

Policy: Religious Education Policy

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Authorised by:

Updated by: RE Subject Leader



Introduction

At Upton St Leonards C of E Primary School, we believe that Religious Education has a vital part to play in the education of primary age children. As a Church of England School, we see that the Christian vision and values underpin the whole of our community; the design of our curriculum, all policies, planning and the school's management and governance.

Religious Education in this school is provided in line with the Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus 2017-2022. This document defines the principal aim of RE in Gloucestershire:

"To explore what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live, so that pupils can gain the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to handle questions raised by religion and belief, reflecting on their own ideas and ways of living."

During previous years, RE has been taught as a discrete subject during a class teacher's PPA time which gives it a defined and high profile lesson allocation within each week. This academic year 2019-2020, RE will be taught by the class teacher over two days (or more as necessary to complete the time requirements for each term) during a designated week. Each year group will be teaching these "RE days" at the same time. We believe this trail way of teaching the subject will continue to give it a high profile within the school curriculum whilst being supportive of the class teachers.

Aims

At this school, RE supports and strengthens the vision, ethos and values which are centred on love and which are at the heart of what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. The importance placed on the development of the whole child spiritually, morally, culturally and intellectually is reflected in the RE curriculum.

RE aims to enable pupils of all abilities and stages of development to:

- Make sense of the beliefs of Christians, Jews, Muslims and Hindus. With the largest focus being to understand Christian belief.
- Understand how belief may impact the life of a believer.
- Make connections between beliefs and their own opinions and beliefs, through reflection and evaluation
- Explore how belief can be expressed in a variety of ways including art, dance, music, ritual and celebration and in different cultural settings.
- Develop spiritually, morally, culturally and socially by helping them to reflect upon personal experiences, feelings, responses and relationships.
- Ask their own challenging questions and be supported in their search for meaning and purpose.
- Develop attitudes of respect, sensitivity, open mindedness, self-esteem, curiosity, tolerance, responsibility and empathy, supporting the development of the 'British Values' of mutual respect and tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs.

Legal Framework

As a Church of England controlled school we follow the Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus 2017-2022. Parents who would like further details about Religious Education may borrow a copy of The Agreed Syllabus for Gloucestershire from the school. Those who may wish to exercise their right to withdraw their children from aspects of Religious Education are invited to discuss their views with the Head Teacher. Alternative provision will be made for children who are withdrawn from these sessions.

Teaching and Learning

- In line with the Agreed Syllabus, RE in our school is planned using the “footsteps planning steps”.
- The Christianity units of the Agreed Syllabus are planned/supplemented with the “Understanding Christianity” resource.
- There is a long term plan for units across the phases. This is based on the Agreed Syllabus model of “systematic learning, systematic learning, thematic learning.”
- There are clear learning outcomes for each unit of work which feed into the end of phase outcomes.
- In EYFS and Key Stage 1, teachers make use of Persona Dolls in RE lessons to ground understanding of religion through a “person” rather than talking about faith, belief and practice as abstract ideas.
- Teachers are careful with their use of language and talk about “Jewish belief” or “Christians believe”. They are also mindful of the fact that not all believers follow one set of ideas and encourage the children to understand that there may be “strict” or Orthodox followers or those who may be more progressive or liberal/ “not as strict”.
- We encourage the use of questioning, the development of theological thinking and making links.
- Pupil progress is tracked on planning, with the use of a tracking system and portfolio of work.
- Progress in RE is reported to parents as part of the annual written report.
- To broaden their understanding, where possible, the pupils will visit places of worship or meet visitors from faith communities in school.
- Time for RE is provided across the RE days and in line with the Agreed Syllabus requirements. The days will deliver the equivalent of:
EYFS and KS1: 36 hours a year, equivalent to 50 minutes per week.
KS2: 45 hours a year, roughly equivalent to an hour and ten minutes a week.

Subject Leadership

The RE subject leader will:

- Liaise with all RE teachers to ensure that they are supported with; planning work at the expected level, teaching ideas, visits and visitors, assessing standards of work.
- Ensure that their subject knowledge is kept up to date.
- Support staff with training, teaching and assessment of RE.
- Monitor the quality of teaching and learning across the school.
- Monitor the tracking system and class portfolios.
- Liaise with the governor/s who hold responsibility for RE, keeping them up to date with RE within the school and involving them in lessons or trips as appropriate.
- Liaise with the Head Teacher about the development of the subject.
- Together with the Head Teacher, will ensure that the principles and recommendations from the Church of England Education Office are implemented.