



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

## RE Policy

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## **Introduction**

At St Sebastian's C of E Primary School, RE plays an important role in expressing the Christian vision of the school. RE reflects the ethos and values that are held and promotes understanding of people of all faiths and none. RE has the same high status as any other subject and contributes to the overall development of our pupils from all backgrounds and traditions.

Each of our school values can be seen through the teaching of R.E. Through the enquiry-based approach of the Discovery Scheme, children are encouraged to explore big questions with curiosity and openness.

**Love** is developed as children learn about compassion, kindness, and care within different faith traditions, and reflect on how these values can shape the way they live and treat others.

**Aspiration** is fostered as pupils are encouraged to think deeply, ask challenging questions, and aim high in their understanding of life's big issues, drawing inspiration from the examples and teachings found in world religions.

**Respect** is cultivated through the knowledge and understanding gained in R.E., which leads to tolerance and respect for others and their beliefs, recognising both similarities and differences.

**Courage** is demonstrated when children use critical thinking to evaluate different belief positions, reflect on their own ideas, and confidently share their views in a respectful environment.

Children also engage with mindfulness practices to build self-awareness and reflection, supporting their R.E. learning as well as their personal spiritual development. Discovery R.E. contributes significantly to the British Values agenda we promote in our school.

## **The Legal Position**

Every maintained school in England must provide a basic curriculum (RE, sex education and the National Curriculum). This includes provision for RE for all registered pupils at the school (including those in the sixth form), except for those withdrawn by their parents (see paragraph below). As a previously voluntary aided school, RE is therefore taught in accordance with 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 the way that RE contributes to the Christian character of the school and the teaching of RE will reflect this requirement.

## **Purpose and Aims of RE**

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. This is religious literacy.

Therefore, the aims of RE in our school are:

- 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 gain knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews appreciating diversity, continuity and change within the religions and worldviews being studied.
- 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 enable children to explore their own religious, spiritual and philosophical ways of living, believing and thinking.
- To support the school's Christian Vision and Values

## **Curriculum**

The RE curriculum at St Sebastian's CE Primary School, The Discovery Scheme, follows the Locally Agreed Syllabus. Christianity is taught in every year group, with key concepts revisited on a spiral curriculum. At least 50% of the time is devoted to Christianity. Other religions are covered according to the syllabus; e.g. Judaism in KS1, Hinduism & Sikhism/Islam in KS2.

## **Teaching, 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. Where possible pupils will encounter believers and visit places of worship.

A variety of resources, styles, and techniques will be used as appropriate to enable all children to make progress in RE regardless of their starting points, ability or background.

In accordance with the 2010 Equality act, The Church of England's Valuing All God's Children document and the school's Equal opportunities and racial equality policy, St Sebastian's Primary School has an inclusive school vision for Religious education. Children are taught in safe and welcoming environment where the beliefs of all faiths and lifestyles are presented in a positive manner.

As laid out in the Children and Families Act and the school's SEND the school will ensure that children and young people who have SEND are supported to access religious education lessons so that they are enabled to have fulfilling lives as members of their community

## **Assessment**

Assessment procedures will follow those of the Agreed Syllabus. This is done through The Discovery end of unit assessment procedures. This allows tracking of those reaching end of unit expectations and gives progression to the subject. Students will engage in a variety of activities which will also enable teachers to assess what they have learnt. Records kept will include information about pupils' experiences and judgements about their attainment and progress, as well as being used to inform planning.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The RE subject leader and SLT will monitor teaching and learning in RE in accordance with school policy. The RE subject leader will observe teaching, conduct book and planning reviews and pupil interviews when appropriate to assess the quality of teaching and learning. The Head of School and governors (including the RE Governor) will ensure that adequate monitoring takes place and that the impact of such activity is assessed. RE monitoring is planned into the yearly monitoring programme.

## **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. The Discovery Programme, Bibles, visits and visitors, artefacts) where appropriate and be treated with respect by all staff.

## **The Right of Withdrawal**

Pupils may be withdrawn from RE or part of RE by a parent or guardian (or withdrawing themselves if they are aged 18 or over) 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. The school will keep pupils safe but will not provide any work or reading material for pupils who have been withdrawn.

## **Policy Review**

This policy should be reviewed regularly in line with schools' procedures. A biennial review is recommended if possible.