



Religious Education Policy

'Promoting, Valuing and Celebrating achievement in a Christian setting.'
'I am the Good Shepherd, I know my sheep and my sheep know me.' John 10:14



In our school, our Christian vision shapes all we do. We link this policy with our Christian values of:

- Respect
- Encouragement
- Friendship
- Love
- Equality
- Compassion
- Trust

'Religious education in a Church school 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 life well together.'

RE Statement of Entitlement from the Church of England Education Office Feb 2019

St Paul's Church of England VC Junior School Religious Education Policy Statement

Religious education has a central role in promoting respect and understanding towards people's faith and belief. At the heart of our school, there is a commitment to helping all pupils recognise that they live in a society with different faiths and cultures present. Our teaching reflects the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, while taking account of the other principle religions represented in our country. It is also underpinned by the school's vision statement.

Purpose

This policy defines St Paul's CofE VC Junior School's expectations for the teaching and learning of R.E. The religious education curriculum forms an important part of our school's spiritual, moral and social teaching. It also promotes education for citizenship, significantly contributing to the preparing pupils for life in modern Britain.

Related documents

Vision Statement
Policy for Collective Worship
Policy for Equality
Policy for P.S.H.E
Policy for Assessment

At St Paul's C of E VC Junior School, we seek to inspire our pupils by the subject of RE and develop a wide range of skills such as enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection, to deepen their understanding of the impact of the religion on the world. Christianity is taught as a living and diverse faith, focused on the teachings of Jesus and the Church, alongside a range of religions and worldviews. Religious Education encourages pupils to learn from different religions, beliefs, values and traditions while creating a safe space for them to explore their own beliefs and questions of meaning.

Legal Requirements

As a Voluntary Controlled (VC) School, at St Paul's C of E Junior School, we are required to follow the locally agreed syllabus of Awareness, Mystery and Value drawn up by the standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE).

Section 48 of the 2005 Education Act requires the inspection of religious education in schools which have a religious character. This is the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS).

Managing the right to withdraw.

Parents have a right by law to withdraw their child from the Religious Education curriculum. In this event, we will undertake responsibility for their supervision with regard to health and safety. Information on these arrangements is clear on our website. Teachers can exercise their right to withdraw from teaching the subject, but only after they have given notification to the governing body.

Our Aims

The aims of Religious Education are drawn from the Somerset, AMV Agreed Syllabus;

- To enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living faith that influences the lives of people worldwide and as the religion that has most shaped British culture and heritage.
- To enable pupils to know about and understand other major world religions and world views, their impact on society, culture and the wider world, and to appreciate the diversity, continuity and change within those religions and world views.
- To engage with the challenging questions of meaning and purpose
- To contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own beliefs and values.

Teaching and Learning

In line with the Church of England RE Statement of Entitlement (2019) St Paul's C of E VC Junior School, we aim to provide;

- A curriculum that enables pupils to acquire a rich, deep knowledge and understanding of Christian belief and practice.
- A curriculum that draws on the richness and diversity of religious experience worldwide.

- The opportunity for pupils to deepen their understanding of the religion and world views as lived by believers.
- A pedagogy that instils respect for different views and interpretations; and, in which real dialogue and theological enquiry takes place.
- Engaging and varied learning activities that provide for the needs of all learners, supported by high quality resources.
- The opportunity for pupils to develop a wide range of skills including enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection.
- RE that makes a positive contribution to SMSC development and also to pupils' understanding of British values.
- An assessment process which has rigour and demonstrates progression based on knowledge and understanding of core religious concepts.

Teaching and Learning strategies;

- Religious education may be taught in a 'whole class' setting but with the flexibility to allow for discussion, questioning and reflection in small groups and individually.
- Learning takes place in our local church where appropriate and the links between church and school are highlighted as part of teaching.
- Visits to local churches and other places of worship are encouraged.
- Visitors from faith communities, charities and organisations are invited, welcomed and form part of the children's Religious Education experience. Their role is always to educate and not evangelise.
- A variety of teaching approaches are encouraged:
 - Teacher presentations, role play, drama and storytelling.
 - Question and answer sessions, discussions and debates
 - Individual and group research
 - Photographs, pictures and maps
 - IT, film, podcasts, radio, websites, to research and communicate ideas.
 - Using our beautiful and extensive grounds to make RE learning an immersive, sensory experience where appropriate.

The curriculum incorporates elements of 'Understanding Christianity' as a resource to enrich the teaching of Christianity. There are dedicated resources for each religion, including artefacts, stories and sacred texts with planning resources available from the subject lead. Planning resources are also available on the school SharePoint system for which all staff have access to.

Assessment, Record Keeping and Reporting

In order to ensure continuity, progression and high standards of achievement in R.E. assessment for every child will include:

- ✓ Teachers will formatively assess through observations, written work, end of unit quizzes and dialogue with children. The school's assessment system is used to assess pupils against age related expectations as follows:
- ✓ A summative assessment of each child's progress over the year is provided in their end of year report.
- ✓ Children's achievement in R.E. is matched against 'Awareness, Mystery and Value' attainment descriptors.

Gifted & Talented, S.E.N.D and Equal Opportunities

The needs of Gifted and Talented pupils and pupils with SEN or EAL are recognised by the class teacher. All pupils are valued as individuals. Staff adapt learning approaches to provide suitable learning challenges. Staff cater for different learning needs and styles. This includes the use of the class RE floor book/SeeSaw which allows a different form of recording ideas enabling access to the curriculum for all learners where emphasis can be on discussion rather than the mechanical recording of ideas.

Curriculum balance and time

Reflecting St Paul's C of E VC Junior School church school status, Christianity is the majority religion studied and is at least 50% of the curriculum coverage.

Monitoring, Evaluation, Assessment, Recording, Reporting.

- Governors have responsibility for monitoring how the RE in the school reflects its Christian vision.
- The headteacher has overall responsibility for monitoring and evaluation.
- The RE subject leader will assist the headteacher by monitoring long term and medium-term plans.
- The RE subject leader will carry out book looks of RE learning through the school and share findings with the headteacher and teaching colleagues, reporting to Governors key findings.
- The subject leader will keep records of work to demonstrate continuity and progression.
- The subject leader will manage resources.
- The subject leader will endeavour to keep up to date with information, initiatives and developments in religious education and disseminate them as appropriate.
- The subject leader will facilitate the sharing of good practice.
- The subject leader will be responsible for drawing up an action plan for religious education. Generally, this will be an annual plan and should be informed by this policy.
- The subject leader will liaise with the Diocesan adviser with responsibility for Religious Education.

- **Parental Involvement:**

At St Paul's CE Junior School, we will encourage parental involvement by:

- ✓ encouraging parents to attend the meet the teacher evenings
- ✓ providing support if their child or parent want to link with local church
- ✓ Support the community link with our local churches
- ✓ Inviting them to Church services and Key Religious Events throughout the year

Our Success Criteria

We expect 80-90% of our children to attain standards in line with or above those stated in the Awareness, Mystery and Value attainment descriptors.