



# St William's Catholic Primary School

## Religious Education Policy



### Mission Statement:

*"By following Jesus' example, standing side by side,  
we will nurture each other to fulfil our hopes and dreams."*

Religious Education at St. William's is based on the 'Come and See' scheme provided by the Archdiocese. We hope to live as a Catholic school in all that we do.

### Rationale for Religious Education:

*Religious Education is about engaging with the deepest questions of life and finding reasons for the hope which is within them (1 Peter 3:15)*

*- It is about the Christian vision of the human process*

*- It is the core subject which is central to the life of a Catholic School*

*- Religious Education is a systematic study of:*

*the mystery of God, as discovered through the Bible and particularly through the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, the teachings of the Church, the lives of the saints and the relationship between faith and life.*

*Come and See page 10*

### Aims of Religious Education:

Through the Mission Statement, we aim:

- Ensure that Religious Education meets the needs of all our children by embracing the three elements of education, evangelisation and catechesis
- Study the mystery of God, the life teaching of Jesus Christ and the central beliefs of Catholics through the Archdiocesan RE scheme "Come and See"
- Develop an understanding of the relationship between the teachings of Jesus and everyday life
- Prepare our children for the reception of and participation in the sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation
- Encourage pupils to develop skills and attitudes that allow them to make a full and informed response to Jesus' call to follow him
- Promote the uniqueness and dignity of each member of our school community as being created in the image and likeness of God
- Develop an appreciation for the whole of God's creation
- Nurture the home/school/parish partnership

### Collective Worship:

Children are encouraged to plan and participate in their own celebrations, e.g. class assemblies, school assemblies, class Masses, class prayer, school celebrations on Saints days, Holy days of obligation, Christmas and Easter celebrations.

There is a daily school, class/unit act of worship and regular class/unit prayers.  
(Refer to CW policy)

*If you can dream it, you can achieve it!*

**Spiritual and Moral development:**

A caring attitude is fostered throughout the school. As children grow older they are given more responsibility for themselves and also towards younger members of the school. Their involvement is encouraged and their spiritual awareness is fostered through knowledge and celebrations.  
(Refer to SMSC policy)

**Education for personal relationships:**

Children work in groups and emphasis is placed on helping each other in school, valuing the individual and caring. We also express this care through teaching about others - the needy, the old, the disabled, the poor, those in other countries.

**Links with parents:**

The school works in partnership with the parents. Parents work alongside catcechsits in the preparations for and celebration of the Sacraments.

They are also invited to attend our special celebrations such as Christmas, Stay and Pray collective worships, and all school masses.

**Links with the parish:**

The school is an integral part of St William's Parish. We support the catechists and parents to prepare the children of the parish to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. The feast of St Peter and Paul provides an opportunity for the whole school to celebrate the children who have recently received Eucharist for the first time. We work hard to encourage children and their families to attend Mass regularly.

**School Sacrament Policy:**

Children are encouraged to be personal examples of the life of God within us all. They are reminded to attend Mass and the Sacraments. The school supports the Catechists of the Parish and the parents to prepare the children for the Sacraments of the Reconciliation and Eucharist.

**School Contribution to Sacramental preparation:**

The school plays a large part in the children's preparation for receiving the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist, in partnership with their parents and the catechists of the Parish. This takes place through monthly meetings/workshops throughout the Autumn and Spring terms of Y4. Children make their first Confession at a family reconciliation service during Advent. They then receive their First Communion during a Mass in the first half of the Summer term.

**Early Years Religious Education Statement:**

St. William's Nursery serves children from the local community, both Catholic and Non-Catholic. Although the criteria give priority to children of the Catholic faith, we often have quite a number of Non-Catholic children attending. In recognition of this fact and taking into account the stage of development of the children, Religious Education in the Nursery is not taught in the same way as in the Reception class.

The Nursery Teacher studies the "Come and See" topic being covered by the Reception children and the main teaching point of the topic. She then selects stories which can be used to focus discussion upon the main teaching aim. Hopefully the vast majority of religious teaching will take part throughout the session during conversations with the children.

The governing body will pay particular attention to matters of equality and diversity; it will seek to ensure that the school abides by the statutory duties of the Equality Act 2006 and that no child is treated unfairly because of race or ethnic background, gender or disability.

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**Inclusion**

The school ensures all children have an entitlement to PSHE, including those with SEN&D and those identified as being gifted and talented. For additional information see SEN&D policy.

**Review of the Policy:**

This policy will be reviewed every three years or in the light of changes to legal requirements.

**September 2016**