

The Religious Education Directory

At St Margaret Mary's Junior School, we have followed the *Come and See* programme of Religious Education for many years, as recommended by the Archdiocese of Liverpool. Following extensive reflection and development, the Archdiocese and the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales have now asked schools to adopt the new Religious Education Directory. This new resource places an even stronger focus on Scripture, recognising that it is through the authoritative teaching of the Church that we encounter God's self-revelation in Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Word. Over time, our curriculum will transition from *Come and See* to the Religious Education Directory.

Both *Come and See* and the Religious Education Directory invite pupils to explore the promise of life offered to everyone. They encourage children to search, question, discover, and respond—an important part of what it means to be human.

These programmes provide opportunities for pupils to reflect on their own experiences and consider deeper questions of meaning and purpose. They support children in developing critical thinking skills and help them learn about the beliefs, values, and practices of the Catholic tradition, as well as those of other faiths. In doing so, they nurture positive attitudes and a genuine 'love of learning'.

Through Religious Education at St Margaret Mary's, children gain a strong sense of self-worth and identity, shaped by belonging to our caring and supportive school community.

Religious Education – Intent

At St Margaret Mary's Catholic School, we are deeply committed to our Catholic faith and to recognising every child as special, unique, and created in the image and likeness of God. Religious Education is central to everything we do. It nurtures each child's natural sense of wonder, awe, and spirituality, and encourages them to grow in faith and understanding.

Our Religious Education curriculum inspires children not simply to *have* more, but to *be* more. Pupils learn about God's love and their responsibilities as Christians, and they experience the richness of church life, Catholic traditions, and wider Christian heritage. They are also taught to show respect and understanding for people of all faiths and backgrounds.

Through Religious Education, children come to appreciate their unique place within their home, school, and parish community, developing a strong sense of belonging and identity grounded in our shared faith.

Implementation

In Years 3 and 4, our curriculum is built upon the new Religious Education Directory (RED). This approach enables our children to grow in their understanding of themselves as children of God and supports them in encountering God through Scripture, prayer, reflection, and the lives of holy people. The RED provides a rich, engaging, and Scripture-centred framework that encourages children to explore key aspects of the Catholic faith in age-appropriate and meaningful ways. Through this curriculum, pupils are invited to deepen their relationship with God, develop curiosity

about their faith, and build a strong foundation for their continued spiritual and religious learning.

In Years 5 and 6, the *Come and See* programme is carefully adapted to meet the individual needs of our pupils. The programme has been designed to support children on their faith journey, helping them grow in religious literacy and understanding in a way that aligns with current educational principles. Following themes throughout the liturgical year, pupils are offered a wide range of creative and reflective opportunities to explore ideas and express their understanding of sometimes challenging concepts with increasing confidence and independence.

With many demanding elements within the RE curriculum—including the study of Scripture and the introduction of more complex vocabulary—we promote perseverance and resilience, encouraging children to embrace challenge. We celebrate and support the use of this higher-level vocabulary through activities such as discussion, debate, drama, and role play, enabling children to articulate their thoughts clearly and confidently.

Impact

Through our Religious Education curriculum, children learn to make meaningful connections between their own lives and the lives of others within our school, parish, community, and the wider world. As pupils grow in their understanding of different cultures, beliefs, and ways of life, they develop the confidence to share this knowledge with others, helping to build a respectful and inclusive school community.

The impact of RE at St Margaret Mary's can be seen not only in pupils' books, displays, and prayer and liturgy, but—most importantly—in the empathy, compassion, and consideration our children show each day. Independence and creativity are nurtured through RE and shine through in the planning and delivery of child-led prayer and liturgy, where pupils confidently express their faith in thoughtful and imaginative ways.

As part of their learning, children develop resilience that enables them to engage with complex themes and emotions that naturally arise during discussion. The use of rich and challenging vocabulary supports pupils in articulating their ideas, beliefs, and feelings with clarity, helping them form well-reasoned opinions grounded in respect.

Religious Education gives our pupils a deeper understanding of how and why people live differently, encouraging them to respect diversity and celebrate difference. In an ever-changing society, RE plays a vital role in helping children live out the Gospel values—values that will guide them throughout their lives.