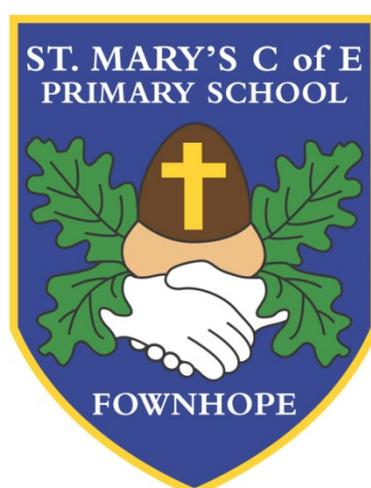


St. Mary's Church of England Primary School

Fownhope

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY



What we nurture today, flourishes tomorrow

UPDATED JANUARY 2019

A rich education is more than simply learning reading, writing and maths. It is about helping a child grow into their full potential as inquisitive, well balanced and cheerful adults. As a Christian school we nurture children to display the 'fruit of the Spirit', which is "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23). At St Mary's you will find children growing in mind, body and spirit as they form good relationships with each other, the staff and discover a faith which will sustain them in a rapidly changing world. As our motto has it: "what we nurture today flourishes tomorrow".

Aims of Religious Education

The aims of Religious Education which inform the programmes of study and attainment targets are:-

- to engage pupils in enquiring into and exploring questions arising from the study of religion and belief, so as to promote their personal, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- to provide pupils with knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other principal religious traditions and beliefs
- to develop their understanding of the ways in which beliefs influence other people in their behaviour, practices and outlook
- to enable pupils to apply the insights of the principal religious traditions to their own search for identity and significance
- to enable pupils to become aware of their own beliefs and values and to have a positive attitude to the search for meaning and purpose in life
- to encourage pupils to develop a positive attitude towards other people who hold religious beliefs different from their own

Objectives

With these aims in mind, we try to provide opportunity for pupils to:-

- develop their knowledge and understanding of, and their ability to respond to, Christianity and other principal religions
- explore issues within and between faiths to help them understand and respect different religions, beliefs, values and traditions (including ethical life stories), and understand the influence of these on individuals, societies, communities and cultures
- consider questions of meaning and purpose in life
- learn about, and from, religious and ethical teaching, enabling them to make reasoned and informed judgements on religious and moral issues
- develop their sense of identity and belonging, preparing them for life as citizens in a multicultural society
- develop enquiry and response skills through the use of distinctive language, listening and empathy
- reflect on, analyse and evaluate their beliefs, values and practices and communicate their responses

Legal Requirements

RE at St. Mary's C of E Primary School is taught in accordance with the Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus (2015).

We also recognise and fully comply with:

- Legislation that states that *RE must be provided for all registered pupils in state-funded schools in England, unless withdrawn by their parents. It is a necessary part of a 'broad and balanced curriculum'*.
- The conscience clause: all parents have the right to withdraw their children from Religious Education.
- The legal requirement to report to parents annually on their children's progress in Religious Education, assessed using intended learning outcomes and expectations.

Links with The Church

- Pupils attend St. Mary's Church Fownhope for acts of worship several times a year for all the major Christian festivals.
- Pupils also visit the church to explore and study the building, its artefacts and symbols.
- Year 6 pupils end their last day at primary school in church with a 'leavers' service'.
- Several church members come into school regularly as classroom helpers to work with children.
- The Rector of Fownhope Church is a school governor.
- Members of the school community are sometimes asked to join in with the church community in Sunday church services, e.g. harvest and Christmas.
- There are sometimes opportunities for the school to extend its links with the wider church community by attending services and workshops at other churches in the region, e.g. Woolhope Church and Hereford Cathedral.
- Our school maintains close links with the Diocese of Hereford, especially the Education team.

Teaching, Learning, Assessment and Reporting

Religious Education has equal standing in relation to the core and other foundation subjects within the school's curriculum.

Pupils will be taught using the Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education, alongside the resource 'Understanding Christianity', which is being introduced during the spring term 2019. A rolling programme in Key Stage 2 ensures full coverage.

The exploration of key questions will encourage pupils to develop and use skills of reflection, interpretation, analysis and application as well as developing their knowledge and understanding of religion and belief.

Assessment

Pupils will be assessed in line as explained in the Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus with a termly record kept as to whether pupils are working at, above or below the expected level. Attainment in relation to nationally expected level, progress and attitude to RE are included in the school's annual summer reports as well as an RE comment in each of the three areas:- 1) thinking about religion and belief, 2) enquiring, investigating and interpreting, and 3) reflecting, evaluating and communicating.

Religions to be Taught

Christianity is to be taught as the predominant religion. We also take into account the beliefs, viewpoints and ideas of children and their families.

EYFS: Christians and aspects of other principal religions

KS1: Christians, Muslims and Jewish people

KS2: Christians, Muslims Hindus and Jewish people [and Humanists]

The programmes of study are designed to enable pupils not only to learn about and understand religious beliefs, practices and lifestyles but also to respond through reflection on their own experience to the insights and teachings of these faiths. This reflection on beliefs, practices, lifestyles, moral values, and ultimate questions, is as important as the development of knowledge and understanding of religions.

Teaching Strategies

Religious Education is generally taught on a weekly basis, but sometimes delivered through a class topic or as a whole-school RE day. Teachers may develop their own key questions linked to the themes in the syllabus, allowing links with other subject areas where appropriate.

- RE makes a strong contribution to the Early Learning Goals for children at the Foundation Stage. Pupils follow the themes 'Special People', 'Special Times', 'Special Places' and 'Being Special'.
- Key Stage 1 children are taught by class teachers in single year group classes.
- Key Stage 2 children are taught by class teachers, following a rolling programme of study units taking into account our mixed-year afternoon classes.
- Lessons may involve whole class teaching, group discussion and individual or group work.
- Creative approaches and active learning strategies enable children to express their thoughts, feelings, ideas and questions; for example through music, art, drama or dance.
- Opportunities are provided for moments of stillness, peace and reflection.
- RE may sometimes relate to other areas of the curriculum being studied at that time, and has close links to PSHE and Citizenship.
- RE promotes moral, social and cultural development and plays a significant part in values education.
- RE plays a leading role in promoting spiritual development.

Curriculum Planning

A long-term rolling programme has been developed from the Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education. Short-term planning is the responsibility of individual teachers, supported by the RE leader. Schemes of work provided by RE Today have been purchased and are used throughout the school and supplemented with other materials and resources. Pupils are provided with a range of experiences and opportunities to enrich and broaden their learning. The 'Understanding Christianity' resource has been recently purchased and is being introduced throughout the school to enhance the children's understanding of the big picture of Christianity.

Special Educational Needs

Work relating to the programmes of study that is planned for pupils with special educational needs should set suitable learning challenges and take account of the targets in Individual Education Plans. Material may be selected from earlier or later Key Stages where necessary to enable pupils to progress and demonstrate achievement.

Equal Opportunities

Teachers should enable pupils to begin to develop some sensitive understanding of matters relating to gender, race, other cultures and differences between people in respect of their abilities. Such understanding should be approached within the context of perspectives which Religious Education brings to it and, in particular, of the notion of equal worth of all persons.

Resources

There is a Religious Education section in the school library as well as many resources for teachers in the resource cupboard. RE Today publications are highly recommended, as are the Understanding Christianity documents and resources.

Success Criteria

Children leave St. Mary's with at least a basic knowledge of four of the main world religions (and Humanism) and a deeper knowledge of Christianity. Children also show tolerance and respect for the differing views of others, they are reflective learners and empathetic to the views and beliefs of people in the wider world around them.

In line with the school's guidelines this policy will be reviewed biennially.

This policy was approved by the Governing Body on:	
Signature of Headteacher:	
Signature of Chair of Governors:	
Review Date:	January 2021