

St. David's C of E Primary School

Enquiring minds, caring hearts, creative hands



Religious Education (RE) Policy November 2017 reviewed June 2022

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Date policy ratified	November 2017 reviewed June 2022
Date for review	January 2024 or earlier when the RE Curriculum is updated

At St David's we have our vision at the core of everything we do for pupils and for all staff members;

Our school's Christian foundation guides, challenges and inspires every child to reach their full potential as they become life-long learners and confident citizens, equipped to love, lead and serve.

*As a school we look to the teachings of the Bible to underpin our ethos:
Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength; and your neighbour as yourself. Mark 12:30-31*

As a Church of England School, we believe in the importance of developing good relationships throughout all aspects of school life. The Christian ethos is placed explicitly at the centre of the Religious Education provision. RE is a way of looking at the world and its creation, with a sense of awe and wonder, while using sensitivity and respect for the feelings and beliefs of others.

RE is exciting and absolutely relevant to the lives of all our pupils. We hope that our commitment and enthusiasm as governors and staff will be communicated by the high priority we place on RE.

Aims

The principal aim of Religious Education is:-

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

RE doesn't seek to urge religious beliefs on children or to compromise the integrity of their own beliefs by promoting one religion over another. It is not the same as Collective Worship, which has its own place in school life.

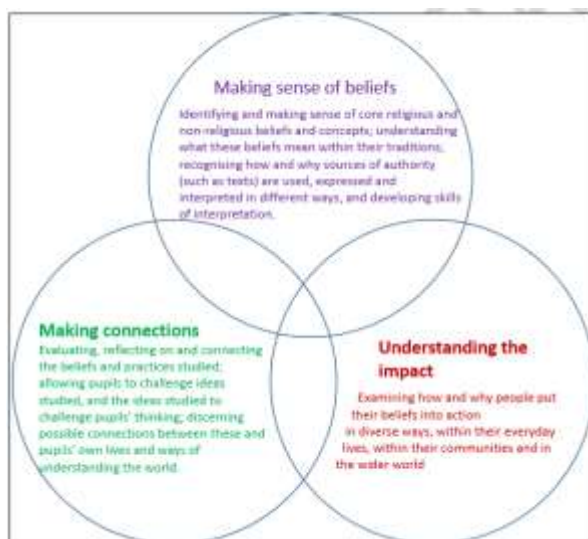
Key aspects of Religious Education

At St David's C of E Primary School RE will:

- Enable pupils to explore questions about themselves, their relationships and their environment.
- Help them to explore the questions "What does it mean to be a human being?"
- Provide a clear focus to reflect upon the values and beliefs which make them a unique human being.

RE will engage pupils with the beliefs, practices and lifestyles of world religions in such a way that they are stimulated to reflect upon and formulate their own beliefs, values and attitudes.

In line with the Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus the three core elements are:



Outcomes:

The knowledge, skills and understanding identified are developed through the end of phase outcomes for each key stage.

Making sense of beliefs:

Identifying and making sense of core religious and non-religious beliefs and concepts; understanding what these beliefs mean within their traditions; recognising how and why sources of authority (such as texts) are used, expressed and interpreted in different ways, and developing skills of interpretation.

Understanding the impact:

Examining how and why people put their beliefs into action in diverse ways, within their everyday lives, within their communities and in the wider world.

Making connections;

Evaluating, reflecting on and connecting the beliefs and practises studied; allowing pupils to challenge ideas studied, and the ideas studied to challenge pupils' thinking; discerning possible connections between these and pupils' own lives and ways of understanding the world.

Religions to be taught

All pupils will have access to the study units found in the Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus. In line with the legal requirements, at both Key Stages teachers will devote a majority of time teaching content relating to exploring what it is like to be a Christian, Jew and Muslim. Children will explore what it is to be like a Christian, Jew, Muslim and Hindu at KS2. Consideration of other religions and non-religious worldviews can occur at any key stage, as appropriate to our needs.

Work in RE will contribute to the development of certain general study skills, particularly the skills of reading, writing and speaking and listening. RE will involve

intellectual challenge for both the most and the least able. Teachers will take care that pupils with special educational needs derive benefit from their work in RE.

The school, of course, respects the legal right of parents to withdraw their children from RE. Parents should inform the Headteacher if they wish to withdraw their child/ren. They need not give a reason. Alternative arrangements will be made to ensure the welfare of these children during the time RE is taught.

Approaches to teaching

RE has an important part to play as part of a broad, balanced and coherent curriculum to which all pupils are entitled. High quality learning experiences in RE are designed and provided by careful planning using the Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus.

In order to make RE a lively and active subject we employ a variety of teaching methods including art, music, discussion, the development of thinking skills, drama, the use of artefacts, pictures, stories and the use of periods of stillness and reflection.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

- Recognising and rewarding achievements in the broadest sense
- Be an integral part of teaching and learning
- A variety of methods should be used – observation, listening to pupils, questioning, setting tasks that require the use of RE skills, written tasks, discussion, self- and peer-assessment activities
- Not all work carried out will be recorded (discussions)
- Record keeping should be helpful, simple and as brief as possible
- Reporting in RE is a statutory requirement and parents should be informed of their child's progress at least once a year through the annual report.

RE subject leader

The RE subject leader is responsible for:

- Resources
- Supporting non-specialist colleagues through informal advice and more formal in-service training
- Taking a whole school view of progression in the subject.
- Analysing RE assessment.
- Feed into the development plan of the school.
- Monitor the teaching and learning in RE throughout the school.
- Keep up to date with any changes in RE.
- Close liaison with Gloucestershire Diocese.

The Legal Requirement

The Education Act (1996) and the Schools Standards and Framework Act (1988) requires that:

- Religious Education is taught in accordance with the Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus.
- As part of the curriculum, Religious Education plays its part in promoting the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils.
- The Agreed Syllabus should “reflect the fact the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, while taking account the teaching and practices of other principal religions represented in Great Britain. However, the Agreed Syllabus must not be designed to convert pupils, or to promote a particular religion or religious belief on pupils.”