



Religious Education Policy

St Bartholomew's Church of England Primary School

'Roots to Grow and Wings to fly'

In our school our Christian vision shapes all we do. As a proud Church school, we are rooted in love. Through our vision statement of the parable of the mustard seed (Matthew, 13:31-21), we aspire to nurture and help our children flourish as respectful, compassionate citizens who seek to positively contribute to our local community and the world beyond. Our school family role model our Christian values of: Courage, Hope/ Aspiration, Compassion, Forgiveness, Trust and Respect.

'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.

Policy Statement

Religious Education (RE) has a high profile within the St Bartholomew's Church of England Primary School curriculum and makes a significant contribution to preparing pupils for life in modern Britain. Learning activities provide fully for the needs of all learners. Pupils will be inspired by the subject and develop a wide range of skills such as enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection, to deepen their understanding of the impact of 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 Church of England School, we are required to follow the locally agreed syllabus Awareness, mystery and Value 2019 <http://www.amvsomerset.org.uk/whats-new/> 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.

Managing the right to withdraw

Parents have a right by law to withdraw their children 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 are clear on our website. There will always be opportunity for parents to discuss the contents of the RE curriculum should they have concerns.

Aims of RE

- 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 challenging questions of life such as meaning and purpose.
- To contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own beliefs and values, no matter their academic ability.
- To encourage each child's individual views, opinions, and reflections about life as they grow and develop this.

Teaching and Learning

In line with the Church of England RE Statement of Entitlement [2019] at St Bartholomew's Church of England Primary School we aim to provide:

- A curriculum that enables pupils to acquire a rich, deep knowledge and understanding of Christian belief and practices.
- A curriculum that allows for both planned and spontaneous spirituality.
- A strong link to the local churches involving clergy members to deliver collective worship to support the children's learning.
- To make cross-curricular connections with other subjects such as, art, history and RSHE to provide a holistic understanding of the influence of religion and its impact on society.
- 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, such as 'Understanding Christianity'.
- 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 to pupils' understanding of British values.
- An assessment process which has rigour and demonstrates progression based on knowledge, spiritual reflection and understanding of core religious concepts.

Implementation

- Religious education may be taught in a 'whole class' setting but with flexibility to allow for discussion, questioning and reflection in small groups and individually. Mixed year group classes will be taught RE suited to their age and development needs.
- Visits to local churches and other places of worship are encouraged when appropriate.
- A variety of teaching approaches are encouraged: Teacher presentations, role play (godly play), art, drama and story-telling. Learning through engaging activities will be recorded in shared floorbooks or in each child's own RE book.

- During the Christian Calendar, the school will hold their services at the local church. This is to accommodate parents and to show understanding of the Christian belief where all faiths are welcomed into the church as visitors, not necessarily as worshippers.

Curriculum balance and time

Christianity should be the majority religion studied and should be at least 50% of curriculum time. Sufficient dedicated curriculum time, meeting explicitly RE objectives, should be given to RE. This should be no less than 5% in key stages 1 and 2, which is one hour per week. Pupils will be taught a broad, balanced and full curriculum, a cross a 4-year rolling programme. Progress in learning will be specified by our long and medium term plans for every year group.

Monitoring, Evaluation, Assessment, Recording, Reporting

- Teachers will use the statutory assessment requirements from AMV to assess the children. A grid outlining the units' objectives for that term will be used to assess the children's knowledge and a tick for BARE. ARE and AARE will be placed where appropriate.
- Governors have responsibility for monitoring how the RE and spirituality in the school reflects its Christian vision.
- The RE subject leader will monitor long term and medium-term plans, complete regular book scrutinise, lesson drop-ins and discuss learning with pupils. The leader will manage resources and endeavour to keep up to date with information, initiatives and developments in religious education and disseminate this as appropriate.
- The subject leader will be aware of staff development needs and encourage continuing professional development and will strive to facilitate the sharing of good practice.
- The subject leader will be responsible for drawing up an action plan for religious education.
- The subject leader will liaise with the Diocesan adviser with responsibility for Religious Education.
- The Subject leader will report to governors at each GB meeting.