



Religious Education Policy

At St Mary's we promote Christian values in all aspects of school life and this is reflected throughout our planning and the delivery of Religious Education. This policy statement has been formally adopted by the governing body of the school in consultation with the Head Teacher.

Rationale

Religious education is a statutory part of the curriculum for all pupils except for those withdrawn at the request of their parents. Religious Education is central to life at St. Mary's because we see that the Christian faith informs all aspects of our life together. We believe that RE should significantly contribute to a child's spiritual, moral, cultural and emotional development whilst acquiring knowledge and understanding of Christianity and the other principal religions represented around the world.

These will be achieved by the study of implicit and explicit aspects of religions and beliefs, which are the basis of the two strands of the Bath and North East Somerset (BANES) Syllabus 'Awareness, Mystery and Value: AT1 Learning from religion and human experience - Implicit and AT2 Learning about religions - Explicit.

As well as drawing on resources from Understanding Christianity, which is a Church of England Education Office Project.

The Importance of Religious Education

Religious Education at St. Mary's allows pupils to:

- develop an understanding of what religion is and engage in a personal search for meaning,
- develop an awareness that religious beliefs and commitments are important to those who hold them in a local, national and worldwide context.
- Develop spiritually, morally, culturally and socially by helping them to reflect upon personal feelings, responses, relationships and life experiences.
- respects the lifestyles of individual pupils and be aware of the need to respect other people's beliefs.

Aims

Religious Education as taught in our school aims to:

- ❖ develop an understanding of the influences of beliefs, values and traditions on individuals, communities, societies and cultures

- ❖ develop an understanding of religious traditions and to develop positive attitudes and appreciate the cultural differences in Britain today
- ❖ develop an understanding of the nature of commitment e.g. to a faith or belief system and how it affects personal lifestyle
- ❖ develop pupils' own beliefs, values and attitudes, and to develop an understanding of the beliefs, values and attitudes of others
- ❖ provide an opportunity for reflection on their own experiences and to develop a personal response to the fundamental questions of life
- ❖ communicate pupils' feelings through a variety of forms of expression e.g. drama, art, music, language etc.
- ❖ provide opportunities to explore emotions and feelings pertaining to life and death, to mystery, the unexplained and the spiritual
- ❖ develop lively, enquiring minds together with a positive wish to learn, to question, and to argue rationally and apply these intelligently to tasks
- ❖ develop skills and attitudes for Religious Education:
 - Skills of observation, information collection, reflection, enquiry, interpretation, application, evaluation and analysis,
 - The attitudes to be developed are respect, empathy, openness, curiosity, sensitivity, insight, appreciation, and fairness.

Content

R.E. is normally taught as discreet class lessons, except at the Early Years Foundation Stage where it is taught through the learning areas "Knowledge and Understanding of the World" and "Personal, Social and Emotional Development". Some aspects may be covered in Collective Worship.

We follow the BaNES AMV syllabus as well as the Understanding Christianity resource to enhance the teaching and learning. Our Scheme of Work shows continuity and progression, each teacher has plans, and Subject Knowledge Organisers, which highlights new vocabulary covered in the unit of work.

Time allocation: on average, each class will study RE for a minimum of an hour per week but additional links with other subjects are made wherever possible.

In accordance with the structure of the locally agreed syllabus we have agreed that-

At Foundation stage and Key Stage 1, pupils will study Christianity and Hinduism.

At Key Stage 2, pupils will study Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

Teachers' comments should reflect the assessment statements in 'Awareness, Mystery and Value' and the assessment overviews from Understanding Christianity and form the basis of

the annual report to parents. The teachers' assessments will be based on the progression of skills and attitudes and tasks will be set periodically to ascertain pupils' understanding. Individual pupil's progress is tracked in this way, whilst also bearing in mind that the statements do not cover all aspects of teaching and learning in RE. For example, pupil's personal views and ideas are not subject to formal assessment, and yet are central to good RE. Within each class there is a Religious Reflection journal. This captures comments, discussions and snapshots of learning from the pupils. Lessons and pupils' work will be monitored in line with the school's observation timetable as well as recording pupil voice across the school.

The right to withdrawal from R.E.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from R.E. according to Schedule 19 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, but are encouraged to discuss the matter with the Head.

Teachers retain the right not to participate in or to conduct R.E. (*see DfE Circular 1/94 paragraph 141*)

This policy will be reviewed regularly. Its effectiveness will be monitored by the RE coordinator and will be based upon discussions with other members of staff, observation of children's work and re-evaluation of teaching plans.

Reviewed by staff and governors: March 2020