



St Nicolas and St Mary CE Primary School **Religious Education Policy**

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*Journey together,
guided by God,
to do the best we can.*

INTRODUCTION

Religious education is a legal entitlement for every pupil and forms part of the basic curriculum as set down in the 1988 Education Reform Act. Its place in the curriculum is an acknowledgement of the fact that religious beliefs and practices play an important part in the lives of many people world-wide, and have done so throughout history. An understanding of religion can help children develop a better appreciation of themselves, the people around them and the world in which they live.

This is a Primary Voluntary Aided School. The education acts require that the religious education should be provided according to the syllabus laid down by the school governors in line with the trust deeds of the school.

The School's Vision, Mission and Aims

Attached with this policy are our school vision, Mission statement and aims which form the basis of this policy. One of our school aims is to, "Establish high quality collective worship and Religious Education." Other policies particularly relevant to RE are the Collective Worship Policy and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural policy.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The school follows the aims and objectives set out in the RE Guidelines from the Diocese of Chichester.

- To help pupils to acquire knowledge and develop an understanding of Christianity and other principle religious traditions
- To encourage the growth and development of the pupils' personal and spiritual life through the study of religious faith and practice

COMMUNITY

The school has links with the parish churches of St Mary and St Nicolas as well as other local parishes. The school also has contacts with other non-Anglican churches in the area. Local clergy visit the school to support RE and collective worship. School Eucharist is held in the school at least once a term. Other services are held in St Mary's Church for the whole school, such as Harvest Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter and Leavers' Services. Parents are invited to all of these services and parishioners attend our Eucharist services. Opportunities for other members of the community to contribute to RE and worship are welcome.

CURRICULUM

It is clearly stated in the RE Guidelines that R.E. in school is concerned with educating children about religion. Pupils learn about Christianity as the main religious tradition in this country but also about the teaching and practices of Judaism in KS1 and Hinduism, Islam and Buddhism in KS2. It is the policy of the school that the West Sussex Locally Agreed Syllabus (2015) is taught through high quality RE lesson plans, and in consideration of guidelines published by the Diocese of Chichester. Christianity is taught using materials from Understanding Christianity (UC) which provide greater depth and breadth of learning.

Curriculum Organisation

Religious Education is co-ordinated to ensure the highest quality of learning experiences for the pupils and to cover the requirements of the Syllabus. The curriculum is planned to deliver R.E. through a combination of methods to meet the learning needs and styles of children. It is our school policy that RE is always taught by qualified teachers and where possible, by the class teacher.

Curriculum Time

The school gives 5% of curriculum time to religious education in line with the recommendations of the Diocese. This is sometimes linked to and extended from the worship theme, PSHCE including circle time and cross-curricular work. At Christmas and Easter time, children take part in special themed RE days to ensure greater progression of learning and allow more time for reflection.

- In Reception, in addition to UC, pupils follow a Christian scheme of work by Gill Vaisey* (recommended at Diocese RE Training) which is tailored to meet Early Years objectives. They also share stories from some other religions and learn about key festivals like Diwali.
- In KS1 Christianity is taught for 2/3 of the time and Judaism for 1/3 of the time.
- In KS2 Christianity is taught for 2/3 of the time and other religions for the remaining 1/3.
- This is normally timetabled on a weekly basis but at times may be blocks of work.
- RE is often linked to class topics eg Buddhism to Mountains in Year 5 and Judaism to World War II.

In addition, children in Reception will take part in an EYFS Nativity showcase and children in Year 2 will take part in a Nativity play. The whole school community also re-enacts a "Life of Christ" Passion play every 4 years.

Assessment, recording and reporting

Teachers use a variety of means of assessing pupils' work in line with the whole school assessment policy and the requirements of the curriculum. This will include:

- the regular reviewing of pupils' work against learning objectives;
- listening to pupil discussion during RE lessons;
- assessing pupils using guidelines set down in the locally agreed syllabus and with guidance from the Diocese.

Pupils' achievement in religious education is reported in the annual pupil reports and passed on to the next class teacher.

Equal Opportunities and Inclusion

The school's equal opportunities policy is used throughout the curriculum and must be adhered to at all times. In addition it is important in religious education to ensure the work being covered is appropriate to pupils who come from any religious background or none.

Special Educational Needs

Work will be planned to allow for every child regardless of their needs, the opportunity to explore and engage with religious experiences to enable them to grow spiritually and find meaning in their own way.

MANAGEMENT

Co-ordination

The day to day support for religious education is provided by the RE Subject Leader who is responsible to the headteacher for:

- devising and maintaining the scheme of work;
- supporting teachers in their medium and short term planning;
- attending relevant in-service courses to keep up to date on religious education and reporting to staff;
- managing the resources for religious education;
- ensuring that each class a relevant RE display, featuring a topic related 'Big Question.'
- producing a development plan setting out the priorities for religious education;
- co-ordinating the links with local churches (other than for worship) and other places of worship;
- conducting reviews of R.E;
- keeping examples of R.E. work.

Withdrawal

When parents request that their child be withdrawn from Religious Education, they are interviewed by the headteacher to clarify the beliefs and practices that they wish their child to be excluded from.

Governors

As a voluntary aided school, the Governors have a special responsibility for the RE in their school and it is expected that the Worship and Ethos committee are responsible for RE will take a particular interest in its formation,

delivery, assessment, monitoring and reporting. Governors will use the Diocesan Section 48 self review materials as a basis for self-evaluation.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

Pupils should be encouraged to become more reflective and through this more aware of themselves and the world around them. RE can enable children to gain an ability to empathise with the lives of others and enter into the realm of creative imagination. RE should fully support SMSC development.

Monitoring

The RE Subject Leader is responsible for the monitoring of the subject throughout the school and making some evaluations about pupils' progress.

- Focuses for monitoring:
- Looking at the quality of pupil's learning and progress
- Looking at the effectiveness of teaching RE
- Assessment, recording and reporting
- Reporting to Governors
- Resources

This will be done through:

- Discussions at staff meetings, training days and other appropriate times
- Overseeing colleagues medium and short term planning
- Sampling children's work
- Talking to pupils about their work
- Involving others such as the governor responsible for R.E.
- Using the Diocesan Section 48 self-review materials.

RESOURCES

Reference books are available for staff use and a range of R.E. books are centrally available. Other resources are managed by the RE Subject Leader including resources boxes for each faith and a bank of online resources including videos and web-links. Further resources are borrowed from the school library service and Diocese, such as resource boxes containing artefacts relating to different faiths.

*Gill Vaisey is a qualified teacher and Religious Education Consultant specialising in Primary and Early Years education. She provides training and support for LAs, Church Dioceses, Schools and Nursery Settings across England and Wales