

St Mary of the Angels

Our commitment to teaching about other faiths and cultures

September 2024 – reviewed annually

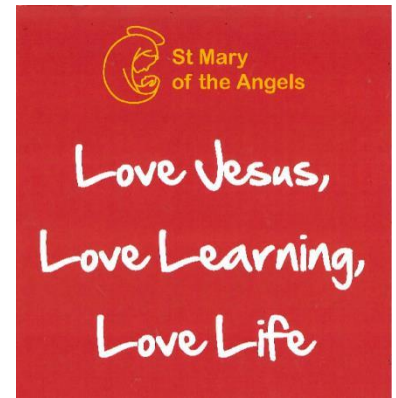
Religious Education is at the heart of our school. We follow a religious education programme which aims to strengthen our Catholic faith. As part of our Religious Education and broader curriculum provision, our children have a breadth of opportunities to learn about other faiths and cultures.

We believe that teaching about other religions and cultures is important because:

Learning about other religions and cultures is one of the ways in which we fulfil our call to love our neighbour. As the Church says, ***“The love for all men and women is necessarily also a love for their culture. Catholic schools are, by their very vocation, intercultural.”*** (Congregation for Catholic Education p61).

The Church states that schools ***“try to understand better the religion of one’s neighbours, and to experience something of their religious life and culture.”*** (Catholic Bishops’ Conference p3).

The Church suggests that schools ***“find ways in which pupils can learn to engage in dialogue and to develop an attitude of respect for religious diversity. This will necessitate the inclusion of a broader study of both***



Christianity and of other world faiths in the Religious Education syllabus.” (Bishop’s Conference of England and Wales, 1997) It prepares our children for life in modern Britain, giving them an understanding of the beliefs of others.

We ensure that there continues to be a broad and balanced approach to teaching of other faiths and cultures in the following curriculum and enrichment opportunities:



Whole School:

Festivals of Light Project: Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism and Christianity

Prayer Around the World Project: Studying and learning from experiences of prayers from faiths and cultures around the world

Other Faiths Curriculum Learning: Dedicated curriculum time, focussing on elements of faiths around the world, e.g. Creation stories in Maya Culture (Y6), stories in Hinduism (Y2)

Religious Education planning: planned opportunities to make links with other faiths – universal church, stories from other faiths, festivals, celebrations, etc

Whole school projects: Then Zoo project - animal endangerment, international conservation projects,

Community Links: hosting Basketball coaches from Uganda, teacher visits to and from from Tanzania, links to St Mary’s School in Spain,



Philosophy for Children: using multi-cultural stimuli, exploring stories, images and wider media reflecting diversity of cultures and religions.

Multi-cultural Awareness: ensuring resources, displays, books and all teaching and learning materials reflect diversity of the local and wider world.

Global Learning: membership of CDEC, RE today publications, CAFOD Lessons links, Pop Project – music show

CPD: Farmington Fellowship at Oxford University- global and multicultural conference, SAPRE trained teachers,

British Values: through our embedding of British values throughout our curriculum, ethos and enrichment opportunities, including British Values Curriculum Days,

MFL: Learning about other cultures through specialised curriculum delivery of MFL across all classes,

Charity Work: links with local and international charities, e.g. CAFOD learning about communities around the world

Cultural Learning Days: Spanish Day, International Day, The Wonder Garden Writing Day, Key String Concerts, Music Around the World.

EYFS and Key Stage One

Diwali – Hindu festival of Light



Curriculum Topics – Africa, Australia, Asia, Chinese New Year Celebrations - Food tasting, visitors, art, etc., Arctic explorers day – Inuit people



RE Topics – exploring creation stories from other cultures, Our families – celebrating our diversity

Curriculum topics – India: gods, goddesses, festivals, food and culture

Curriculum topics – Around the world

Visitors: Indian Dance Company

Multicultural stories - Literacy and P4C



Key Stage Two:

RE – exploring sacred books, significant people and leaders from different faith; dedicated RE topic 'People of other faiths'

Multicultural stories from around the world – P4C

Curriculum topics - What's it like in South America? Learning about the Yanomamo tribe. Music – visit to Philharmonic Orchestra for multicultural music concert.



Curriculum topics – The Ancient and Modern Maya

Art and Music – The art of the Kenyan Masai people, aboriginal art, philharmonic concert – music around the world,

Maths – The history of the Mandala in other faiths, great mathematicians through the ages – the golden spiral,



Stories from other cultures – The Kapok Tree, The

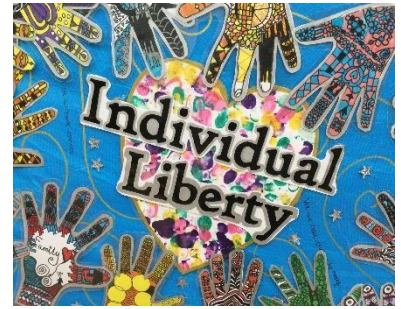
Three Questions, Pathways to Write Resources

P4C stimuli – The Indian boatman, Star of Fear, Star of

Hope, No Outsiders resources

British History – settlements of the Anglo-Saxon and

Viking invasion and integration of cultures



Next Steps:

To continue to improve our provision for teaching of other faiths and cultures, these are our next steps:

1. Within the new RED planning, identify topics and themes where there are opportunities to integrate teaching and learning linked to faiths other than Christianity as an enrichment to our RE provision.
2. Plan for extended termly opportunities to teach about other faiths, e.g. autumn term – How do different people around the world pray? Link to global learning. spring term – places of worship etc.
3. Post Covid Re-introduce more themed learning days, e.g. International Day/Week to extend further opportunities to make links with P4C and/or RE

