

St Paul's C of E (VC) Junior School

*"Promoting, Valuing and Celebrating achievement
in a Christian setting."*

Religious Education (RE) Policy

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Review Date:

Author:K Symms/V Clark.....

Approved by Governors:

"Prevent Duty: Under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, we have a duty to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism (Prevent duty). Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation remains part of our school's wider duty to safeguard children and young people. *"Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism....Extremism is vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs."* (KCSIE, September 2016). We are alert to any possible signs which contribute to vulnerability such as family, friends or online influences as well as any changes in behaviour which could indicate a child may be in need of help or protection. We carry out risk assessments of vulnerable children and young people accordingly, work in partnership with other agencies and the family, and ensure staff are suitably trained and supported in keeping with our LSCB procedures."

This policy is written with reference to the Christian Foundation of the school and to the school's Christian values of Respect, Equality, Friendship, Love, Encouragement, Compassion and Trust.

Introduction

This policy should be taken and used as part of St Paul's Church of England Junior School's overall strategy and implemented within the context of our vision, Instrument of Government, aims and values as a Church of England School.

- **RE is a statutory subject.**
- **RE is taught in accordance with the requirements of the LEA through the 'Awareness, Mystery and Values 2016' (AMV) Agreed syllabus.**
- **AMV ensures that RE contributes to children's spiritual, moral and cultural development**
- **Agreed syllabus will be, in the main, Christian in its teachings which stem from the Core Themes as part of the school and Understanding Christianity.**

School's approach to RE

The following aims of Religious Education reflect a broad consensus about the subject's rationale and purpose. Religious education should help pupils to

- Encounter Christianity as the religion that shaped British culture and heritage and influences the lives of millions of people today.
- Learn about those of other major religions and none, and their impact on culture and politics, art and history, and of the lives of their adherents.
- Develop understanding of religious faith as the search for and expression of truth.
- Contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual/philosophical/theological convictions, exploring and enriching their own faith and beliefs.
- Develop an understanding of the influence of beliefs, values and traditions on individuals, communities, societies and culture; the similarities and differences within and between religions and beliefs.
- Develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues, with reference to the teachings of the principal religions represented in Great Britain;
- Reflect critically on the truth claims of Christian belief, and on areas of shared belief and practice between different faiths.
- Enhance their spiritual, moral, cultural and social development by:
 1. developing awareness of the fundamental questions of life raised by human experiences by exploring theologically and philosophically ultimate questions.
 2. responding to such questions with reference to the teachings and practices of religions and to their own understanding and experience
 3. Enrich and expand their understanding of truth

4. Reflect critically and express their views on the human quest and destiny, and on their own beliefs, values and experiences in the light of their study;
- Develop a positive attitude towards other people, respecting their right to hold different beliefs from their own, and towards living in a society of diverse religions.
 - RE will be taught for 45 hours per year across the school.
 - Children will learn about Christianity plus 3 other Major world religions. Within this teaching children will learn about those of no faith by comparison.
 - Children will be taught to see religions not as separate, historical entities but as living, changing faiths that have important and ongoing dialogue within one another

Guidelines

- Teaching and learning styles shall be varied to include: whole class, group, paired and individual work.
- RE is mostly to be taught as either a discreet unit or as part of an integrated topic where possible.
- The local church and church leaders are to be used as much as possible to aid the teaching and learning of RE.
- RE is to develop these skills:
 1. investigation
 2. interpretation
 3. reflection
 4. empathy
 5. evaluation
 6. analysis
 7. synthesis
 8. application
 9. expression
 10. self-understanding

In order to become successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens

And these attitudes

1. self-esteem
2. curiosity
3. fairness
4. respect

Opportunities for RE

- Planning – the RE syllabus is taught in separate units in accordance with AMV. These are taught with progression from Years three to six. Planning for these units is part of the curriculum planning documents and is supported by the Understanding Christianity Scheme of Work.
- Teaching through two levels of Attainment Targets; 1: learning about religion
2: learning from religion.
- Resources are held within the school in specific topic boxes to be used as appropriate. In addition we also seek out to bring in external visitors to

enhance children's experience and knowledge and to also offer opportunities for children to raise questions; a key part of the RE curriculum.

- The school welcomes visitors to educate the children, not to evangelise them.
- School visits are in accordance with the school's safeguarding policy.

Monitoring, Evaluation, Assessment, Recording and Reporting

- RE is to be assessed regularly for both of the attainment target strands in accordance with AMV. This is to be carried out at the end of a unit and as class teachers see fit. 'I Can' statements will follow the children through their schooling at St Paul's in order to assess progression.
- Progression in RE is monitored through assessment. Transfer of data is made yearly as children take their books with them to the next class. These assessment tasks inform all teachers of the gaps and next steps of each pupil's learning in RE
- Parents are informed of their child's progress throughout the year within reports and discussions in accordance with legal requirements.
- RE may be recorded in a variety of ways including video, audio tape, photos, class books as well as individual books.
- Monitoring of RE will be carried out in accordance with school policy including observation, pupil conferencing and monitoring work produced.
- Annual whole school meetings are held to review the needs of Religious Education.
- Each lesson has a 'WALT' [We Are Learning Today] and children, who are able, are encouraged to copy this for their title. They can then Emerging (E), Developing (D) and Secure (S) to indicate to the teacher that they have learned the WALT. Teachers annotate the planning to indicate where activities were not successful so that they can be amended for the following year and planning adjusted [Please refer to the marking policy for further guidance.].

Parents/Governors/Diocesan Liaison and Local Community Support

- Parents have the right to withdraw their child from any part of RE teaching as they so choose. As a school we will respect those choices.
- Parents are informed of the ways RE is taught and its purpose as information is presented to them on the school website.
- Parents wishing to withdraw their child from RE are encouraged to discuss this with the class teacher and the Head Teacher.
- Governors have a responsibility for the teaching of RE within the school and they will visit the school to observe RE being taught and meet with the RE co-ordinator on a regular basis.
- The diocese supports the school fully and is available for any support for any member of staff within the school.
- Teachers have a right to withdraw from teaching RE but this must be first discussed with the Headteacher.
- The school operates an equal opportunities policy and this is fully adhered to in the teaching of RE. All efforts are made to include children, regardless of special needs or racial equality issues. (See separate policies)