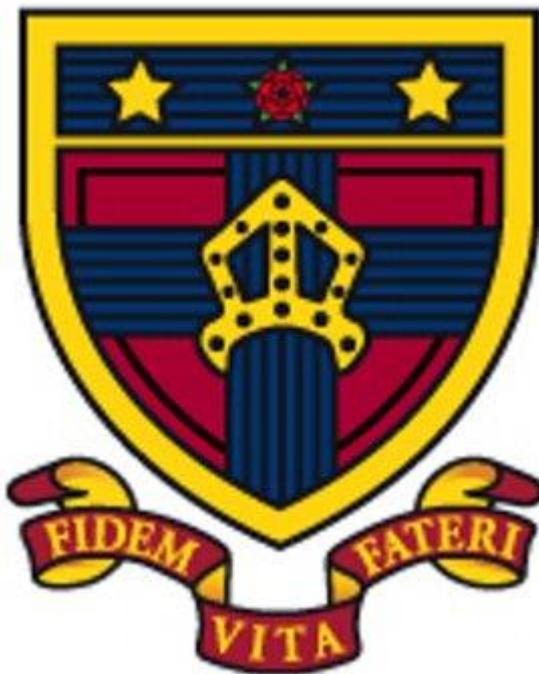


St. Mary's College Preparatory School

'Fidem Vita Fateri'

St. Mary's College Preparatory School



**'SHOWING OUR FAITH BY THE WAY
WE LIVE, LOVE AND LEARN'**

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION HANDBOOK

November 2022

St. Mary's College Preparatory School

'Fidem Vita Fateri'

Contents

School Mission Statement

Aims and objectives of Religious Education

Religious Education Programme

Overview of Content

The Process (Knowledge/Understanding/Skills/Attitudes)

The Approach Chosen

Planning

Assessment

Recording

Reporting

Evaluation of Teaching and Learning

Collective Worship Policy Statement

Education for Personal Relationships Policy Statement

St. Mary's College Preparatory School

'Fidem Vita Fateri'

Religious Education Handbook

It is our Religious Education Policy that everything is done for our children, by our children and with our children, and it should celebrate and reflect our mission statement in action.

Mission Statement

Our Mission is to provide an independent Catholic education for boys and girls of all faiths aged 0-18; to provide individual challenge towards holistic and balanced development, service and achievement for life and beyond; and to try to show our Faith by the way we live, showing care and consideration for each other, those around us and the environment.

Our Vision

Our Vision is to be an exemplar Edmund Rice School, with an enviable reputation amongst our peers, both as an organisation and for the services and facilities we provide, making us first choice for parents and pupils in our geographic area.

St. Mary's College Preparatory School

'Fidem Vita Fateri'

The Aims and Objectives of Religious Education

At St. Mary's College Preparatory School, Religious Education (RE) is at the heart of our curriculum. We set an example of passing on an awareness and appreciation of the Gospel values and support all members of our home, school, parish and local community, in the name of Jesus Christ by fostering true Christian attitudes in each person by creating a deeper understanding of his/her relationship with God.

Aims of Religious Education at St. Mary's College Preparatory School

Religious Education is an integral part of our daily school life and fulfils all legal requirements. The aims of Religious Education at St. Mary's Preparatory School are:

- To give every child the opportunity to explore, discover and respond to religions and beliefs
- To gain an informed understanding of Religious Education through a range of experiences
- To develop an awareness and appreciation of Catholic beliefs

RE underpins the values and beliefs of everything we do in our school. RE contributes to pupils' personal development and well-being and to community cohesion by promoting mutual respect and tolerance in a diverse society. We believe in a holistic approach to teaching RE as it can make important contributions to other parts of the school curriculum such as personal, social and health education (PSHE).

Objectives for Religious Education

The objectives for the RE curriculum at St. Mary's College Preparatory School are:

- To gain knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith
- To know about and understand a range of religions and worldviews
- To express ideas and insights about the nature, significance and impact of religions
- To explore key concepts and questions of belonging, meaning, purpose and truth
- Develop the skills required to reflect on religious beliefs

St. Mary's College Preparatory School

'Fidem Vita Fateri'

- Develop a deeper knowledge and understanding of Catholic and other religious traditions
- To provide opportunities for celebration, prayer and reflection

Our School Values underpinning Religious Education

Being an Edmund Rice school, the values that underpin Religious Education in our school are;

The Eight Essentials of Edmund Rice Education

1. Evangelising the Modern World
2. Promoting the Spiritual
3. Building a Christian Community
4. Compassion for those in Need
5. Concern for the Whole Person
6. Striving for Excellence
7. Education as a Christian Calling
8. Education for Justice

Religious Education Programme

To fulfil our Aims and Objectives we use the 'Come and See' Programme of Religious Education recommended by the Archdiocese of Liverpool. We use this programme as a whole school approach from Reception to Year 6. Come and See's objective is to produce religiously literate young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills to reflect spiritually, think ethically and theologically and be aware of religious demands in everyday life.

Come and See supports and enables the faith experience of all children because it starts with their real life experience and leads them to reflect upon and consider the Christian message in all its richness in that experience. As a school, we have children of other religions present and so:

When pupils of other faiths are present in a Catholic school the task must be to promote their human growth in such a way that they can integrate their particular faith with every aspect of their lives.

Catholic Schools, Children of Other Faiths and Community Cohesion:

CES & Bishops' Conference page 7.

St. Mary's College Preparatory School

'Fidem Vita Fateri'

Overview of Content - Concepts

The 'Come and See' Programme

Foundation and Focus

Central to the programme are three basic human questions and the three Christian beliefs that are the Church's response in faith.

Where do I come from? Life - Creation

Who am I? Dignity - Incarnation

Why am I here? Purpose - Redemption

Implementation

Themes

The basic question of belief for each item is explored through three kinds of themes. Each theme relates to one key dimension of religious and Christian faith. They are Church, Sacrament and Christian living.

A Community of Faith

Church themes are:

Autumn My story Family Domestic Church

Spring Our story Community Local Church

Summer The story World Universal Church

B Celebration in Ritual

Sacramental themes are:

Autumn Belonging Baptism/Confirmation/Ordination/Marriage

Spring Relating Eucharist

Summer Inter-relating Reconciliation/Anointing of the Sick

St. Mary's College Preparatory School

'Fidem Vita Fateri'

C The Way of Life

Christian Living themes are:

Autumn Loving celebrating life Advent/ Christmas

Spring Giving the cost of life Lent/Easter

Summer Serving feasts to celebrate Pentecost

THE PROCESS

1. Explore

The teacher helps children begin to look at and focus on an aspect of life experience about themselves so that they acknowledge and become aware of it. This may be done by:

- Telling a story
- Looking at photographs
- Listening to poems or music
- Sharing a personal experience

To explore life experiences: -

- By meditation
- Ponder it from different angles
- To realise and raise questions
- To discover some of the answers

The teacher leads children to deeper understanding:

- By opening new horizons
- By working with problems
- By being in touch with the mystery of life
- By discovering the real meaning and value of life.

St. Mary's College Preparatory School

'Fidem Vita Fateri'

2. Reveal

This is at the heart of the process. Here links are made with the Christian understanding of the mystery of God and human life as expressed in the person of Jesus Christ. It involves learning about Scripture, the teachings of the Church, prayers, rites, psalms, hymns and other ways to express our faith.

3. Respond

Remember is the first part of this phase. Children will respond by remembering what they have learnt and celebrate it. They are helped to hold on to and make their own, what they have understood of their own experience of the wider Christian community.

Rejoice is the second phase. Children will be able to plan and take part in a celebrate of the aspect of life experience that has been recognised, reflected upon, respected and related to the experience of the Christian community.

Renew enables both children and teacher to respond to their learning, make it their own and think about how they can apply their learning to their own lives.

Planning

Each year nine topics will be taught, three each term. With 2½ hours of RE per week, a topic should last about four weeks.

Allocation of time should be:

Explore 25% of time

Reveal 50% of time

Respond 25% of time

Long Term Planning

The themes and topics framework sets out the programme for the year.

St. Mary's College Preparatory School

'Fidem Vita Fateri'

Medium Term Planning

The RE coordinator provides a planner (provided by CED dept) for each term's work.

Indicated on this:

- The basic question - Christian doctrine for the term.
- The themes and topics change which these will be explored.
- The starting dates for each topic.

The allocation of time is shown to ensure that the learning outcomes for each topic will be achieved.

Short Term Planning

Short term planning is the responsibility of the class teacher who uses the agreed CED planning model.

The class teacher will: -

- Allocate time for each learning focus to be taught
- Plan the topic to ensure achievement of the learning outcomes
- Select appropriate activities for the whole class or groups of children
- Ensure coverage of all six learning focuses
- Indicate if and when the children will be assessed in that topic and, if so, the activities to be assessed

Foundation Stage planning

RE makes an active contribution to all the areas of learning outlines in the foundation stage curriculum, but in particular to:

- Personal, social and emotional development
- Communication and language
- Literacy
- Understanding the world
- Art and design

St. Mary's College Preparatory School

'Fidem Vita Fateri'

Differentiation

Purposes for differentiation in RE:

- To enable children to succeed in the set task or activity
- To challenge children to succeed in the set task or activity
- To enable children to recognise their achievements and celebrate these.

In 'Come and See', differentiation is provided through a range of activities. The level of adult support should be indicated if applicable as a strategy to assist differentiation. It is essential to take into account all children with a variety of additional learning needs and to plan accordingly.

Assessment

Assessment is focused by the overall aims and objectives of Religious Education. In 'Come and See', it is related to the concepts, skills and attitudes to be developed through the exploration of these themes and the learning outcomes for each topic.

Assessment establishes what children know, understand and can do. It does not assess faith or the practice of faith.

Assessment in 'Come and See' emphasizes a wide range of achievement.

Assessment is a continuous process involving the co-operation of the teacher and child.

Informal Assessment

Teachers are continually making informal professional assessments of individual pupils. They become aware of a pupil's level of understanding and growth in skills, by observing their ability to:

- Listen
- Ask relevant questions
- Respond to questions
- Interact with others
- Work with others

St. Mary's College Preparatory School

'Fidem Vita Fateri'

- Be still
- Understand
- Remember

At St Mary's College Preparatory School, this informal assessment is achieved by teachers observing classroom tasks, which demonstrate the extent to which pupils are achieving the intended learning outcome.

These observations will include:

- Engaging in creative play
- Planning and completing a piece of written work
- Planning, creating or mounting a display
- Creating and performing drama or 'play'
- Discussing an issue and drawing conclusions
- Engaging in role play
- Composing a hymn, song or poem
- Planning and completing a piece of art or craft

Informal assessment is also achieved by asking the children to assess the work they have done:

- At the end of a task
- At the end of a lesson
- At the end of a topic

Criteria for this type of assessment is agreed with the children and should include such questions

as:

- Do we understand the task?

St. Mary's College Preparatory School

'Fidem Vita Fateri'

- How far have we got?
- What do we know and understand now?
- How well have we worked together?

Children are also encouraged to reflect on and share what they have learned during the lesson, either as individuals or as part of a group.

Formal Assessment

Regular informed judgments are made on a wide variety of evidence against broad criteria, which allow pupils to respond at different levels.

At St Mary's College Preparatory School, systematic planning ensures that every pupil is assessed formally during the relevant topic once per term. We use CED model to assess and record tasks and activities.

Teachers do this by: -

- Identifying when and where topic is to be assessed
- Using learning outcomes and expectations to assess learning and understanding
- Setting assessment tasks according to the Archdiocesan model for each year group
- Moderating results using attainment targets and level descriptors
- Completing Pupil Records of Attainment in RE termly

Expectations

In each topic, teachers are offered brief summaries of what children can be expected to know, understand and be able to do. As for most other curriculum subjects, these are expressed in terms of 'most children' and 'some children'. They provide support for the tasks of differentiation, assessment, recording and reporting.

St. Mary's College Preparatory School

'Fidem Vita Fateri'

Recording

Recording in Religious Education recognises the distinct nature of the subject.

Assessments are made and the consequent records kept will:

- Recognise a wide range of achievement;
- Be selective because not all evidence is suitable for recording or is able to be recorded;
- Be positive in order to record what pupils have done and can achieve;
- Relate to achievement in Religious Education and will not record issues which have a place in the broader profile for the pupil (general behaviour & attitudes);
- Be open and based on collaboration between teacher and the pupil wherever possible

At St Mary's College Preparatory School, we keep a record of the experiences offered to pupils in order to ensure continuity and progression within and across Key Stages.

This information will be found:

- In the scheme of work for Religious Education
- In long, medium and short term planning

In addition, RE Records of Attainment will be completed after the assessment during the relevant topic each term, by noting when each aspect of each level has begun to be met, and highlighting when the level has been securely attained.

In each class, the teacher will record the pupils' levels on a class tracking sheet and these levels will then be transferred to a whole school tracking system by the RE coordinator. Thus progress will be monitored across the whole school.

All assessment and tracking records will be filed and kept by the RE Coordinator.

St. Mary's College Preparatory School

'Fidem Vita Fateri'

Recording provides evidence of, and celebrates, the individual's achievements

This is done by:

- Making notes from observations
- Comments written on pupils' work
- Outcomes of tasks
- Portfolios containing a selection of work and achievements by pupils

At specific times in the pupil's school career, there is a need to summarise the evidence gathered from assessments in order to inform pupils, parents and teachers of progress in Religious Education.

This summary is produced by dating evidence or by writing a few sentences describing the pupil's achievements during the time covered. This summary can be found in pupils' end of term reports.

Reporting

Reporting provides feedback to pupils in their achievements and progress through:

- Informal discussion with the children
- Regular and constructive marking of the children's work
- Compilation of pupil profiles

Reporting also informs teacher colleagues of the achievement of individual pupils and the areas studied by a class and a year group through sharing and passing on:

- Summative records
- Pupil profiles
- Pupil Records of Attainment in RE
- Summary records of work covered

Reporting informs the parents of the progress and achievement of their children through:

- Parent and teacher discussion;

St. Mary's College Preparatory School

'Fidem Vita Fateri'

- Written reports
- Religious education assemblies
- Displays of work
- Photographic records of dance, drama and musical presentations.

Reporting informs parents, governors, parish and external agencies of the content and quality of Religious Education being provided and the achievement of the pupils through:

- Curriculum documents;
- Head Teacher's report to Governors
- Curriculum meetings
- Assemblies, photographic records and displays of work

Evaluation of Teaching

At St Mary's we endeavour to incorporate an interesting variety of tasks such as using prayer, story, mime, writing and art activities.

Children are also given opportunities to discuss the topics in groups, pairs or one to one. This is an excellent opportunity for us to allow the children to speak and be listened to.

We encourage active learning techniques such as artwork, creative writing, role-play, discussion groups, drama and music. The children are also encouraged to use the Internet to collect more information for their topics.

Timetables and planning are monitored. At the beginning of each topic, each teacher / year group submits a copy of planning documents to the RE Coordinator.

For each topic, every class teacher builds up a display and contributes to central displays when necessary.

Teaching and learning is monitored continually on an informal basis by:

- Observation of displays
- Children's work

St. Mary's College Preparatory School

'Fidem Vita Fateri'

Teaching and learning is monitored formally by

- Observations of lessons
- Scrutiny of planning
- Scrutiny of work, including children's books

There is a yearly timetable of formal observations. (see RE coordinator's yearly Action Plan).

Evaluation of Learning

All children are being assessed by their class teachers in their contribution to discussions, attitudes to others, activities, picture and written work.

At the end of each topic, children will be given an opportunity to identify what they have learned, which is the culmination of a topic and a chance to reflect on their learning. Children record their work in a specific RE exercise book.

Relationship of RE to Whole School

Time allocation for the teaching of RE:

KS1 - 2 hours 10 minutes per week

KS2 - 2 hours 30 minutes per week

Staff members 2021-22

Head Teacher Mr Jonathan Webster

Reception Miss Victoria Johnson

Year 1 Miss Rebecca Talent

Year 2 Miss Paula Walton (RE coordinator)

Year 3C Mr Anthony Chow

Year 3S Miss Isabella Shaw

St. Mary's College Preparatory School

'Fidem Vita Fateri'

Year 4S Mr Ryan Stewart

Year 5H Miss Alexandra Hedley

Year 5M Mrs Sian Murray

Year 6G Mrs Kirsty Gallagher

Year 6W Mr Jonathan Webster

Each teacher is responsible for the teaching of RE in their own class

Resources - Teaching

As a general principal, money from the budget each year is available for whatever needs are identified in RE, in line with other core subjects.

We recognise the necessity to build up RE resources with essential books, CDs, visual arts, music etc. Extra money is always made available where necessary.

General classroom resources include God's Story 1, 2 or 3, (including God's Story 1 big book),

Church's Story 1 or 2, The Four Gospels, Journey in Love, The Bible, Come and See and Come and See Music CDs.

Assembly books, liturgies, other faith materials, DVDs, CDs, etc., are stored centrally.

All resources are freely available to staff.

Staff Development

The RE coordinator attends INSET days and Coordinator meetings organised by the Christian Education Department.

The RE coordinator reports back to the staff after INSET days.

All newly qualified staff attend the day provided by the Christian Education Department.

Courses at LACE/ Zoom meetings are open to all staff, who ask the RE Coordinator or Head Teacher if they wish to attend.

St. Mary's College Preparatory School

'Fidem Vita Fateri'

Whole staff INSET meetings/days are organised by the Headmaster. RE is addressed weekly at staff meetings. Whole staff discussion and planning/preparation take place at the start of new topics.

Staff Communications

At the start of each term all staff are given a copy of the planner for the term ahead, and the dates for each topic.

These are kept by each class teacher who puts one copy of topic planning into the RE Subject Leader file.

Time is always available at briefings and staff meetings for information throughout the year, and staff are able to speak to the RE coordinator whenever necessary. It is school policy that all staff make themselves available to support colleagues and this is often done either on a one-to-one basis during the year or at staff meetings.

The RE Coordinator passes on any information from the Christian Education Department or other relevant parties to the whole staff when necessary.

Information notes are delivered to teachers in staff meetings after INSET meetings attended by the RE coordinator.

Whole school masses and assemblies are listed on the school calendar.

Mass dates and Sacramental dates are given to staff during staff meetings and displayed on termly planner.

Staff Induction

All new staff members are given the school's policies on RE, Collective Worship, Spiritual and Moral Development, Relationships and Sex Education, as well as a 'Come and See' file.

The RE coordinator is responsible for explaining the delivery of the RE curriculum to all newly appointed staff.

The RE coordinator will give a brief overview of the scheme and explain the structure of teaching for each topic. She will be available for further advice and support if necessary.

Collective Worship (see separate Collective Worship policy)

St. Mary's College Preparatory School

'Fidem Vita Fateri'

Liturgy and Celebration

Autumn Term:

Welcome Assembly

Class-led Collective Worship

Grandparents' Mass

Cafod Family Fast Day (Brighten Up campaign)

Mass for the feast of All Saints

Advent Wreath Collective Worship

Christmas Nativity Play

Jospice Light a Life service

Merrilocks Park carol singing

Advent Carol Services in Church

Christmas Collective Worship

Spring Term

Class-led Collective Worship

Receiving of Holy Ashes on Ash Wednesday

Holy Week Collective Worship

Stations of the Cross

Good Shepherd/ Nugent Care/Cafod/Mission Together activities

Summer Term

Class-led Collective Worship

(feast of St Peter and St Paul)

Leavers' Mass

End of Year Assembly

St. Mary's College Preparatory School

'Fidem Vita Fateri'

Prayer

Some of our children will come to school having experienced prayer and worship at home. Others may have no experience of prayer at all.

As Catholic teachers, we have the responsibility and opportunity to introduce and encourage right attitudes to prayer, building upon the children's natural response of wonder and awe at the beauty of God's creation all around them.

The development of the children's prayer should grow from these early and natural responses, so that many prayers used in school will be informal and spontaneous. The children are encouraged in this type of prayer throughout their school life.

Children also become familiar with the more formal traditional prayers used in St Mary's College Prep worship.

Prayers that are taught: -

FS and KS1:

Sign Of The Cross

Our Father

Hail Mary

Glory be To The Father

Infant Grace Before Meals

Morning prayer

Reflection at the end of the day

& some of the more simple Mass responses (Lord have mercy)

KS2: Our Father

Hail Mary

Glory be To The Father

Sign Of The Cross (to include meaning of 'Amen')

St. Mary's College Preparatory School

'Fidem Vita Fateri'

I Confess & all simpler people's responses at Mass

Act Of Contrition

Grace Before Meals

Reflection at the end of the day

Spiritual & Moral Development (see separate Spiritual & Moral Development policies)

Relationships and Sex Education (see separate RSE policy)

Links With Parents & Parish

'Any worthwhile programme for Religious Education must aim at bringing together, home, parish and school, into a partnership of mutual understanding and co-operation'.

The school's contribution to the religious education of the children must not be seen in isolation.

Religious Education Newsletters, 'Come and See At Home', are sent home to all parents at the start of each term via our school App, sharing information about the RE curriculum in the term ahead, and also information about Liturgies, feasts and celebrations

Throughout the year, opportunities are taken to support the religious education of the children by close co-operation with the parents and with the Parish.

All staff are committed to fostering this partnership by:

- Making parents welcome
- Being available to talk to parents about their children
- Providing opportunities for parents to share in a wide variety of school activities
- Inviting parents to special assemblies and Masses.
- Supporting parents whose children are being prepared to receive Sacraments of Initiation
- Encouraging the children to attend Parish Masses / liturgical celebrations.

St. Mary's College Preparatory School

'Fidem Vita Fateri'

- Preparing a liturgy for special feasts.
- Visiting the community i.e. nursing homes to sing Christmas Carols.
- Supporting Archdiocesan and other charities.

Preparation for the Sacraments

The school supports the Parish Priest and parish catechists as needed in preparing our pupils to receive the Sacraments of Initiation. This can include liaison with parents, passing on information, ensuring children learn any prayers, hymns required, providing opportunities for the celebration of the children's achievements.

Equal Opportunities

At St Mary's Prep, we aim to provide a breadth of education encompassing the National Curriculum in such a manner as to meet the needs of each individual. We ensure that the curriculum and school organisation express equal respect for boys and girls, offering them equal access to the full range of learning opportunities.

We believe the whole essence of RE is to liberate the individual and to allow them to achieve their potential as one of God's children.

We aim to equip our children with the knowledge, skills and values necessary for participation in our modern multi - cultural society.

Special Educational Needs

We treat every individual child with dignity and respect.

We allow for the children being at different levels and encourage them to grow as individuals at their own rate and relative to their own ability.

Displays

Every classroom has a display board linked to the current topic from 'Come and See', celebrating pupils' work and their learning across the topic.

Each class also contributes to an RE themed displays in the School Hall when appropriate.

St. Mary's College Preparatory School

'Fidem Vita Fateri'

The school's Mission statement is displayed in each classroom along with the Edmund Rice Eight Essentials, both adapted into a more child friendly format.

A whole school display in a communal area celebrates all aspects of the Catholic life of the school.

Cross Curricular Links

'Come and See' has a thematic approach, which inter-relates with all subject areas.

Cross Phase Links

Cross phase links are encouraged.

The transition from KS1 to KS2 is a natural progression for the children within our school as we are a Catholic Primary School.

Links are maintained across the Key Stages, for example, altar servers from KS2 are involved in the class or whole school Masses, KS1 Advent service etc.

The children move on to many different secondary schools and relevant contact is made to ensure a smooth transition.