

St John's C of E Primary School



Policy **For** **Religious** **Education**

Rationale for RE at St John's CE Primary

School Religious Education (RE) plays an important role in defining the school's distinctive Christian character. The subject is regarded as a core subject within the school's curriculum. It has a vital role in developing and deepening pupils understanding of Christianity, in all its forms, and fostering appreciation and understanding of other faith traditions. As the Church of England document, 'Making a difference? A review of Religious Education in Church of England schools 2014' recommends that the RE curriculum in all schools should, ".....ensure it provides a more coherent, progressive and challenging approach to the teaching of Christianity within the context of the wider exploration of the diversity of religion and belief in the modern world" ".....explore ways of extending pupils' ability to think theologically and engage in theological enquiry as part of their learning in RE"

RE Statement of Entitlement

RE teaching at St John's will be in line with the recommendations of the Statement of Entitlement for Church Schools, published by the Church of England Education Office (2019), see link below:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-02/re-statement-of-entitlement-for-church-schools.pdf>

Christianity will, therefore, be no less than two thirds of RE curriculum time. The teaching of Christianity is core to the teaching of RE in this Church of England school. However, as a Church school we have a duty to foster an accurate and increasing understanding of world religions and worldviews. As a result, pupils will gain greater insight into the world in which they are growing up. They will also learn to appreciate the faith of others and develop a deeper understanding of their own ideas and beliefs. These outcomes must contribute to harmonious relationships within and between communities, promoting social inclusion and combating prejudice and discrimination. The RE curriculum

RE teaching also follows the legal requirements of the Education Reform Act (1988), which places RE as part of the basic curriculum; a statutory subject which is an entitlement for all pupils. The school bases its RE provision on the Walsall Locally Agreed Syllabus. In addition, the school uses the Lichfield Diocesan RE Guidelines, Understanding Christianity resources and other appropriate materials to enhance teaching and learning. At least 5% of curriculum time will be dedicated to meeting explicitly RE objectives, although the subject may be taught across the curriculum or as part of stand alone days when appropriate. Within this teaching allocation at least two thirds of subject content will be allocated to an exploration of the Christian faith, and the concepts, beliefs, teachings and practices that lie at its heart.

The aims of Religious Education in our school are:

- To enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living faith that influences the lives of people worldwide and as the religion that has most shaped British culture and heritage.
 - To enable pupils to know and understand about other major world religions and worldviews, their impact on society, culture and the wider world, enabling pupils to express ideas and insights.
 - To enable pupils to develop knowledge and skills in making sense of religious texts and teachings and understanding their impact on the lives of believers.
 - To develop pupils' abilities to connect, critically reflect upon, evaluate and apply their learning to their own growing understanding of religion and belief, of themselves, the world and human experience.
 - To develop an understanding of religious faith as the search for and expression of truth, and so to consider important human questions, values and concerns.
 - To nurture understanding, respect and open-mindedness and inspire lifelong engagement with the study of religions and beliefs. The outcomes for pupils at the end of their time in our school are that they are able to:
 - Compare and contrast the key beliefs and practices of the religions studied and show how they are connected to believers' lives
 - Describe different aspects of belonging to a religion – symbol, story, festival, belief, faith in action, ritual, worship
 - Express religious beliefs and ideas with the appropriate language, vocabulary and terminology and describe what they mean
 - Ask questions sensitively about the lives of believers and suggest appropriate answers
 - Reflect on the decisions people make – including believers – and suggest possible outcomes
 - Compare their own experience and identity with others – including believers
 - Reflect and empathise with the big questions of life, suggesting some answers / insights
 - Be confident to explore their own spirituality and search for truth
 - Value the religious journey of faith
 - Develop pupils' ability to interpret and appreciate religious imagery and expression
- Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC).

In addition the subject contributes to other areas of education and human experience and plays an important part of the wider programme of spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development. Spiritual Widening pupils' vision of themselves and their own experience, within the context of a growing awareness and understanding of God. Moral helping each pupil develop their own informed values Social helping pupils understand some major forces shaping the values of our society Cultural aiding pupils in exploring aspects of their own cultural heritage, and developing positive attitudes

towards diversity. Additional links will be found across the curriculum especially with personal, social, health education (PSHE) and British values.

RE can also make a positive contribution to enhancing creativity and enjoyment and ensure the well-being of all pupils.

The management of RE

RE is given equal status with other core subjects in staffing, responsibility and resourcing. Pupil achievement in RE should equal or be better than comparable subjects. As a church school we recognise that it should be a priority to build up staff expertise in RE. The RE Curriculum leader (Mrs Causier) is responsible for:

- producing a scheme of work for the school
- supporting colleagues in the detailed planning and delivery of RE provision
- ensuring Religious Education has status within the school
- keeping in touch with subject developments and disseminating information as appropriate
- auditing and recording current resources, supplementing resource provision when money is available and disseminating this information to staff
- undertaking personal development and subject training and ensuring provision for staff INSET
- monitoring RE provision, practice and outcomes
- ensuring assessment strategies are in place in line with the Agreed Syllabus
- creating the RE Development Plan and ensuring its regular review
- accountability for RE standards in the school
- meeting with member of the Diocesan RE advisory team when possible RE outcomes for pupils.

Right to withdrawal

At St John's CE Primary School we wish to be an inclusive community but recognise that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from religious education or collective worship on the grounds of conscience, without giving a reason. Parents wishing to exercise this right are asked to write to the headteacher who will then invite the parents into school to discuss their concerns, clarify the nature of the RE and worship provided by the school and set out the options open to the parents as set out in education law. However, the right of withdrawal does not extend to other areas of the curriculum when, as may happen on occasion, spontaneous questions on religious matters are raised by pupils or there are issues related to religion that arise in other subjects. Where a pupil is withdrawn from RE and do not take part in alternative religious education they will be supervised by an appropriate member of staff whilst doing work set by their parents which will seek to further their knowledge and understanding of their parents beliefs and values

Assessment in RE

Target Tracker is used to assess learning and progress in Religious Education in line with all other curriculum subjects.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and RE

All children will be included in RE lessons unless withdrawn by parents and lessons will be adapted to meet individual needs in line with our policy for SEND.

Approved and signed by Headteacher: A. Mills

Chair of Governors: J. Clarke

This policy should be signed by the Headteacher and chair of governing body of April 2024