



St Mary's and St Peter's C of E School

Religious Education Policy

As a voluntary aided Church of England primary school, Religious Education is at the heart of our curriculum. We believe high standards of care and love are an integral part in the quality of teaching and learning across the whole curriculum. Our school Christian vision of **'life in all its fullness'** applies to all areas of our school. The two great commandments given by Jesus will underwrite the life of our school; they are to 'love God' and to 'love your neighbour as yourself'. It is our aim for both of these instructions to be evident in the whole life of the school, in the relationships between all members of the community, pupils, staff and parents, and also in our safeguarding responsibilities.

St Mary's and St. Peter's school fully recognises its moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils. Our RE Policy is one of a range of documents which set out the safeguarding responsibilities of the school. We wish to create a safe, welcoming and vigilant environment for children where they feel valued and are respected.

Provision, Profile and Priority of RE

As a church school, RE has a high profile in our school. Our RE curriculum enables pupils to acquire a rich, deep knowledge and understanding of Christian belief and practice, this includes the ways in which it is unique and diverse.

The teaching and learning of RE uses an approach that engages with biblical text and theological ideas. Through our RE curriculum, we aim to engage and challenge pupils through an exploration of core concepts and questions. We aim to provide meaningful and informed dialogue with a range of religions and worldviews. There will be opportunities for the children to understand the role of foundational texts, beliefs, rituals, and practices and how they help form identity in a range of religions and worldviews. They will explore how these may change in different times, places and cultures.

Our aim is that children will make significant progress and high attainment enabling them to develop confident religious literacy.

Our RE curriculum contributes to British values and spiritual moral social and cultural development. All our RE teaching is underpinned by the principles of inclusion, equal opportunities and race equality.

Pupils will have a safe space to explore their own religious, spiritual and/or philosophical ways of seeing, living and thinking, believing and belonging. They should have opportunities to engage in meaningful and informed dialogue with those of all religions and worldviews.

Aims and objectives of RE

- 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 explore their own religious, spiritual and philosophical ways living, believing and thinking.

School Vision Statement

Our school vision '**life in all its fullness**' underpins all of school life at St. Mary's and St. Peter's school. This vision is firmly embedded in our teaching of RE. Our RE scheme of work provides many opportunities to realise the four key areas of our vision statement:

- 1) **Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills**
- 2) **Hope and Aspiration**
- 3) **Community and Living Well Together**
- 4) **Dignity and Respect**

School Values

We make links wherever possible to our school values of **compassion, creation, endurance, forgiveness, friendship, hope, humility, justice, koinonia, peace, reverence, service, thankfulness, trust** and **wisdom**.

Statutory Duties

Religious Education at St. Mary's and St Peter's primary school is agreed by the governors and reflects the trust deeds of the school. We adhere to the guidelines set out in the Statement of Entitlement published by the Church of England Education Office.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or parts of Religious education. Children who are withdrawn from Religious Education will be supervised in another class. However, this is not normally expected to happen. Any parents who

request withdrawal should do so in writing and a meeting to discuss this request will be arranged with the Headteacher.

Implementation

The school uses the LDBS scheme of work for RE. It spans from Reception to Year 6 and covers the six main world religions and a number of thematic units for Upper Juniors. The content of the curriculum is in the main part Christianity.

10% of curriculum time is dedicated to the delivery of RE. This is separate to the children's entitlement for collective worship. Teachers have flexibility in the way they allocate these hours although it is expected that there will be an hour of RE taught each week.

Balanced RE

At St. Mary's and St Peter's Offer a balanced curriculum which enquires into religions and worldviews through theology, philosophy and the human and social sciences.

Enquiry Based Learning

Teaching is designed to develop a wide range of skills including:

- enquiry
- analysis
- interpretation
- evaluation
- reflection

Each unit of work which the children study has an overall 'Big Question' to explore (e.g. What does it mean to be a Hindu?). Each lesson then provides an opportunity to investigate an aspect relating to the big question of the topic (e.g. What is Karma and how does it affect the life of a Hindu?)

Through this provision of a systematic enquiry based approach to the teaching of RE, the children have the opportunity to develop their ability to:

- Become critical thinkers
- Engage critically with texts
- Ask deep and meaningful questions
- Make connections within and across religions and worldviews
- Reflect, respond and express their own religious, spiritual and/or philosophical convictions

Teaching Methods

To achieve these aims we use a variety of teaching methods including:

- Questioning and opportunities for reflection;
- Investigative work using religious artefacts, library books and the internet;
- Opportunities for the children to respond practically through use of art and drama;

- Opportunities for writing and recording in books;
- Use of videos to support the children's learning;
- Visits or 'virtual' visits to places of worship;
- Interviews and discussion with people of different faith backgrounds;
- Use of children's own experiences as a resource.

Learning activities provide fully for the needs of all pupils including those who have SEND. Teaching material is differentiated to meet the needs of all children. Each half term, at least two pieces of quality written work are recorded in the children's books. The expectation is that this writing is of the same high standard as in English lessons.

Where religious artefacts are used, the children are reminded of the importance of demonstrating respect and reverence when handling them. This also applies when visiting places of worship.

Assessment

Religious Education is considered an academic subject at our school. Therefore our procedures for tracking progress are rigorous. We assess RE in a number of ways including:

- through marking with written comments which suggest next steps in learning
- through formative discussion with children
- through end of topic assessment work

Children are assessed according to whether they are working below the expected level, at the expected level or working at greater depth. 'I can statements' are used to assess children's understanding.

Monitoring, evaluation and review:

RE is monitored as part of the school's process of self-evaluation and self-review.

Policy Date: September 2021

Review Date: September 2022