



October 2019

Religious Education Policy

Approved By: Faith Group
Committee

Written By: Unknown

Sourced From: Unknown

Confidently Me Belonging Together Challenged to Contribute





Our RE Curriculum aims to;

- Support pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development by giving opportunities for pupils to explore their own beliefs and develop their own spirituality and moral compass
- Ensure equal access to learning, with high expectations for every pupil and appropriate levels of challenge and support
- Promote a positive attitude towards learning
- Provide an opportunity to develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values-underpinned by Christian and British values
- Provide an opportunity for children to explore the traditions, values and beliefs of the Christian faith
- Develop knowledge and understanding of other world religions and the ability to engage in dialogue with other faiths
- Apply an understanding of religion to develop sensitivity and respect toward all people
- To reflect upon human values and what it means to be human

Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the National Curriculum programmes of study, which all maintained schools in England must teach. It also reflects requirements for inclusion and equality as set out in the Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice 2014 and Equality Act 2010, and refers to curriculum-related expectations of governing boards set out in the Department for Education's Governance Handbook. In addition, this policy acknowledges the requirements for promoting the learning and development of children set out in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework. As St. Mary's Primary School is, a voluntary aided Church of England School it also reflects the requirements and guidance of the Southwark Diocese.

Roles and responsibilities

The Governing Body

The governing board will monitor the effectiveness of this policy and hold the Headteacher to account for its implementation.

The governing board will also ensure that;

- A robust framework is in place for setting curriculum priorities and aspirational targets
- Enough teaching time is provided for pupils to cover the National Curriculum and other statutory requirements

The Headteacher

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that this policy is adhered to, and that;

- All required elements of the curriculum, and those subjects which the school chooses to offer, have aims and objectives which reflect the aims of the school and indicate how the needs of individual pupils will be met
- The amount of time provided for teaching the required elements of the curriculum is adequate and is reviewed by the governing board



- Where appropriate, the individual needs of some pupils are met by permanent or temporary disapplication from all or part of the National Curriculum
- They manage requests to withdraw children from curriculum subjects, where appropriate
- The school's procedures for assessment meet all legal requirements
- The governing body is fully involved in decision-making processes that relate to the breadth and balance of the curriculum
- The governing body is advised on whole-school targets in order to make informed decisions
- Proper provision is in place for pupils with different abilities and needs, including children with SEND

The RE Leadership team

The RE leadership team are responsible for;

- Monitoring the RE curriculum across the School.
- Contributing to the School's Development Plan.
- Organising and running the Children's Faith Team
- Planning and delivering special services with the support of the clergy, the Children Faith Team and other staff members
- Updating the SIAMS toolkit
- Keeping up-to-date with new initiatives and developments in the subject.
- Reporting to the Governor's Faith Team
- Updating the School's RE and worship policy
- Monitoring the way in which resources are stored and managed.
- Identifying CPD needs in R.E

Other staff

Other staff will ensure that the school curriculum is implemented in accordance with this policy.

Organisation and planning

As a core subject, Religious Education is taught as a discrete subject at St. Mary's. However, it is also integrated within other curriculum topics where there are clear, meaningful links. Class teachers or the RE lead usually teach R.E. R.E is allocated at least one session per week. However, special days or focus weeks may be allocated to R.E. as appropriate. Planning is based on the new syllabus from the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education (2016) and the National Curriculum document. The RE provision has been carefully mapped across the school and has been adapted to meet the needs of pupils. (See RE Overview on the curriculum pages of the school website for the overview across the school). Learning is recorded in R.E. books, which 'travel' with the children as they progress through the school. Through the teaching of R.E., children will explore and develop skills of; reflection, engaging in dialogue, contextualising, listening, empathy, asking deep questions, investigating, interpreting, making comparisons, expressing own feelings and opinions, respecting the opinions of others. The RE curriculum is an integral part of pupils' SMSC development.

Outside visits are an important part of the RE curriculum and pupils' learning. These are arranged as appropriate by the Year Leader. They include regular visits to the local church and places of worship relating to other major world religions.

See our EYFS policy for information on how our early years curriculum is delivered.



Assessment

St. Mary's has embraced assessment without levels. Using the National Curriculum and Chris Quigley's Milestones an assessment matrix has been developed to ensure progression across year groups and monitor progress of pupils within a year group.

The curriculum areas assessed include;

- Understanding beliefs and teachings (Previously known as AT1)
- Understanding practices and lifestyles (Previously known as AT1)
- Understanding how beliefs are conveyed (Previously known as AT1)
- The ability to reflect reason and question (Previously known as AT2)
- Understanding values and commitments (Previously known as AT2)

Pupils' progress is tracked by class teachers in the areas previously known as AT1 and AT2. To assist in assessment learning objectives and success criteria are shared with pupils and time is given to pupils to reflect on their learning during lessons. Feedback both written and oral is also given to the pupils to deepen their RE learning and understanding. The pupils may also assess their own learning using self-assessment and peer assessment techniques. Using pupils' responses to AT1 and AT2 a 'best fit' is recorded on Target Tracker. The results are used to inform future learning opportunities. Planning is then adapted in light of these.

Budget and Resources

RE receives a yearly budget allocation which is used to support the RE curriculum. A variety of resources are available. These include;

- Artefacts
- Books
- DVDs
- Posters

Each classroom has at least one copy of an age appropriate children's bible. A class set of the Good News Bible is stored in the junior library corridor. When handling or storing artefacts staff and pupils treat them with respect and in accordance with the relevant faith's beliefs.

Inclusion

Teachers set high expectations for all pupils. They will use appropriate assessment to set ambitious targets and plan challenging work for all groups, including;

- More able pupils
- Pupils with low prior attainment
- Pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds
- Pupils with SEN
- Pupils with English as an additional language (EAL)

Teachers will plan lessons so that pupils with SEN and/or disabilities can access the RE curriculum and ensure that there are no barriers to every pupil achieving. Teachers will also take account of the needs of pupils whose first language is not English. Lessons will be planned so that teaching opportunities help pupils to develop their English, and to support pupils to take part in all subjects.

Further information can be found in our statement of equality information and objectives, and in our SEN policy and information report.



Parental Right of Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from religious education and collective worship as identified in the Education Act 1944 and in subsequent legislation. St. Mary's is a Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School where Christian values and principles underpin the whole curriculum. In order to preserve the distinctiveness of this church school community, we encourage everyone to be involved in religious education and collective worship. Parents who have concerns about this should discuss them with the Headteacher before their child is admitted to the school

Monitoring arrangements

Governors monitor coverage of RE and compliance with other statutory requirements through;

- Regular Faith Team Meetings
- Meetings with the Children's Faith Team
- School visits
- Reports by the RE leadership team

The RE leadership team monitors the way their subject is taught throughout the school by;

- Planning audits
- Lesson observations
- Learning walks
- Book looks
- Staff and Pupil consultation e.g. questionnaires

Feedback is given to individuals and year groups recognising good practice and points for development.

The governor's Faith Team committee will review this policy every two years. At every review, any the policy will be shared with the full governing body.