



R.E. Policy

Policy Agreed	September 2023
To be Reviewed	October 2025
Written by	Mrs Lockett
Signed	M.Lockett
Designation	

ST MALACHY'S SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

St. Malachy's is a Catholic School where we will all do our best to do the work of Jesus.

We will study, pray, play and celebrate together.

We will care for each other and look after each other, just like a big family.
It is important to remember that we are all good and clever in different ways.

We will learn important lessons that will help us when we are grown up.

In our school, it will be fun and we will strive to make it a safe place.

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- We will learn important lessons that will help us when we are grown up.
- In our school, it will be fun and we will strive to make it a safe place.

St Malachy's School Prayer

Almighty God, we give thanks for our school for it is a special place.

Fill it with faith, hope, joy, peace and love.

As we learn and as we play, help us to find our gift and share it with the world.

St. Malachy pray for us...

This policy has been developed to ensure that all adults at St. Malachy's R.C. Primary Schools are working together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. Within this, children have the right to be treated equally in line with the equality duty was created under the Equality Act 2010. Additionally, all staff at St Malachy's aim to teach children about the Catholic religion as well as world religions in order to promote tolerance and respect of different faiths, which in turn, promotes community cohesion now, and in later life. Through this policy, we aim to create and maintain a safe learning environment where all children feel safe, secure and valued and know they will be listened to and taken seriously. Additionally, under the Education Act 2011, schools have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of their pupils and are committed to the guidance set out in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018' and 'Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2023.' Our policy ensures that we comply with our Statutory Duties.

Aims of Religious Education

St Malachy's R.C. Primary School acknowledges that Religious Education is a lifelong process and recognises that the primary years are significant in the lasting impression they make upon our children. Religious Education in school is concerned with children understanding mankind's search for meaning, value and purpose in life. We aim to aid the children's understanding of religion as a significant area of human experience. The child is not simply learning about religion, they are learning from it.

Spiritual Moral Social Cultural Education

At St Malachy's, we regard children's entitlement to spiritual, moral, social and cultural education as our primary objective at St Malachy's and this is considered a whole school responsibility with opportunities for development woven through the whole curriculum. We

aim to develop spiritual, moral, social and cultural growth of all individuals in this school, valuing every child's, parent's and staff's individual relationship with God.

Our Catholic beliefs and values provide the context for all learning and school experiences. The 'CARITAS in Action' programme is utilised to deliver the social teaching of the Catholic Church. The teachings come from; the Gospels and words of Jesus; Scripture; Papal statements; Catholic bishops' statements and pastoral letters.

The full school approach to SMSC covers seven themes (see overview of CARITAS). SMSC is taught through core and foundation subjects and underpins the whole curriculum. The children plan and work collaboratively on fund-raising and charitable projects that directly benefit our local community.

In addition to CARITAS, there are also planned opportunities for 'Big Questions' about the purpose and meaning of life. 'Big Questions' are asked and discussed during each unit of work that is taken from the 'St Malachy's Curriculum' which is used to teach core and foundation subjects in line with the requirements of the curriculum.

Curriculum time allocation

In line with Bishops' Conference recommendations, 10% of curriculum time is allocated to Religious Education. This is 2.5 hours in KS2 and 2 hours in EYFS and KS1. This does not include Collective Worship.

Curriculum Intent

Our Religious Education curriculum has been specifically designed and planned to meet the context of our school which is underpinned by a Catholic education based upon the life and teaching of Jesus, in which Gospel values permeate all aspects of school life. The Religious Education curriculum is coherently planned and sequenced allowing pupils to further deepen their knowledge, their skills and to be both curious and wise in their learning and knowledge. Our curriculum is delivered through the combination of the Come and See scheme, Caritas in Action and Big Questions, which raise awareness and develop critical thinkers who become inspired to make a difference, build God's kingdom on earth and relate into global issues today. The curriculum integrates the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the Catholic Levels of Attainment and the Religious Education Curriculum Directory. Children explore the mystery of Faith through Scripture and Tradition. Links are made explicitly in planning documents to the resources and plans are adapted to meet the needs of the unique cohort. Lessons are very well resourced with both interactive stimuli, a variety of artefacts and making cross-curricular links. There are three topics taught each term and two 'other faith' units: Judaism and Sikhism. The intent of our curriculum is to grow missionary disciples, who go out into the world making a difference.

Co-operative learning is a key feature within teaching and we believe that working together helps children to deepen their understanding and promote tolerance and mutual respect, equipping our pupils with the necessary skills to live in modern Britain. We also wish to equip our children with the skills to make sense of the world around them and give purpose as to why we learn about and from Religion. This will help them become faith filled and hopeful in their abilities to change and transform our society. As a Catholic school, we are deeply committed to developing children's faith. It is our intention that pupils leave St. Malachy's with a sense of belonging to a community. Pupils are taught to treat themselves and others

with respect and dignity and to support each other in their learning. Our shared vision is made real as we put our mission and virtues into practice and our deep commitment to preparing children for modern life in Collyhurst, Britain and the wider world.

We believe our children possess unique talents, skills and qualities and we aim for them to be able to 'identify their gifts and share them with the world.' It is our aim to maximise the opportunities to develop them to the full so they can become generous in the service of the community and the world. Through developing the children's knowledge and understanding of their own faith, other faiths and world religions the children will become compassionate and loving to all people and the world around them. We aim to develop three key areas during all Religious Education teaching:

- Knowledge and understanding
- Engagement and response
- Analysis and evaluation

Implementation

The Religious Education of our pupils is at the forefront of our curriculum and school and it is woven through all that we do. 10% RE curriculum time is allocated across all key stages. The staffing and resourcing devoted to RE is of the highest standard, reflecting its significance and importance in our school. The requirements of the Religious Education Curriculum Directory are met at all key stages and standards equal or better those of literacy at all key stages, including foundation stage.

Through 'Come and See', Caritas and the Liturgical Calendar, the children are inspired and challenged to become missionary disciples. We engage with reflections in order for the children to become eloquent and truthful in their emotions and beliefs and how the present themselves to the world. This supports and allows for religious literacy to be developed to a very high level for all our pupils.

Assessment and Record Keeping

Each teacher has the responsibility for maintaining records on the children in their class. Assessments are carried out every term. This information is then used to inform planning. The results submitted to the R.E. Subject Leader, shared with the Senior Leadership Team and reported to the Governing Body. R.E. is reported formally to parents in the annual reports. Moderation of work allows staff to discuss children's work in depth and fully understand the age-related expectations. This data combined with other forms of monitoring help to inform the subject leader's Position Statement and Action Plan in Religious Education for the following school year.

Impact

Outcomes in Religious Education books, as well as big question books and topic books evidence a broad and balanced Religious Education curriculum, which demonstrate the children's learning journey.

Children review their Age-Related Expectations at the end of each topic with reflections and self-evaluations and are actively encouraged to identify their own target areas, with the support from class teachers. Through the implementation of our curriculum the planned impact is:

- Children are well prepared for the next stage of their education as confident and enthusiastic learners who are witness to Christ in their words and actions.
- Children are happy, well-rounded individuals who can articulate how their Catholic education has impacted on their beliefs and values.
- Children can produce good quality work across Religious Education, which they are proud of.
- Children achieve consistently well in all areas of Religious education.
- Children develop detailed knowledge and skills across a range of curriculum areas.

The impact and measure of this is to ensure that children at St Malachy's RC are equipped with the skills and knowledge that will enable them to be ready for the curriculum at Key Stage 3 and for life providing generous service within the community and the world. Through developing the children's knowledge and understanding of their own faith, other faiths and world religions the children will become compassionate and loving to all people and the world around them.

Home, School and Parish Links

We recognise the importance of parents as the child's first teacher and their role in faith development. There are many opportunities for parents to engage in school life. Parents are invited and regularly attend celebrations including Mass, Prayer and Liturgy, assemblies and events linked to the liturgical year.

St Malachy's School seeks, in partnership with parents and parish, to develop and nurture the Catholic faith of our children. We strive to bring pupils to a fuller understanding and knowledge of the Roman Catholic tradition. Children are prepared for Holy Communion on the Sacramental Programme in Year Three.

Full school Mass is celebrated regularly at St Malachy's RC Church. Children in Key Stages 1 and 2 also prepare and celebrate 'Class Mass' which parents, governors and members of the Catholic community regularly attend.

St. Malachy's School works in close partnership with our 'sister schools' St Edmunds and St Patrick's which are also part of our parish.

Wider Community

We at St Malachy's are at the heart of a vibrant and caring community, and work in partnership with The Lalley Centre, The Missionaries Brothers of Charity and The Presentation Sisters. The money raised by school projects regularly donated to the Lalley centre, which in return, shares resources and support.

The Brothers, Sisters and staff from the Lalley Centre are invited to and regularly attend our Masses, assemblies and special events held throughout the year. Our work with the wider community promotes cohesion, creates a richer school environment, gives children contact with those working in a vocation and also meaningful opportunities for SMSC development.

Equal Opportunities

Religious Education cannot proceed on the assumption that all pupils will have positive religious convictions or commitments. We do however foster the search for the meaning, value and purpose of life. It is therefore a legitimate part of the pupil's education that they should be encouraged to consider their own response to such issues.

Special Educational Needs and Inclusion

All pupils in our school, irrespective of ability, faith and background will have appropriate differentiated access to the Religious Education programme.

Monitoring and Development

At least once a year, the quality of teaching, progression and attainment will be monitored throughout the school by the subject leader and Head teacher. At least once a year, the school's provision of Prayer and Liturgy will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading Prayer and Liturgy (see Prayer and Liturgy Policy).

EVALUATION

The impact of Prayer and Liturgy is evaluated by children and adults after each session and points for development are considered, making worship an evaluative process (see Prayer and Liturgy Policy)

Environment and Display

From the moment you enter St Malachy's, the school environment says loudly and clearly that we are a Catholic school. In the entrance, are the stained-glass windows which were once in the basement of the school which used to be the location of St Malachy's RC Church. Each classroom has a prayer and worship area in a prominent place of the classroom, which have half-termly themes linked to the liturgical year and school mission statement. As you move around the school, there are a number of displays showing the children's religious art work, documenting projects, there are statues of saints and The Holy Family, prayer boards, and prayer areas.

Marking

Work should be marked in accordance with the school marking policy (see marking policy). Work should be marked in relation to the area of learning. Comments should encourage children to reflect, analyse and deepen their understanding.

APPENDIX 1

Colours: purple for penance, red for Holy Spirit and martyrdom, white, gold or important feasts, green for the ordinary times of the year, blue is associated with Mary.

Other special focus times:

Some months of the year have special foci.

October is the month of the Rosary – blue.

November is the month when the Holy Souls (the deceased) are prayed for especially.

May is the month when Mary is especially remembered – blue.

June is the month of the Sacred Heart when we remember the great love Jesus has for us.