

St. Michael's CE Primary School Sydenham



Religious Education (RE) Policy

Agreed by the Governing Body on: *7 November 2016*

Signed (Chair): *Beryl Fielder*

Scheduled Review Date: *Spring 2020*

Religious Education (RE) Policy

Why Religious Education?

Religious Education (RE) plays an important role in reflecting and conveying the distinctively Christian character of the school. With the *school's vision statement of "enabling every child to flourish in their potential as a child of God"*, RE plays a fundamental role in developing the child's sense of own identity and worth and begin to develop personal beliefs and values. RE should help children to develop both knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other religions, allowing them to reflect on experience, beliefs and values, and to be able to learn from them.

What Religious Education?

In RE, we aim

- ◇ To apply an understanding of Christianity to make reasoned and informed responses to life issues and moral choices.
- ◇ Develop some knowledge and understanding of other major world religions including Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism and Sikhism.
- ◇ To assist children in their personal reflections of their early explorations of the meaning of life.
- ◇ To develop children's use of deeper thinking; to develop the ability to reflect on and communicate with others issues of truth, belief and faith.
- ◇ To foster children's feelings of awe, wonder, delight, joy and mystery, to extend their natural curiosity in God's world; and to help them order and pattern their experience.
- ◇ To encourage in children recognition of their own value and importance of individuals as children of God; to help children to express own beliefs and values; and to promote their social development so that they can give as well as receive.
- ◇ To help children, whichever faith they are from, to understand the religious beliefs, attitudes and activities of Christians, in particular the traditions of the Church of England, as well as to develop sensitivity and respect towards other people who may have differing views.
- ◇ To develop knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith and the Anglican tradition through a study of: Creation, Prayer and Worship, the Life and Teaching of Jesus, Old Testament characters, Living out the Faith and Christian Festivals.

How do we teach RE?

RE forms an integral part of the curriculum and helps to shape the Christian character of the school.

The school is following the RE Discovery scheme of work, with two thirds of the curriculum consisting of Christianity and one third of the curriculum covering the teaching of other main world religions, including Islam (Rec and Y2), Judaism (Y1); Sikhism (Y3); Judaism (Y4), Hinduism (Y5); Buddhism (Y6).

The RE Discovery Scheme of Work are used to supplement the SDBE agreed RE curriculum. The RE programme in class and whole-school situations will follow the church calendar and celebrate major Christian religious festivals. It also includes the teaching of other major faiths, as set out in the scheme of work.

RE is taught as a discreet subject at least once a week, but may also be linked to other curriculum subjects such as music and art, which enhances the learning of RE. A range of teaching and learning styles will be used to support pupil participation. A variety of resources will be used for selecting music, hymns, stories and factual information relating to RE.

In order to preserve the distinctiveness of this church school community, we encourage everyone to be involved in the religious education and collective worship. Therefore all children will have the opportunity to receive RE, although parents have the right of withdrawal. Any parent wanting to withdraw their child should first discuss this with the head teacher, who should make alternative arrangements.

RE will be planned to encourage understanding of religious and moral values, as well as reflecting upon their personal experiences, beliefs and values, irrespective of ability and religious background. Opportunities for developing and understanding of religious ideas and its influence on our lives as well as the lives of others will be available to all children.

Parents will be invited to join with the school in all festival celebrations such as All Saints' Day, Advent, Christmas, Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Palm Sunday, Ascension, Pentecost, Harvest, Mothering Sunday and Year 6 leavers' service.

Assessment

The RE Discovery scheme of work provides clear learning objectives from the AT1 and AT2 objectives. A differentiated marking sticker system has been implemented to ensure feedback of learning refers to the learning focus. Green pen questions (GPQ) in books, completed at the beginning of lessons, are opportunities to promote children's higher level thinking (AT 2 questions).

At the end of every unit taught, the teacher plans activities to use for assessment purposes, using level descriptions to make judgements of achievement. The judgements of achievement are printed on yellow stickers and stuck in books next to evidence of learning.

Assessment data is entered and analysed centrally. Judgements are made in line with the new assessment system - children are either beginning to, meeting or secure in the expected standards for that unit and that year group.

Focus weeks are used as a platform to discuss progress and achievement following the observation of lessons, looking at books and analysing the data.

What resources do we have?

We use a scheme of work based on *The Southwark Diocesan Scheme of Work and Discovery RE to supplement the SDBE scheme of work*. An overview can be found on the server. Each class should have a resource for their world religion they are studying. General resources for Christianity and other faiths, including bibles and candles will either be kept in the classroom or the resource room. Staff are well supported with their subject knowledge, using the Headteacher, the Deputy, who is a Pastor in her church, and Deacon David as a resource where needed.

Displays

Every classroom has a designated prayer corner (sacred space) with a candle, bible and a cross. RE displays should also reflect the children's work from the current topic and may also include key questions to prompt discussions or thinking.

How do we monitor RE across the school?

Children will be assessed using the national curriculum level statements to make a judgement of 'beginning to', 'working within' or 'secure'.

The senior managers will monitor and evaluate achievement, progress and quality of teaching by looking at books, observing lessons, interviewing pupils and tracking the assessments. Quality of teaching and children's achievement and progress will be discussed during focus meetings.

The Faith Committee will regularly conduct booklooks, pupil interviews and faith walks to quality control the judgements made by the senior managers. They will report their findings to the Governors at the Full Governors meeting.

The Governing Body will review this policy every three years.