

St Andrew's Church of England Primary School



With faith, hope and love we can achieve greater things.

Religious Education Policy
September 2015 - September 2016

At St. Andrew's C of E Primary School Religious Education (RE) plays an important role in defining the school's distinctive Christian character. As a school we recognise that spiritual development lies at the heart of the curriculum. All members of the school community should experience Christianity through the life of the school, as well as through the taught curriculum.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The aims of Religious Education in our school are:

- To enable pupils to learn about other major religions, their impact on culture and politics, art and history, and on the lives of their believers
- To develop an understanding of religious faith as the search for and expression of truth, and so to consider important human questions, values and concerns
- To contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual / philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own faith and beliefs
- To appreciate their own and others' beliefs and cultures and how these affect individuals, communities and societies

The outcomes for pupils at the end of their time in our school are that they are able to:

- Compare and contrast the key beliefs and practices of the religions studied and show how they are connected to believers' lives
- Describe different aspects of belonging to a religion - symbol, story, festival, belief, faith in action, ritual, worship
- Express religious beliefs and ideas with the appropriate language, vocabulary and terminology and describe what they mean
- Ask questions sensitively about the lives of believers and suggest appropriate answers
- Reflect on the decisions people make - including believers - and suggest possible outcomes
- Compare their own experience and identity with others - including believers
- Reflect and empathise with the big questions of life, suggesting some answers / insights
- Be confident to explore their own spirituality and search for truth
- Value the religious journey of faith
- Develop pupils' ability to interpret and appreciate religious imagery and expression

In addition the subject contributes to other areas of education and human experience and plays an important part of the wider programme of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Additional links will be found across the curriculum especially with Citizenship and PSHE:

- Spiritual - widening pupils' vision of themselves and their own experience, within the context of a growing awareness and understanding of God.
- Moral - helping each pupil develop their own informed values.
- Social - helping pupils understand some major forces shaping the values in our society.
- Cultural - aiding pupils in exploring aspects of their own cultural heritage, and in developing positive attitudes towards diversity.

RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL

The school recognises the right of withdrawal of teachers, and of pupils at the request of their parents. This is stated in the school brochure. This right of withdrawal is on the understanding that the parents provide suitable alternative education for their children during school RE lessons.

TEACHING & PLANNING

As a Church of England Voluntary Controlled school RE teaching at this school will be in line with the recommendations of the locally agreed SACRE guidelines. Church schools have a duty to foster an accurate and increasing understanding of world religions and world views. As a result, pupils will gain greater insight into the world in which they are growing up. They will also be able to appreciate the faith of others and develop a deeper understanding of their own beliefs and practices. These outcomes must contribute to harmonious relationships within and between communities, promoting social inclusion and combating prejudice.

RE teaching also follows the legal requirements of the Education Reform Act (1988), which places RE as part of the basic curriculum; a statutory subject which is an entitlement of all pupils. The school bases its RE provision on the Wolverhampton SACRE Locally Agreed Syllabus and plan from this document.

In Key Stage One classes provide 36 hours of RE, rising to 45 hours in Key Stage Two - this is taught as discrete lessons as well as across the curriculum when appropriate.

Teaching methods may include:

- E-learning resources e.g. websites, cameras, DVDs
- Role Play/Drama/Speaking and Listening Activities
- Art Work/Model Making

- Writing
- Presentations/Group Work/Research Projects
- Visits/Visitors
- Circle time/Discussions
- Artefacts/Music
- Pupil's own experience

ASSESSMENT

Children's progress and attainment is tracked through observation, marking and questioning. At the end of each unit of work the teacher will complete a summary of assessment stating to what extent the unit objectives have been met this in turn will enable staff to reach a conclusion as to what stage (level) a child is working at within RE.

LEADERSHIP

RE is given equal status with other core subjects in staffing, responsibility and resourcing. Pupil achievement in RE should equal or be better than comparable subjects. As a church school we recognise that it should be a priority to build up staff expertise in RE.

The RE Subject Leader is responsible for:

- Review the RE Policy and guidelines on a regular basis
- Overseeing the implementation of The Wolverhampton SACRE Locally Agreed Syllabus
- Creating a long term plan for RE
- Supporting colleagues in the detailed planning and delivery of RE provision as required
- Ensuring Religious Education has status within the school
- Keeping in touch with subject developments and disseminating information as appropriate
- Auditing and recording current resources, supplementing resource provision when money is available and disseminating this information to staff
- Undertaking personal development and subject training and ensuring provision for staff INSET
- Monitoring RE provision, practice and outcomes
- Ensuring assessment strategies are in place in line with the Agreed Syllabus
- Creating the RE Action Plan and ensuring its regular review
- Accountability for RE standards in the school
- Meet with member of the Diocesan RE advisory team when possible