



Subject Story: Religious Education

Intent - What are we trying to achieve?

Excellence: Every person is made in the image of God so our school is an inclusive community offering equality of opportunity for all. We work in partnership with parents to support every child's personal development and to grow spiritually, emotionally and physically. We provide excellent teaching and a broad and balanced school curriculum that both engages and challenges our pupils so they achieve excellence and become enthusiastic, independent, lifelong learners.

Enrichment: A close relationship with God enriches our lives. Therefore, we offer our children and their families opportunities for spiritual nourishment including prayer, song, reflection and collective worship. Religious Education is a central part of our school curriculum. We teach our children to know and understand the teachings of Christ so that they may know God and themselves better. A wide range of sporting, creative and academic enrichment opportunities is offered so that every child is valued and can develop their God given talents. We foster strong links with our Parish, our Diocese, members of our local and international community to enrich the lives of our children. Our children understand that they are stewards of the earth, respecting our school environment, our planet and all those who share it.

Enjoyment: Having faith in Jesus brings joy to our lives. We can find true happiness if we live by the gospel values so that we receive the gift of eternal life. The gospel values and Christian virtues of friendship, responsibility, respect, self-respect, honesty, forgiveness, tolerance, justice, compassion, patience, generosity, empathy and tolerance are the golden thread that run through all of our teaching and all of our relationships. They form the basis of our expectations of behaviour and ensure our children are respectful, tolerant, courteous and have a strong moral code. Our school community is committed to helping others in need. Serving the common good brings us closer to God and brings joy to those that receive help and to those that give it. Children have the right to be safe and to be happy. Our school is a welcoming, loving and nurturing environment where children thrive. We take every measure to keep our children safe and provide the pastoral care needed to deal with any problems they may encounter.

Implementation – How is the curriculum being delivered?

The content of the RE Curriculum at St Michael Catholic Primary School and Nursery covers the content of the Religious Education Curriculum Directory and the 'In God's Name' resource. It takes account of the pupils' needs identified in RE – Exploring Shared Human Experience, Exploring Religious Traditions, Exploring Beliefs and Values and Exploring Personal Meaning.

It is based on the theological foundations of the Second Vatican Council, the Catholic Catechism and the revised RE Curriculum Directory and includes the New Assessment Framework, Age Related Standards. The teaching of RE at St. Michael's aims to develop religiously literate young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills- appropriate to their age and capacity- to think spiritually, ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life. (RECD 2012, p10).

The areas of study covered through the Liturgical Year are:

- Revelation
- The Church
- Celebration
- Life in Christ

Impact - What difference is the curriculum making?

Through developing **Knowledge & Understanding, Making Links & Connections, Historical Development, Religious Specialist Vocabulary** the pupils learn about:

- Traditional prayers and Mass responses
- Main liturgical feasts and seasons
- Knowledge of Sacraments

Religious Education



A St. Michael's Learner...

- Tries to live like Jesus
- Knows the message of the Gospel
- Understands Catholic Social Teaching
- Respects other faiths



Saint Michael Catholic Primary School & Nursery

Excellence • Enrichment • Enjoyment

- The Life and teachings of Jesus Christ
- An understanding of the Catholic faith revealed through Scripture, Tradition, doctrine, prayers, rites and Christian living

Pupils will:

- Translate theory into practice e.g. Forgiveness, respect for others.
- Worship and Prayer – have experience in taking part in Eucharistic liturgies, reflective prayer, scriptural prayer, forms of spontaneous prayer.
- listen and give considered response.
- make independent decisions.
- Attitudes – have positive attitudes towards anyone who differs, towards authority and treatment of property, towards school and towards our world.

Through developing **Engagement & Response** pupils will learn from:

- Their faith and religion
- Other faiths and beliefs
- Pupils will explore Meaning & Purpose and Beliefs & Values.

Through developing **Analyses & Evaluation** pupils will:

- Use Sources, Construct Arguments, Make Judgements, Recognise Diversity & Analyse & Deconstruct

If you visited a Religious Education lesson at St Michael's you would see:

- Enthusiasm and passion about Religious Education.
- Pupils making connections between objective and subjective judgements.
- Participation in community prayer and celebration.
- Respect for social, cultural and religious differences.
- Pupils demonstrating awareness of national and global issues.
- Pupils knowledge of the differences between opinions and beliefs.
- Pupils making responsible choices through reasoned value judgements.
- Pupils exploring and experiencing a variety of methods of prayer, liturgy and Catholic traditions.
- Pupils learning about knowledge and understanding of beliefs, teachings and sources.
- Pupils demonstrating knowledge and understanding of celebration and ritual.
- Pupils developing knowledge and understanding of social and moral practices and way of life.
- Pupils reflecting on meaning – engagement with own and others' beliefs and values.

Pupil Voice

Reception: 'I love learning about Jesus and his life.'

Year 1 – 'We learn RE to follow in God's footsteps and to make the right choices. We like to know the difference between what is right and what is wrong.'

Year 2 – 'I like RE because we learn about Jesus and how we can be like him.'

Year 3 – 'I enjoy this subject because I like spending time with and talking to God.'

Year 4 – 'I like RE because it is interesting to find out about what Jesus did. It is important because without RE we wouldn't know how to live nicely.'

Year 5 – 'RE makes me think about Jesus in our everyday life.'

Year 6 – 'Learning about our faith brings us closer to God.'

Our Diverse Curriculum

As a school, we are passionate that our children receive a broad, balanced, inclusive and diverse curriculum.

Within this subject, we will ensure:

- Pupils will learn about the teachings of different religious traditions and the answers those traditions give to questions of meaning and purpose.
- Pupils are prepared for life in modern Britain, giving them an understanding of the beliefs of others. This in turn will improve social cohesion and contribute to the common good by increasing mutual respect between those of different religions.



An example of progression in our curriculum

Creation and Covenant						
EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
God made our beautiful world and everything in it. God made me. God created the world and said, 'Indeed it is very good' (Genesis 1:31). The whole of Creation shows God love for us (Laudato Si' 84-88).	The children recognise that the story of Creation in Genesis 1:1-4, 24-26, is an ancient, prayerful, poetic reflection on God's world and retell this story in any form.	Retell in any form the Noah story (Genesis 6:9-9:17), focusing on Noah and God's promise to all living creatures in the sign of the rainbow (Gen 9:8-17). Understand the term 'stewardship' and what it means for caring for God's world	Revisit and remember the first Creation story from Genesis, recognising the author's use of poetic language to describe how the world was formed. Describe stewardship by making simple links between Genesis 1:26-31 and people's actions today.	Show an understanding of the story of Abraham and Isaac (Genesis 22:1-18), recognising the importance of historical context in explaining the meaning of this story then and now. Recognise that God's covenant with Abraham is the foundation of the faith of the people of the Old and New Testaments: Judaism and Christianity.	Retell the Moses story, focusing on the two key events of the call and the covenant (the Burning Bush (Ex 3:1-15); the Sinai covenant and the Ten Commandments (Ex 19:3-8, 20:1-17)). Correctly use developing specialist vocabulary to describe what a covenant is, recognising that God made several covenants throughout history, e.g., with Noah, Abraham, and Moses.	Simply explain the Church's teaching on the purpose of the second Creation story and the purpose of scientific accounts, referencing Laudato Si' 66-67. Make links with the term 'stewardship'. Use theological vocabulary to describe and explain the belief that sin damages the relationship with God, the relationship with others and relationships with the created world, making relevant links with the second account of Creation and Laudato Si' 66.

Our Ambitious Curriculum

Our Religious Education curriculum is designed to deepen the faith of our children, and to support the development of the practice of their faith. We do this through learning about the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and other important figures in the history of God. We challenge the children in our classroom teaching, and further to this we ensure they link this to the Catholic Life of the school, parishes and home.

Pupils with Special Needs: In Religious Education, children are supported to achieve through carefully chosen, differentiated tasks that may be adapted to meet their individual needs. Adult support is available in lessons, which are designed to include children with special needs so that they can achieve alongside their peers. Other ways of supporting pupils with Special Needs and pupils who are Disadvantaged:

- Key vocabulary on slides, books and shared with pupils prior to the lesson
- Learning objectives and success criteria displayed in every lesson
- Pre-teaching of vocabulary
- Word banks provided during lessons
- Differentiated learning and templates to support this
- Multi-media videos to support learning
- Stem sentences and sentence stems provided
- Mixed ability pairs
- Differentiation
- Drama/Role Play
- Children can record work on laptops if appropriate (mainly KS2)
- Simplifying questions for pupils
- Access to Bibles, YouCat and DoCat as and when needed.

Disadvantaged Pupils: All children at St Michael's have access to the excellent resources and facilities we provide. They all benefit from excellent teaching and learning and faith-based experiences such as opportunities to celebrate the sacraments, and liturgies at different points of the liturgical year. We have excellent resources throughout the school to enable all children to experience a rich RE curriculum, including learning about Other Faiths. We use our chapel to enhance these experiences.

More Able Pupils: We identify pupils that show exceptional attributes in our curriculum. In RE, we have Followers, Liturgy Leaders and Caritas Ambassadors who lead and peer-teach the children in their class and across the school. We differentiate tasks so that the More Able are challenged appropriately, and we use the Age-Related Standards to support them in making links and connections between their learning and their faith.

[illegible]

The photograph shows a vibrant classroom display board with a purple background and a yellow scalloped border. The central theme is "THE NEW YEAR!", written in large letters at the top. Various children's artworks are pinned to the board, including a drawing of people on a boat, a scene with a tree and figures, a person in a red coat, and a figure in a blue robe. A small paper house is also visible. On the right side, there is a hanging decoration resembling a lantern or a mobile with colorful elements. In front of the board, on a white-covered table, are several items: a small wooden house, a figurine of a person, a blue bowl with water and a small boat, a box containing a small figurine, and other miscellaneous objects like a black container and some greenery. The overall atmosphere is festive and creative.