

Religious Education Policy

HOLY TRINITY & ST JOHN'S C E P SCHOOL

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As a Church of England School this policy is read within the context of the Christian values and teachings of our school.

HOPE | BELIEVE | ACHEIVE

To develop confident, curious, independent, resilient life-long learners within a Christian environment

1. Policy Statement

RE has a particular contribution to make towards the spiritual, moral, social and cultural education of each pupil. At Holy Trinity and St John's Church of England Primary School, all of our teaching and learning in RE should reflect the school's Christian values, it is fully inclusive, reflecting the SEND policy and promotes equality of opportunity for all staff and pupils regardless of their sexual orientation, race, religion or disability.

2. Introduction

At Holy Trinity and St. John's Church of England Primary school, pupils and their families can expect a high quality religious education (RE) curriculum that is rich and varied, enabling learners to acquire a thorough knowledge and understanding of a range of faiths and world views. As a church school, the teaching of Christianity is at the heart of our RE curriculum. Through the Understanding Christianity resource, the use of an enquiry approach engages with significant theological concepts and the pupil's own understanding of the world as part of their wider religious literacy. Using The Kent Agreed Syllabus we learn about other religions and world views, fostering respect for them. Links with our Christian values and vision, and support for pupil's spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development are intrinsic to our RE curriculum and have a significant impact on learners. We provide a wide range of opportunities for learners to understand and to make links between the beliefs, practices and value systems of the range of faiths and world views studied.

3. Rationale

Our aspiration for all children and every young person is that they should be curious, confident, independent, resilient life-long learners and stated in our mission.

4. Aims and Objectives

As stated in the Church of England Statement of Entitlement for Religious Education, our school aims for all pupils:

- To know about and understand Christianity as a diverse global living faith through the exploration of core beliefs using an approach that critically engages with biblical text.
- To make their own reasoned and informed opinions about religious and moral issues through the study of religious beliefs, practice and reflection of human experience.
- To engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose raised by human existence and experience.
- To recognise the concept of religion and its continuing influence on Britain's cultural heritage and in the lives of individuals and societies in different times, cultures and places.
- To explore which beliefs, values and traditions might have significance and impact on their lives and philosophy.

5. Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural education (SMSC)

Throughout all learning experiences at Holy Trinity & St. John's C of E we plan opportunities for children to develop their SMSC education. RE contributes to this by:

RE contribution to pupil's spiritual development:

- Discussion and evaluation of questions that include origins of the universe, good and evil, life after death, beliefs about God and humanity and values such as justice, honesty and truth.
- Learning and reflecting on concepts and experiences such as trust, hope, forgiveness and compassion.
- Valuing relationships and friendship.
- Developing a sense of belonging.
- Developing their own ideas and views on religious and spiritual issues
- Consider the emotions of anger, joy, jealousy, happiness, pain and love through exploration of how religions and religious beliefs regard human beings.

RE contribution to pupil's moral development:

- By enabling pupils to value themselves and others.
- Exploring the influence of family, friends and other sources on moral choices.
- Considering what is of ultimate value to pupils and people within religious traditions.
- Considering ethical issues especially justice which promotes racial and religious respect.
- Exploring the influence of family, friends and media on moral choices and how society is influenced by teachings and guidance from religions and beliefs.
- Reflecting on the rights and responsibilities of themselves and others.

RE contribution to pupil's social development:

- Reflecting on the importance of friendship and positive relationships.
- Investigating social issues from a religious perspective.

RE contribution to pupil's cultural development

- Encountering people, stories, artefacts and resources from different cultures and religions.
- Promoting respect for all.
- Challenging stereotypes of religion and beliefs.

RE and British Values

- Providing a key context in which pupils develop an understanding and appreciation of diversity, to promote shared British and Christian values.
- Provide pupils with the knowledge and understanding to challenge racism and discrimination whether it be in the school community, the community within which the school is located, the UK community or the Global community.

6. Curriculum Balance and Time

Reflecting our school's funding agreement parents and pupils are entitled to expect that, in Church schools, Christianity should be the majority religion studied in each year group and should be at least 50% of curriculum time. At Holy Trinity & St. John's C of E Primary School, we ensure that sufficient dedicated curriculum time, meeting explicitly RE objectives, however organised, should be committed to the delivery of RE. This should aim to be close to 10% but must be no less than 5% in key stages 1-4.

Please see the diocese Kent Agreed Syllabus including Understanding Christianity Appendix 1

Schools must take note that the RE entitlement is totally separate from requirements for collective worship. Collective worship must not be considered curriculum time for RE or the teaching of RE.

7. Curriculum

As an academic subject which has a high profile in our school, it is a priority for senior leaders, who ensure that the teaching, learning and resourcing of RE is comparable with other curriculum subjects.

- is intrinsic to the outworking of our distinctive Christian vision in enabling all pupils to flourish. In addition, it contributes to British values and to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- is delivered in an objective, critical and pluralistic manner to engage and challenge all pupils through an exploration of core concepts and questions. Lessons provide meaningful and informed dialogue with a range of religions and worldviews.
- reflects a good balance between the disciplines of theology, philosophy and human science, to enable pupils to develop their religious literacy*

*Religious Literacy: Helping children and young people hold balanced and well-informed conversations about religion and belief. [\(Key Principles of a balanced curriculum in RE.\)](#)

- enables pupils to acquire a rich, deep knowledge and understanding of Christian belief and practice, including the ways in which it is unique and diverse, whilst engaging with biblical texts and theological ideas.
- provides opportunities for pupils to understand the role of foundational texts, beliefs, rituals, and practices and how they help to form identity in a range of religions and worldviews.
- supports the development of other curriculum areas and other general educational abilities such as literacy, empathy and the ability to express thoughts, feelings and personal beliefs.
- encompasses the full range of abilities to ensure that all flourish academically, using a wide range of teaching and learning strategies which consider the task, outcome, resource, support and pupil grouping as appropriate to pupils' needs
- offers tasks that are age appropriate, challenging and sufficiently demanding to stimulate and engage all pupils, whilst extending the high achievers and providing support for those who need it.
- ensures that all pupils' contributions are valued in RE as they draw on their own experiences and beliefs

8. Teaching and Learning

RE plays an integral role in our broad and balanced curriculum. High quality learning experiences are designed and provided by careful planning through the Kent Agreed Syllabus, Understanding Christianity Resources and RE Today World Religion Plans.

To ensure that RE is a lively, active and relevant subject we use a variety of teaching methods including art, music, discussion, the development of thinking skills, drama, the use of artefacts, pictures, stories and reflection. We also include opportunities for to learn and express themselves through an enquiry-based style of learning by:

- Posing and discussing 'big' and challenging questions
- Reading and critically analysing texts.
- Interpreting information from different sources.
- Seeking information for themselves in libraries and on computers.
- Listening to and discussing with the teacher and other pupils.
- Engaging in pair and group work.

Where possible we want our pupils to have opportunities to encounter local faith communities through visits to local places of worship or receive visit from members of local faith communities.

Teaching in RE challenges stereotypes, misinformation and misconceptions about race, gender and religion. Lessons seek to present religions and world views in all their richness and diversity in terms of beliefs, traditions, customs and lifestyle in a sensitive and accurate way in order to encourage a positive attitude towards diversity. All questions, views, and opinions are treated with sensitivity and respect.

Teachers establish clear links between elements of religious belief and practice and aspects of the children's own lives. Teaching enables pupils to gain something of personal value from their study of religious belief and practice, for example, the way that they might apply insights gained from religious stories to their own lives.

9. Cross Curricular links

Religious education supports the development of general educational abilities such as literacy, empathy and the ability to express thoughts, feelings and personal beliefs. RE also makes a major contribution to pupils' SMSC development. It addresses issues which arise in a range of subjects, such as English, art, drama and history, geography, computing, music as well as personal, social and emotional education and citizenship.

10. Health and Safety

Health and safety issues may arise in religious education on a number of occasions for example, when pupils:

- Handle artefacts.
- Consume food.
- Visit places of worship.

Teachers will conform to guidelines in the school's health and safety policy in these circumstances.

11. Assessment, Recording and Reporting

Assessment in religious education will:

- Involve identifying suitable opportunities in schemes of work such as Understanding Christianity.
- Be directly related to the expectations of the Kent Agreed Syllabus incorporating Understanding Christianity and RE Today World Religion Plans (see appendix 1)
- Seek to identify development in the different areas of learning in the subject and not only in the acquisition of factual knowledge.
- Recognise the range of skills and attitudes which the subject seeks to develop.
- Employ well defined criteria for marking and assessment which identify progress and achievement as well as effort, following the school's marking policy.
- Include pupil self-assessment.
- Enable effective tracking of pupil progress to identify areas for development in pupil's knowledge and understanding, as well as whole school areas for development.
- Enable effective reporting to parents.

12. Role of the RE subject leader

The subject leader will:

- Ensure that all pupils receive their legal entitlement of religious education.
- Ensure RE provision reflects the [Church of England Statement of Entitlement](#).
- Produce and regularly review a subject policy to ensure that it remains up to date.
- Ensure all teachers know what should be taught in religious education, what resources are available, and what standards of attainment are expected at the end of each Key Stage.
- Monitor and review the implementation of policy and units of work.
- Monitor the quality and effectiveness of teaching and learning in RE and pupils' progress and standards.
- Ensure there are rigorous assessment systems in place to enable teachers and pupils to gauge progress and attainment in RE.
- Monitor, analyse and question RE assessments carried out by staff.
- Liaise with the HT and Governors to feedback on the monitoring and impact of RE across the school.
- Support colleagues by sharing new ideas and pedagogy, to help develop their subject confidence and expertise through CPD opportunities and support sessions.
- Seek opportunities to share effective practice locally and regionally and engage in professional development for themselves and other staff members.
- Oversee the RE budget and monitor RE resources to ensure they are kept and stored respectfully and replaced where necessary.
- Ensure there is a school protocol, that covers safeguarding procedures and a suitability process, for when visitors are invited into RE lessons.

13. Resources

Religious education will be funded to enable a range of resources on different religions to be purchased, such as books for teachers, pupils and the library; posters, CDs, DVDs and artefacts. The school makes use of guidance material produced by the Diocese. Funding will also allow, where possible, visits to different places of worship and provide INSET for staff. All resources will be listed, stored, be easily accessible and kept in good condition. Resource banks will be available for both staff and pupils on all major religions and world views as appropriate.

14. Legal Requirements

Religious Education must be provided for all registered pupils in full time education except those withdrawn at their parents' request (or their own request if aged 18 or over).

(DfE Circular 1 / 94, paragraphs 44 & 49, and Non-Statutory Guidance 2010 page 28)

The law relating to Religious Education for pupils who are not yet in key stage 1 is different from that relating to subjects of the National Curriculum. As Religious Education must be taught to 'all registered pupils at the school', it includes pupils in reception classes, but not those in nursery classes or play groups.

The school must comply with any request from a parent to withdraw their child and parents are not required to give their reasons for wanting to do so. However, in view of the Christian ethos and distinctive Christian character of our school, we would hope that all children admitted will participate fully in RE, and that anyone wishing to withdraw their child would discuss this with the headteacher before making this decision.

Whilst at Holy Trinity & St. John's C of E Primary School we will make every effort to ensure that all pupils will access Religious Education, if a pupil is withdrawn from RE we will ensure that a suitable venue will be made for them.

Date of validation.....

Signed.....
Chair of Governors

Date of review.....

Signed.....
Chair of Governors

APPENDIX 1

Kent Agreed Syllabus incorporating Understanding Christianity

Amended January 2018

Black = Understanding Christianity units

Red = RE Today units of work

Blue = Diocesan units of work

Green = other

	AUTUMN		SPRING		SUMMER	
Reception	CREATION Why is the word 'God' so important to Christians?	INCARNATION Why do Christians perform Nativity plays at Christmas?	Which stories are special and why? (New Testament)	SALVATION Why do Christians put a cross in an Easter garden?	Which stories are special and why? (Old Testament)	Which stories are special and why? (world faiths) with support from RE Today unit
Year 1	GOD What do Christians believe that God is like?	INCARNATION Why does Christmas matter to Christians? <i>CORE LEARNING</i>	GOSPEL What is the good news that Jesus brings? <i>CORE LEARNING</i>	SALVATION Why does Easter matter to Christians? <i>CORE LEARNING</i>	JUDAISM Who is Jewish and what do they believe?	JUDAISM Who is Jewish and what do they believe?
Year 2	CREATION Who made the world?	INCARNATION Why does Christmas matter to Christians? <i>DIGGING DEEPER</i>	GOSPEL What is the good news that Jesus brings? <i>DIGGING DEEPER</i>	SALVATION Why does Easter matter to Christians? <i>DIGGING DEEPER</i>	ISLAM Who is a Muslim and what do they believe?	ISLAM Who is a Muslim and what do they believe? OR SCHOOL DESIGNED UNIT: A FAITH FOUND WITHIN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY
Year 3	PEOPLE OF GOD What is it like to follow God?	SIKHISM What is important for Sikh people? CHRISTMAS theme 2 lessons	INCARNATION What is the Trinity? <i>CORE LEARNING</i>	SALVATION Why do Christians call the day Jesus died 'Good Friday'? <i>CORE LEARNING</i>	KINGDOM OF GOD When Jesus left, what was the impact of Pentecost?	SIKHISM How do Sikh people worship and celebrate?

Year 4	CREATION What do Christians learn from the Creation story?	INCARNATION What is the Trinity? <i>DIGGING DEEPER</i>	GOSPEL What kind of a world did Jesus want?	SALVATION Why do Christians call the day Jesus died 'Good Friday'? <i>DIGGING DEEPER</i>	HINDUISM What does it mean to be a Hindu in Britain today?	Why do some people think that life is a journey and what significant experiences mark this? <i>See updated plan</i>
Year 5	GOD What does it mean if God is loving and holy?	INCARNATION Was Jesus the Messiah? <i>CORE LEARNING</i>	PEOPLE OF GOD How can following God bring freedom and justice?	SALVATION What did Jesus do to save human beings?	JUDAISM What does it mean to be Jewish in Britain today?	ISLAM What does it mean to be a Muslim in Britain today? (Part 1) <i>See separate guidance*</i>
Year 6	CREATION Creation and science: conflicting or complementary? in the wider context of 'Big Questions'	GOSPEL What would Jesus do? <i>CHRISTMAS theme 2 lessons</i>	ISLAM What does it mean to be a Muslim in Britain today? (Part 2) See separate guidance*	SALVATION What difference does the resurrection make for Christians?	Is it better to express your beliefs in arts and architecture or in charity and generosity?	KINGDOM OF GOD What kind of king is Jesus?

*Amended guidance for years 5 and 6

The RE today unit; '*Is it better to express your beliefs in arts and architecture or in charity and generosity?*' relies heavily on the children having a deep understanding of the Muslim faith and the Mosque. Therefore this unit must come after both Islam units in the overview. Please see Muslim planning guidance document for support in how to split this unit across two year groups.