



St. Sebastian's Church of England Primary School and Nursery

Religious Education Policy

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"A school family with a Christian ethos, where we help each other to flourish."

INTENT

At St Sebastian's C of E Primary School, RE plays a significant role in expressing our Christian vision. We are a school where children's similarities and differences are celebrated and a place where all children belong.

Vision

As a Christian school, the RE curriculum aims to help our children acquire a thorough knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith. We include in our curriculum the teaching of other world religions, including those practiced by members of our school community. We aim for our children to be able to hold balanced and well-informed conversations about religion and beliefs in the world today. The RE curriculum intends to promote religious understanding and respect, and to challenge prejudice, discrimination and stereotyping.

Purpose and Aims of RE

Religious Education is taught in our school because it makes:

"a major contribution to the education of children and young people. At its best, it is intellectually challenging and personally enriching. It helps young people develop beliefs and values, and promotes the virtues of respect and empathy, which are important in our diverse society. It fosters civilised debate and reasoned argument, and helps pupils to understand the place of religion and belief in the modern world". (RE: realising the potential, Ofsted 2013).

The purpose of RE is to teach children about the religious and non-religious world-views that they will encounter in modern Britain and enable them to engage in meaningful and considered dialogue with those of all faiths and none.

Therefore, the aims of RE in our school are

- To develop their knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other world faiths.
- To explore key concepts within different faiths. This will help pupils to develop an understanding and respect for different faiths, beliefs, values and traditions.
- To consider difficult and puzzling questions about the meaning and purpose of life
- 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 develop their sense of identity and belonging so preparing them for life in a multi - faith and multi-cultural society.

Religious Education is linked to other curriculum aims including the promotion of the Schools Values, SMSC, and 'British Values'

Schools Christian Values

Our school values of Friendship, Honesty, Forgiveness, Trust, Compassion and Thankfulness provide a caring framework upon which we can discuss our opinions, as well as empathise and listen to other world views.

SMSC

Religious Education works in close harmony with Social, Moral, Cultural and Spiritual Education and links between these two subjects will be identified and used fully, where appropriate.

Children will:

-engage with texts, images and artefacts from different contexts and cultures to help inform their religious thinking

-explore qualities of their own and others' work to understand how values and meanings are conveyed

-examine how religious and spiritual ideas are expressed in art by looking at how artists portray religious events and concepts.

-recognise the difference between right and wrong.

-be able to understand and appreciate the viewpoints of others

British Values

RE provides opportunities to promote the 'British Values' of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths

IMPLEMENTATION

Curriculum and Time Allocation

The RE curriculum follows the locally agreed syllabus (the Pan-Berkshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2018-2023). The school uses Understanding Christianity and the Oxford Diocese Scheme of Work to support planning.

EYFS	Themes emerging from the EYFS Framework
KS1	Christianity and Judaism
Lower KS2	Christianity and other World Views including Hinduism
Upper KS2	Christianity and other World Views including Islam

The total time for RE is between 5% and 10%, and it is taught in dedicated lessons/blocks as appropriate. **The time dedicated to RE is separate from the time given to Collective Worship.**

Teaching and Learning

RE is taught using an enquiry-based approach that is challenging and robust. Learning will be organised to encourage the development of attitudes such as self-awareness, respect for all, open-mindedness, appreciation, and wonder, as well as providing opportunities to engage appropriately with Fundamental British Values. All faiths are treated respectfully, and opportunities will be made to engage in age-appropriate, meaningful discussion. A range of artefacts and stories will be used to support the teaching of RE and whenever possible the teaching will be supported by the resources of our link church, St. Sebastian's.

Our whole school policy regarding pupils with special needs and differentiation, applies to RE. Teachers should be alert to the fact that some children have special and deep experience of a religion through family practice.

Resources

The RE subject leader will ensure that RE resources are kept up-to-date and that staff are informed when new resources are purchased or made available electronically. Resources will include source materials (e.g., Bibles, visitors, artefacts) where appropriate and be treated with respect by all staff.

IMPACT

Assessment

During the academic year pupils carry out a variety of assessment tasks, including written and verbal tasks, to provide a good evidence base of pupil attainment. This is used to contribute to a School portfolio with samples of R.E. assessments, tasks, class books and pupil work. Teacher assessments are recorded on Target Tracker.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The RE leader monitors delivery of the curriculum through assessment data, observation, and discussion with teaching staff, as well as discussions with children and scrutiny of their written work to ensure consistent and coherent curriculum provision.

KEY INFORMATION

The Legal Position

Religious Education is unique in the school curriculum in that it is neither a core subject nor a foundation subject but the 1988 Education Act states that 'Religious Education has equal standing in relation to core subjects of the National Curriculum in that it is compulsory for all registered pupils. The school, in accordance with its Trust Deed, provides religious education for all pupils registered at the school. Following advice from the Oxford Diocesan Board of Education, the governors decided that religious education in our school should be based upon the Locally Agreed Syllabus while also reflecting the requirements of the Statement of Entitlement for Religious Education published by the Education Office of the Church of England in February 2019. The statutory section 48 (SIAMS) inspection will evaluate RE and the way that it expresses the Christian vision of the school and look for evidence of progress and attainment.

The Right of Withdrawal

Pupils may be withdrawn from RE or part of RE by a parent or guardian in accordance with Schedule 19 to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998; teachers can exercise their right to withdraw from teaching the subject. However, we hope that all parents and teachers will feel comfortable with the type of religious education being taught at this school. Parents who wish to withdraw their children must provide written notification to this effect and provide suitable activities for their children. We would ask any parent considering this to contact the head teacher to discuss any concerns or anxieties about the policy, provision, and practice of religious education at St Sebastian's C of E Primary School. The school will keep pupils safe but will not provide any work or reading material for pupils who have been withdrawn.

Links to other policies and documents

This policy is to be used in conjunction with:

- Pan-Berkshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2018- 2023
- Assessment Policy
- Feedback Policy
- SEND Policy
- Teaching and Learning Guidance
- Equal Opportunities Policy

Review

To be produced by the Subject Leader and Curriculum and Assessment Committee of the Governing Body on a two-yearly cycle.