This policy has been developed to ensure that all adults at St. Malachy's R.C. Primary Schools are working together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. Within this, children have the right to be treated equally in line with the equality duty was created under the Equality Act 2010. Additionally, all staff at St Malachy's aim to teach children about the Catholic religion as well as world religions in order to promote tolerance and respect of different faiths, which in turn, promotes community cohesion now, and in later life. Through this policy, we aim to create and maintain a safe learning environment where all children feel safe, secure and valued and know they will be listened to and taken seriously. Additionally, under the Education Act 2002, schools have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of their pupils and are committed to the guidance set out in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018' and 'Keeping Children Safe in Education, September 2019.' Our policy ensures that we comply with our Statutory Duties.

Aims of Religious Education

St Malachy's R.C. Primary School acknowledges that Religious Education is a lifelong process and recognises that the primary years are significant in the lasting impression they make upon our children. Religious Education in school is concerned with children understanding mankind's search for meaning, value and purpose in life. We aim to aid the children's understanding of religion as a significant area of human experience. The child is not simply learning about religion, they are learning from it.

5 Ws Framework

Section 48 Diocese of Salford Inspections of our schools will be carried out under the 5Ws Framework for Self-Evaluation. The unfolding of the 5Ws is a major theme of the Diocese of Salford's Continuing Professional Development and Formation Programme for schools. The purpose of the 5Ws framework is to reflect the new Section 48 RE Framework from the Diocese of Salford, which focuses on the 5Ws, rooted in the roots of the early church. They are as follows: Welcome, Word, Witness, Welfare and Worship.

SPIRITUAL MORAL SOCIAL CULTURAL EDUCATION

We regard children's entitlement to spiritual, moral, social and cultural education as our primary objective at St Malachy's and this is considered a whole school responsibility with opportunities for development woven through the whole curriculum. Our Catholic beliefs and values provide the context for all learning and school experiences. The 'CARITAS in Action' programme is utilised to deliver the social teaching of the Catholic Church. The teachings come from; the Gospels and words of Jesus; Scripture; Papal statements; Catholic bishops' statements and pastoral letters.

The full school approach to SMSC covers seven themes (see overview of CARITAS). SMSC is taught through core and foundation subjects and underpins the whole curriculum. The children plan and work collaboratively on fund-raising and charitable projects that directly benefit our local community.

In addition to CARITAS, there are also planned opportunities for 'Big Questions' about the purpose and meaning of life. 'Big Questions' are asked and discussed during each unit of work that is taken from the 'St Malachy's Curriculum' which is used to teach core and foundation subjects in line with the requirements of the New Curriculum (see overview of Curriculum and suggested 'Big Questions').

THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMME

To fulfil our aims, we use the Come and See programme of Religious Education. In accordance with the guidelines from the Bishops' Conference, the children at St Malachy's receive 2.5 hours of Religious Education each week. It integrates the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the Catholic Levels of Attainment and the Religious Education Curriculum Directory. Children explore the mystery of Faith through Scripture and Tradition. Links are made explicitly in planning documents to the resources and plans are adapted to meet the needs of the unique cohort. Lessons are very well resourced with both interactive stimuli, a variety of artefacts and making cross-curricular links. There are three topics taught each term and two 'other faith' units: Judaism and Sikhism. Come and See meets the requirements of the Curriculum Directory. There is a selection of ritual objects, books, videos and posters etc in school.

PLANNING

Taking a whole school approach in using Come and See, we are confident that the breadth of the curriculum is being taught and that there is good progression from year to year. Please refer to the Come and See, materials for more detail about planning and curriculum coverage. The advantages of this approach are:

- Appropriate content for each group is ensured.
- Planning and recording are easy.
- Continuity and progression across the school are assured.
- Communal celebrations are possible.

ASSESSMENT AND RECORD KEEPING

Each teacher has the responsibility for maintaining records on the children in their class. Assessments are carried out every term. This information is then used to inform planning. The results submitted to the R.E. Subject Leader, shared with the Senior Leadership Team and reported to the Governing Body. R.E. is reported formally to parents in the annual reports.

HOME, SCHOOL AND PARISH LINKS

We recognise the importance of parents as the child's first teacher and their role in faith development. There are many opportunities for parents to engage in school life. Parents are invited and regularly attend celebrations including Mass, collective worship, assemblies and events linked to the liturgical year.

St Malachy's School seeks, in partnership with parents and parish, to develop and nurture the Catholic faith of our children. We strive to bring pupils to a fuller understanding and knowledge of the Roman Catholic tradition. Children are prepared for Holy Communion on the Sacramental Programme in Year Three.

Full school Mass is celebrated regularly at St Malachy's RC Church (see annual liturgical overview). Children in Key Stages 1 and 2 also prepare and celebrate a 'Class Mass' every half term which parents, governors and members of the Catholic community regularly attend. St. Malachy's School works in close partnership with our 'sister schools' St Edmunds and St Patrick's which are also part of our parish.

WIDER COMMUNITY

We at St Malachy's are at the heart of a vibrant and caring community, and work in partnership with The Lally Centre, The Missionaries Brothers of Charity and The Presentation Sisters. The money raised by school projects regularly donated to the Lalley centre, which in return, shares resources and support.

The Brothers, Sisters and staff from the Lalley Centre are invited to and regularly attend our Masses, assemblies and special events held throughout the year.

Our work with the wider community promotes cohesion, creates a richer school environment, gives children contact with those working in a vocation and also meaningful opportunities for SMSC development.

PARENTS

At St Malachy's, we recognise the importance of parents as the child's first teacher.

- Parents will be given a warm welcome when they visit our school.
- Parents will be given a termly curriculum overviews which inform them of the topics covered in class, as well as ways they can support their child's learning.
- Parents will have access to the Wednesday Word each week so they can share the message of the Gospel with their children.
- Parents will be given weekly newsletters.

- Parents will be given a verbal report on their child's RE development during Parents Evenings.
- Parents will be given a written report on their child's RE development at the end of the year.
- Parents will be given opportunities to support their child during First Holy Communion preparation by attending meetings and working at home on aspects of the programme
- Parents will be given opportunities to be involved in charity activities during the year for school or for the wider community.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Religious Education cannot proceed on the assumption that all pupils will have positive religious convictions or commitments. We do however foster the search for the meaning, value and purpose of life. It is therefore a legitimate part of the pupil's education that they should be encouraged to consider their own response to such issues.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND INCLUSION

All pupils in our school, irrespective of ability, faith and background will have appropriate differentiated access to the Religious Education programme.

MONITORING AND DEVELOPMENT

At least once a year, the quality of teaching, progression and attainment will be monitored throughout the school by the subject leader and Head teacher. At least once a year, the school's provision of worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship (see Worship Policy).

EVALUATION

The impact of worship is evaluated by children and adults after each session and points for development are considered, making worship an evaluative process (see Worship Policy)

THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SUBJECT LEADER

The first purpose of the RE subject leader's role is to help improve the quality of the teaching and learning that the pupils receive in Religious Education.

The subject leader has many duties:

- Writing and keeping relevant documentation up to date.
- Co-ordinating the teaching throughout the school by encouraging collaboration.
- Being involved in the process of assessment, recording and reporting.
- Monitoring the quality of teaching, the progression and continuity of Religious Education throughout the school.
- Offering support and advice to colleagues.
- Identifying resource requirements.

- Maintaining a strong relationship between the school and the Diocese.
- Maintaining the high status of worship within the school
- With the Headteacher, completing the Religious Education action plan and using it to inform the School Improvement Plan.
- Keeping resources well stored, catalogued and available.
- Ensuring that the Curriculum Directory is understood and being followed.

ENVIRONMENT AND DISPLAY

From the moment you enter St Malachy's, the school environment says loudly and clearly that we are a Catholic school. In the entrance, are the stained glass windows which were once in the basement of the school which used to be the location of St Malachy's RC Church. Each classroom has a prayer and worship area in a prominent place of the classroom, which have half-termly themes linked to the liturgical year and school mission statement (see Para-Liturgy annual overview). As you move around the school, there are a number of displays showing the children's religious art work, documenting projects, there are statues of saints and The Holy Family, prayer boards, and prayer areas. The chaplaincy area in the library is used for meetings, collective worship and quiet reflection.

RESOURCES

Each class has access to objects and materials suitable for all seasons of the liturgical year, these are stored in class or in the RE Storage area on the Key Stage 1 corridor. Each class has a set of resources to support child led worship. Class sets of age appropriate children's Bibles for Key Stage 1, Lower Key Stage 2 and Upper Key Stage 2 are stored in the school library. Resources to support teaching other world religions are stored along with other shared resources in the RE storage area on the Key Stage 1 corridor.

HOLY AREAS

There is a visible prayer and worship area in every classroom in line with the theme for each half term (see Prayer Policy, Worship Policy, Liturgical and Para-liturgical Overviews and Appendix 2).

MARKING

Work should be marked in accordance with the school marking policy (see marking policy). Work should be marked in relation to the area of learning. Comments should encourage children to reflect, analyse and deepen their understanding. All teachers' comments should be responded to by the children.

APPENDIX 1

The Lally Centre works with schools, parishes and CARITAS in an area of considerable social deprivation. Services offered include; a drop in service to discuss any current issues or needs; professional social work support; welfare rights services; health promotion; food distribution; internet access and employment support.

APPENDIX 2

Colours: purple for penance, red for Holy Spirit and martyrdom, white, gold or important feasts, green for the ordinary times of the year, blue is associated with Mary.

Other special focus times:

Some months of the year have special foci.

October is the month of the Rosary - blue

November is the month when the Holy Souls (the deceased) are prayed for especially,

May is the month when Mary is especially remembered - blue

June is the month of the Sacred Heart when we remember the great love Jesus has for us.