**The aims of Religious Education are to help children:**

* Develop an understanding of spiritual and moral issues in life experiences.
* Develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other major world religions, cultures and values in modern Britain.
* Develop an appreciation and respect of other religious traditions and to appreciate the cultural differences and diversity in Britain today.
* Be able to reflect on their own experiences and to develop a personal response to their learning linking to the values of Catholic Social Teaching and British Values.
* Develop investigative and research skills and to enable them to make reasoned judgements about religious issues.

**Curriculum Intent**

At St Mary’s, we develop the children’s spiritual and moral knowledge and understanding of the major world. We enable all are pupils to develop secure knowledge about Christianity and other world religions. Children reflect on what it means to have a faith and to develop their own spiritual knowledge and understanding.

At school, we follow the’ Come and See’ core scheme of work. This will be moving to the new RED directory in the next academic year. ‘To Know You More Clearly.’ Our specific planning approach is taken from this scheme. This distinguishes RE from other subjects and so reminds us that RE is unique and special within our curriculum. (Please refer to the Come and See curriculum mapping for topics taught.) Throughout a range of topics, children are exposed to the mystery of God, the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Church, lives of Saints and the relationship between faith and life. These are explicitly taught in RE, though we develop and encourage them through our Catholic Life and Collective Worship.

Religious Education is taught within its own right using the ‘Come and See’ scheme. 10% of curriculum time is devoted to Religious Education excluding assembly and Acts of Worship time, as advised by the Bishops of England and Wales.

We aim to create an environment where acceptance, respect, mutual trust and love are evident and to foster a sense of self-worth. We endeavour to help each child to think, appreciate, question and work for what is good as they grow in faith. We teach our children to develop a desire to search for meaning through the experiences they have in their everyday lives. We guide our pupils to question and grow in faith as they develop their spiritual journey.

**Other Faiths**

As part of our RE curriculum, we teach and learn about other faiths throughout the year.

This includes Sikhism, Judaism, Hinduism and Islam. We teach the children that Jesus showed respect for those within and outside his own faith, and because we learn from Jesus, we must also do the same. We celebrate other faiths not only through our teaching but also through inviting parents/carers and external providers into assemblies to talk about their faith and culture.

\*NB: In some personalised circumstances pupils may be withdrawn from part of Religious Education lessons.