

St Peter's C of E Primary School

Growing together in Knowledge, Wisdom and Faith



Religious Education Policy

Person Responsible for this Policy	RE Leader
Governor Responsible for this Policy	T & L
Team Responsible for this Policy	Teaching and Learning
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St Peter's Church of England Primary School aims to provide a happy, secure and Christian learning environment in which every child can achieve academic and personal success.

The Governors and Staff of St Peter's Church of England Primary School believe our school policies help us to continuously improve the school and ensure that each child is valued and encouraged. We recognise that all children have potential and through the school policies we aim to create a caring and well-ordered environment in which our school family can learn and develop.

Being a Church of England Primary school means we embrace the following Christian Values, which guide all aspects of school life and underpin our school policies.

Joy

Friendship and Respect

Determination and Courage

Trust and Honesty

Kindness and Forgiveness

Religious education should enable every child to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate for dignity and respect encouraging all to live well together

Such an approach is offered through a commitment to generous hospitality, being true to

our underpinning faith, but with a deep respect for the integrity of other religious traditions (and worldviews) and for the religious freedom of each person.

(Religious Education Statement of Entitlement February 2019)

Introduction

At St Peter's CEP School our Christian vision shapes all we do.

[Growing together in knowledge, wisdom and faith](#)

St Peter's school is centred upon the love and teaching of Jesus. We inspire children to grow in the knowledge of God and his world, and to live in wisdom and faith. We nurture each pupil so that they can make the most of their God-given gifts and skills and be fruitful members of the community. Matthew 12 v 33 teaches us that "To have good fruit you must have a healthy tree; if you have a poor tree, you will have bad fruit. A tree is known by the kind of fruit it bears."

At St. Peter's Church of England Primary School, pupils and their families can expect a high quality Religious Education (RE) curriculum that is rich and varied, enabling learners to acquire a thorough knowledge and understanding of a range of faiths and world views. As a church school, the teaching of Christianity is at the heart of our RE curriculum. Through the Understanding Christianity resource, the use of an enquiry approach engages with significant theological concepts and the pupil's own understanding of the world as part of their wider religious literacy. Using the Kent Agreed Syllabus, with the Understanding Christianity resource, we learn about other religions and world views, fostering respect for them. Links with our Christian values and vision, and support for pupil's spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development, are intrinsic to our RE curriculum and have a significant impact on learners. We provide a wide range of opportunities for learners to understand and to make links between the beliefs, practices and value systems of the range of faiths and world views studied.

Aims and objectives

RE has a particular contribution to make towards the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural education of each pupil. It involves learning about religion i.e. understanding what people believe and do, and how they express themselves, and also learning from religion i.e. making sense of who we are, of life, and of right and wrong. We encourage respect for religious commitment and for those holding different beliefs.

As stated in the Church of England Statement of Entitlement for Religious Education, our school aims for all pupils:

- 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 of living, believing and thinking.

Curriculum for Religious Education

RE has a high profile within our school curriculum. It is a priority for senior leaders, who ensure that the teaching, learning and resourcing of RE is comparable with other core curriculum areas.

This means that the RE curriculum:

- is intrinsic to the outworking of our distinctive Christian vision in enabling all pupils to flourish. In addition, it contributes to British values and to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- is delivered in an objective, critical and pluralistic manner to engage and challenge all pupils through an exploration of core concepts and questions. Lessons provide meaningful and informed dialogue with a range of religions and worldviews.
- reflects a good balance between the disciplines of theology, philosophy and human science, to enable pupils to develop their religious literacy.

- Religious Literacy: Helping children and young people hold balanced and well-informed conversations about religion and belief. (Key Principles of a balanced curriculum in RE.)
- enables pupils to acquire a rich, deep knowledge and understanding of Christian belief and practice, including the ways in which it is unique and diverse, whilst engaging with biblical texts and theological ideas.
- provides opportunities for pupils to understand the role of foundational texts, beliefs, rituals, and practices and how they help to form identity in a range of religions and worldviews.
- supports the development of other curriculum areas and other general educational abilities such as literacy, empathy and the ability to express thoughts, feelings and personal beliefs.
- encompasses the full range of abilities to ensure that all flourish academically, using a wide range of teaching and learning strategies which consider the task, outcome, resource, support and pupil grouping as appropriate to pupils' needs
- offers tasks that are age appropriate, challenging, creative and sufficiently demanding to stimulate and engage all pupils, whilst extending the most able and providing support for those who need it.
- ensures that all pupils' contributions are valued in RE as they draw on their own experiences and beliefs

Time Allocation

The Kent Agreed Syllabus requires a minimum 5% curriculum time for RE, which amounts to one hour a week at Key Stage One and 1.25 hours at Key Stage Two. (This is in addition to time spent in Acts of Collective Worship.) Reflecting the school's trust deed, parents and pupils are entitled to expect that, in Church schools, Christianity should be the majority religion studied in each year group and should be at least 50% of curriculum time.

Teaching and learning

Learning activities provide fully for the needs of all pupils, so that they develop a wide range of skills including enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection. RE lessons provide a safe space to explore their own religious, spiritual and/or philosophical ways of seeing, living and thinking, believing and belonging. They provide opportunities to engage in meaningful and informed dialogue with those of all religions and worldviews.

Pupils experience opportunities to learn and express themselves through an enquiry-based style of learning by:

- Posing and discussing 'big' and challenging questions
- Reading and critically analysing texts
- Interpreting information from different sources
- Seeking information for themselves in libraries and on computers
- Listening to and discussing with the teacher and other pupils
- Engaging in pair and group work
- Exploring a range of media such as artefacts, pictures, photographs, music and drama
- Experiencing visits and visitors
- Taking part in outdoor learning
- Taking time for reflection

Teaching in RE challenges stereotypes, misinformation and misconceptions about race, gender and religion. Lessons seek to present religions and world views in all their richness and diversity in terms of beliefs, traditions, customs and lifestyle in a sensitive and accurate way in order to encourage a positive attitude towards diversity. All questions, views, and opinions are treated with sensitivity and respect.

Teachers establish clear links between elements of religious belief and practice and aspects of the children's own lives. Teaching enables pupils to gain something of personal value from their study of religious belief and practice, for example, the way that they might apply insights gained from religious stories to their own lives.

Our Agreed Syllabus emphasises the importance of distinctive RE skills, such as enquiring, questioning, analysing and interpreting, as well as responding and reflecting. Lessons are planned to develop each skill at a time.

Each child, from Year 1 – Year 6, has his/her own book specifically for RE work, but RE also includes creative and practical activities, drama and discussion. We benefit from our close ties with the parish church, St Peter's Church, for RE visits and visitors to the lessons.

A two-year topic cycle provides progression and continuity.

At Key Stage One, RE is predominantly about Christianity, together with Judaism and Islam.

At Lower Key Stage Two, RE is also predominantly about Christianity, together with Sikhism and Hinduism. At Upper Key Stage Two, Christianity predominates together with Judaism and Islam.

The majority of the units in this scheme focus on one religion at a time, to avoid confusion and to do justice to the distinctiveness of each religion. However, opportunities to compare and contrast religious ideas and beliefs are part of our approach to teaching RE. See Appendix 1 for a more detailed summary of our RE scheme.

Differentiation and Special Educational Needs

Policy and practice in Religious Education reflects whole school policy and encompasses the full range and ability of all pupils. All pupils' contributions are valued in RE as they draw on their own experiences and beliefs. A range of teaching and learning strategies to achieve differentiated learning are used including task, outcome, resource, support and pupil grouping. There is particular concern to ensure that all tasks are challenging, creative and sufficiently demanding to stimulate and engage all pupils whilst extending the most able.

Breadth and balance

Although work on Christianity will predominate, there will be in-depth work on the major world religions and on other world views as appropriate. Teaching will seek to bring about a deeper knowledge and understanding of religious traditions but also to develop a range of skills such as the ability to empathise and evaluate attitudes, and develop respect for diversity.

Equal Opportunities

Religious Education will challenge stereotypes, misinformation and misconceptions about race, gender and religion. It seeks to present religions and world views in all their richness and diversity in terms of beliefs, traditions, customs and lifestyle in a sensitive and accurate way in order to encourage a positive attitude towards diversity. All questions, views, and opinions will be treated with sensitivity and respect.

Relevance

Teachers will establish clear links between elements of religious belief and practice and aspects of the children's own lives. Teaching will enable pupils to gain something of personal value from their study of religious belief and practice, for example, the way that they might apply insights gained from religious stories to their own lives. This will be done through engaging pupils in an enquiry based style of learning and by posing challenging questions to and by pupils.

Cross-curricular links

Religious Education supports the development of general educational abilities such as literacy, empathy and the ability to express thoughts, feelings and personal beliefs. RE also makes a major contribution to pupils' SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) development. It addresses issues which arise in a range of subjects, such as English, Drama and History, Geography, Computing, Music as well as Personal, Social and Emotional Education and Citizenship.

Health and Safety

Health and safety issues may arise in Religious Education on a number of occasions for example, when pupils:

- Handle artefacts.
- Consume food.
- Visit places of worship.

Teachers will conform to guidelines in the school's Health and Safety Policy in these circumstances.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

Assessment in Religious Education will:

- Involve identifying suitable opportunities in schemes of work such as Understanding Christianity.
- Be directly related to the expectations of Kent Locally Agreed Syllabus and the Understanding Christianity units of work included in the agreed syllabus.
- Seek to identify development in the different areas of learning in the subject and not only in the acquisition of factual knowledge.
- Recognise the range of skills and attitudes which the subject seeks to develop.
- Employ well defined criteria for marking and assessment which identify progress and achievement as well as effort, following the school's Marking Policy.
- Include pupil self-assessment.
- Enable effective tracking of pupil progress to identify areas for development in pupil's knowledge and understanding, as well as whole school areas for development.
- Enable effective reporting to parents.

Role of the RE subject leader

The subject leader will:

- Ensure that all pupils receive their legal entitlement of Religious Education.
- Ensure RE provision reflects the Church of England Statement of Entitlement.
- Produce and regularly review a subject policy to ensure that it remains up to date.

- Ensure all teachers are aware of what should be taught in Religious Education, what resources are available, and what standards of attainment are expected at the end of each Key Stage.
- Monitor and review the implementation of policy and units of work.
- Monitor the quality and effectiveness of the teaching and learning in RE and pupils' progress and standards.
- Ensure there are rigorous assessment systems in place to enable teachers and pupils to gauge progress and attainment in RE.
- Monitor, analyse and question RE assessments carried out by staff.
- Liaise periodically with the HT and Governors to feedback on the monitoring and impact of RE across the school.
- Support colleagues by sharing new ideas and pedagogy, to help develop their subject confidence and expertise through CPD opportunities and support sessions.
- Seek opportunities to share effective practice locally and regionally and engage in professional development for themselves and other staff members.
- Oversee the RE budget and monitor resources to ensure they are kept and stored respectfully and replaced where necessary.
- Ensure that there is a school protocol, that covers safeguarding procedures and a suitability process, for when visitors are invited into RE lessons.

Resources

Religious Education will be funded to enable a range of resources on different religions to be purchased, such as books for teachers, pupils and the library, posters, and artefacts. The school makes use of guidance material produced by the Diocese. Funding will also allow, where possible, visits to different places of worship and provide INSET for staff. All resources will be listed, stored, be easily accessible and kept in good condition. Resource banks will be available for both staff and pupils on all major religions and worldviews as appropriate.

Legal Requirements

Religious Education must be provided for all registered pupils in full time education except those withdrawn at their parents' request (or their own request if aged 18 or over). (DfE Circular 1 / 94, paragraphs 44 & 49, and Non- Statutory Guidance 2010 page 28.)

The law relating to Religious Education for pupils who are not yet in key stage 1 is different from that relating to subjects of the National Curriculum. As Religious Education must be taught to 'all registered pupils at the school', it includes pupils in reception classes, but not those in nursery classes or play groups.

The school must comply with any request from a parent to withdraw their child and parents are not required to give their reasons for wanting to do so. However, in view of the Christian ethos and distinctive Christian character of our school, we would hope that all children admitted will participate fully in RE, and that anyone wishing to withdraw their child would discuss this with the headteacher before making this decision.

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years.