

Ashton St. Peter's CofE Primary School



Document Information : *RE POLICY*

Reviewed by:	David Bower & Bethany Harris	Responsibility:	Headteacher
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Documents Linked to this Policy:

SMSC Policy

Collective Worship Policy

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Introduction

- RE is a statutory subject within the basic curriculum but it is locally determined through the Local Authority - Standing Advisory Council in Religious Education (SACRE).
- RE has “equal standing” with foundation subjects and is given at least 5% of curriculum time – 1 hour per week. (DES Circular 3/89)
- RE is taught in accordance with the RE Agreed Syllabus for Beds Borough, Central Bedfordshire and Luton.
- RE is taught as a discrete subject and integrated in a cross-curricular way when appropriate.
- RE will, when appropriate, be linked with collective worship.

Rationale

Religion has a profound influence upon culture and society. It is part of life and part of being human. An awareness and knowledge of the religious and moral aspects of life are essential for every child to develop intellectually, emotionally, aesthetically and spiritually.

Families who send their children to our school are in the main ‘nominally’ Christian, but we do have some children from practising Christian families. In addition there are children who are from religions other than Christianity and some from non-religious backgrounds. RE is concerned with “learning about religions” and “learning from religion” and it is not the practice of our school to preach to or convert the children. The faith background of both the staff and child’s family is respected at all times.

Values and Aims

We believe at our school that RE both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos and the value which we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in the RE curriculum.

Specifically, RE at our school aims to enable pupils of every level of development to:

1. Equip children with knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews. These include Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism.
2. develop an understanding of the influence of beliefs, values and traditions on individuals, communities, societies and cultures;
3. develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues with reference to the teachings of the principal religions
4. enhance their own spiritual, moral, cultural and social development by:
 - developing awareness of the fundamental questions of life arising from human experiences, and how religious beliefs and practices can relate to them;
 - reflecting on their own beliefs, values and experiences
 - expressing their own personal viewpoints in a thoughtful, reasoned and considerate way;
5. recognise the right of people to hold different beliefs within a religiously diverse society.

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Teaching and Learning

In our school we use the Emmanuel Project alongside Understanding Christianity. Teaching and Learning includes the following:

- Pupils have opportunities to investigate, describe and appreciate the traditions and customs of the major world religions, such as founders and followers of religious movements, religious language and ideas, sacred books and institutions, religious beliefs and practices.
- Artefacts and visits are used to enhance the RE curriculum. Visits to the school from religious leaders and other members of the community are encouraged.
- Stories from the Bible and other religious texts are used as a resource.
- Customs, traditions and festivals from a variety of cultures are explored and celebrated.
- There are opportunities to draw on and reflect on personal experiences at school and at home.
- Opportunities to explore the experience of the Church's year.
- Visits to places of worship, especially the local parish Church and the Cathedral, to develop the understanding of the church as a living community.
- Welcoming visitors from the local parish to share their experience of Christian belief and life;
- Liaison with the local parish to enable these visits and links to occur.
- High achievement in RE reflecting its importance in a church school.
- Opportunities for pupils to be enthusiastic about their work in RE.
- Opportunities for pupils to make excellent and appropriate progress in their knowledge and understanding of Christianity and the Anglican tradition;
- Pupils from Christian families to talk openly about their beliefs and values in lessons and to grow in their faith;
- Pupils from other faith backgrounds to understand and be encouraged in their faith;
- Pupils with no religious background can learn about the Christian faith;
- Pupils of all backgrounds to have a safe place to explore the place of doubt and certainty in a maturing faith.

Our Environment

Throughout the year, our environment may contain:

- High quality displays that reflect our school Christian Values;
- Support for the pupils' confident use of religious language;
- A set of bibles in language that can be understood by the learners and examples of bibles and prayer books from a variety of contexts;
- The facility to listen to and sing Christian 'psalms and hymns and spiritual songs' from a wide variety of traditions;
- Access to Christian artefacts that are used with care, respect and confidence;
- A sacred space that can be used as a focus for prayer and quiet reflection;

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- Encouragement of mutual respect based on Christian values, where pupils and teachers are able to talk openly and freely about their own personal beliefs and practice without fear of ridicule.

Assessment and Reporting

Teacher assessment takes place through activities for example; discussion with pupils, group activities, marking and guiding their work, observing, displaying work, asking and answering questions, teachers are continually assessing pupils' achievements. This information is then recorded against the outcomes found in Understanding Christianity and the attainment targets found within the Emmanuel Project.

RE assessment is on our end of year reports.

Withdrawal from RE

The right of parents to withdraw their children from religious education (RE) lessons is set out in section 71(1) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, in paragraph 1.

We would ask any parents considering this to first contact the headteacher to discuss any concerns or anxieties about the policy, provision and practice of RE at the school.