

St Matthew's C.E. Primary School



Policy and Procedures for

Religious Education

Agreed by the Governing Body

Autumn 2022

Review date Autumn 2024

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12

RE Policy

RE is central to the purpose of Saint Matthew's Church of England Primary School because as a Church school we see that the Christian faith informs all aspects of our life together and the teaching and learning are underpinned by Jesus' teaching which is an example of how to live our lives well. The RE contributes to our SMSC curriculum, the British values and the Prevent Strategy all of which are embedded in our school.

RE in Saint Matthew's Church of England Primary School explores how individuals and communities make meaning and sense of their lives through the major religions of the world. RE is taught in such a way as to inspire pupils to explore, develop and affirm their own faith and values and to have respect for the faith, beliefs and values of others. It is both open and inclusive to everyone.

RE reflects the 4 core values that the school promotes which are faith, respect, achievement and friendship. We have four bears that represent these values. The children can nominate or be nominated to receive a bear for demonstrating a value. The bears go and spend time in the classrooms and are used for stories in R.E. The values are found in the corridors on posters and in classrooms in frames and also for the children to hold on stones when they are taking part in their class circle time worship. They are reflected throughout all teaching but particularly that of religious education.

Saint Matthew's Church of England Primary School has a Trust Deed between The Blackmoor Estate Limited to the Right Honourable, Fifth Earl of Selbourne and The Portsmouth Diocesan Board of Education dated 24th October 1995 which states that the school is," a school for the education of children residing in the Parishes of Blackmoor, Greatham, Empshott and Whitehill in the County of Hampshire and the school shall be in union with and conducted upon principles and in furtherance of the ends and designs of the National Society(Church of England) for Promoting Religious Education in accordance with the principles of the Church of England."

Aims

1. To develop a knowledge and understanding of Christian beliefs and practices so that children understand the importance of the Bible, the role of the church and recognise the importance of faith for Christians.
2. To develop knowledge and understanding of the beliefs and practices of some of the other principal religions in Britain.
3. To understand how belief can be expressed in a variety of ways including art, dance, music, celebrations and in different cultural settings.
4. To encourage and develop children's interest and opinions about concepts that are common to themselves and religions.
5. To develop and express their own values, spirituality and beliefs through developing a reflective approach to life.
6. To develop attitudes of faith, respect, achievement and friendship.

Teaching

RE is taught in line with the Hampshire Agreed Syllabus (Living Difference 111), with reference to Diocesan guidelines. It also incorporates many elements from the Understanding Christianity Project so as to enhance coherence and progression within the teaching of Christianity at this Church school. This enhances the pupils' religious literacy in terms of Christianity and develops their thinking in a theological manner.

The Understanding Christianity Project teaches Christianity through 8 concepts which are Gospel, Fall, Salvation, Creation, God, Incarnation, The Kingdom of God and People of God.

RE is taught mainly in blocked units lasting for one week per half term. Each unit is 'concept' led, making reference to children's own experiences and thoughts. The main religion studied is Christianity with the teaching taken from the Understanding Christianity documents. However, the children will also be taught

about Judaism, Islam and Hinduism. Judaism and Christianity are taught in the Reception class and Key Stage 1, with Christianity and Hinduism in Lower Key Stage 2 and Christianity and Islam at Upper Key Stage 2.

Strategies for the teaching of RE:

RE stands as an academic subject in line with other such subjects within the school and is treated as such. It is taught in accordance with the school's teaching and learning policies and is monitored by the Headteacher and RE leader. We use a number of strategies to enable us to cover all styles of learning. These include exploiting cross-curricular links wherever possible which is made clear on RE and topic based planning, making links to the creative arts such as drama, music, art and literacy and using ICT to develop learning in RE.

RE is taught with a mix of whole –class, group and individual approaches and wherever possible first hand experiences are used as a stimulus for learning. We encourage children to question the stories to deepen their own understanding of the concept being studied and we encourage children to form opinions through discussion and debate. Children also use a variety of artefacts to explore items which are precious or are used in religious worship.

When planning and delivering the curriculum, reference is made to ensure that the health and safety, equal opportunity and special needs policies are met. Children are sometimes given differentiated work or taught in small adult led groups or 1:1 if their needs require this. ICT is also widely used with children making power points and videos and photographs being taken of drama and practical work.

The school has especially close links with the Saint Matthew's Church where many visits for worship and learning are undertaken. The Vicar of St Matthew's Church, retired in July 2022 and we work closely with the interim Vicar, Reverend Peter Sutton.

A range of resources are available to enrich the RE curriculum, including some artefacts, videos / DVDs and poster booklets. Resources are audited each year and ordered by the RE manager in consultation with the Headteacher regarding budget allocations. The resources are stored in the boxes in the Group room. The library in school is also a valuable resource for Bibles, religious stories or stories exploring a range of concept and resources are also borrowed from the Hampshire RE centre.

Strategies for progression and continuity:

The RE manager provides long-term and medium-term planning relating to the Hampshire Agreed Syllabus which also incorporates Christianity teaching for the Understanding Christianity Project. Individual teaching staff are responsible for short-term planning of each unit to suit the individual needs of the class. Support from the RE manager is available if needed. Teachers provide for progression and continuity and plan for it through activities such as discussion with pupils, group activities, marking and guiding their work, observing, displaying work, asking and answering questions.

Monitoring of RE teaching will take place by the RE manager and/or Headteacher at the end of each block of work. The aim of any monitoring is to ensure that differentiated learning is taking place across the school.

Recording and reporting:

Assessment procedures for RE follow the assessment and marking policies of the school. Attainment in RE is recorded by individual class teachers and reported to the RE manager. Children's progress in RE is reported to parents annually.

Parental right of withdrawal:

In accordance with the Education Reform act 1988, parents have the right to withdraw their children from parts of or indeed all of the teaching of RE. In order to avoid misunderstanding, any parent wishing to withdraw their child will arrange a meeting with the Headteacher in order to discuss any issues. Pupils who are withdrawn are supervised and can read a book or complete activities from home.

It should be noted that when spontaneous enquiries relating to religion and spiritual issues are raised in other areas of the curriculum, these cannot constitute RE within the meaning of the legislation and a parent could not reasonably insist on a child being withdrawn at such times.