



## The Value of Religious Education

Religious Education and Catholic life are central to the foundations and life of St Mary's Catholic Academy.

We recognise and value every individual as special and unique in the image and likeness of God. Religious Education at St. Mary's respects and promotes each child's innate capacity for wonder, awe, reverence and spirituality. Our Religious Education curriculum leads our children to aspire not to have more, but to be more. Children are taught about God's love; they learn about their Christian responsibilities; children are provided with experiences of church, Catholic and Christian traditions, as well as being taught to be respectful and understanding of people and traditions from other faith backgrounds. Through Religious Education our children learn about their unique place within the home, school and parish



## Religious Education at St Mary's Catholic Academy

*“Walk hand in hand with God, loving him, loving each other and ourselves, doing the best with the gifts he has given us to make the world a richer place”.*

### We aim to:

Providing opportunities for children to develop their spirituality is a precious aspect of St Mary's school life. We promote a healthy spirituality by offering times for children to experience:

- A sense of awe and wonder
- Care for nature and living things
- Wanting to love and be loved by people

We offer the children such opportunities through times of quiet (lighting a candle, watching nature), keeping in touch with larger communities (parish groups, The Little Company of Mary), developing our outside area (working with the gardener, using the outside altar to reflect), singing, teaching our children to play, showing that relationships matter and modelling that everyone's dignity matters.

Everything we do at St Mary's leads from our belief in the Mission Statement of our school. We want our children to recognise the talents and gifts that God has given to them and not be afraid to share them to make the world a better place.



*“Catholic schools are to be open, welcoming places, where children and young people's minds are opened to the revelation of Christ's teaching and his love for us all.”*

Pastoral Letter, September 2018 Patrick McKinney, Bishop of Nottingham

## Our Chaplain and the Chaplaincy Team



Year 5/6 Chaplaincy Team

*"I want to spread God's word and be guided on the right path in life, and I want to help others to do the same thing." – Julius, Year 6*



Issie McElhone is the Chaplain here at St Mary's. She works with all the children through retreat days and whole school liturgies, where they are given the opportunity to understand more about their faith and deepen their spirituality. She also supports the Year 5 and 6 Chaplaincy Team, helping them to lead the other pupils, and set an example as missionary disciples.

## What does Religious Education look like at St Marys?

- We follow the 'Come and See' RE scheme which is supported by the Diocese.
- Children explore the mystery of Faith through scripture and tradition.
- Plans are adapted to meet the needs of each unique cohort.
- Lessons are well resourced with both interactive stimuli, a variety of artefacts and by making cross curricular links.
- Lessons are also enhanced by the use of videos and creative tasks, including drama and music.
- There are three topics taught each term, and two 'other' faith units (one being Judaism).



Resources and schemes that help us:



We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop.

— Mother Teresa —