

St Andrew's Church School

Policy for Religious Education

We believe that Religious Education should be exciting, creative and relevant, enabling all children to deepen their thinking and understanding within an atmosphere of love and respect.

'That all may have life, life in all its fullness' John 10:10

Policy Statement

Religious Education (R.E.) has a very high profile within St Andrew's Church School curriculum and makes a significant contribution in preparing pupils for life in modern Britain. Learning activities aim to provide fully for the needs of all learners. Pupils will be inspired by the subject and develop a wide range of skills such as enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation, and reflection, to deepen their understanding of the impact of religion on the world. Christianity is taught as a living and diverse faith, focused on the teachings of Jesus and of the Church. It is taught alongside a range of other religions and worldviews. R.E. (Religious Education) encourages pupils to learn from different religions, beliefs, values, and traditions while creating a safe space for them to explore their own beliefs and questions of meaning.

Legal Requirements for Religious Education

As an academy St Andrew's Church School is independent of the Local Authority and we are not required to follow the national curriculum or the local R.E. syllabus. However, our curriculum must reflect that:

'(that) religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, whilst taking account of the teachings and practices of the other principle religious traditions present in Great Britain.' [Education Reform Act 1988].

Section 48 of the 2005 Education Act requires the inspection of Religious Education in schools which have a religious character. In our case, this is the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS).

Managing the right to withdraw

Parents and carers have a right by law to withdraw their children from the R.E. (Religious Education) curriculum. In this event, we will still undertake responsibility for their supervision with regard to health and safety. There will always be opportunity for parents and carers to discuss the contents of the R.E. curriculum should they have concerns.

Aims of R.E.

- To enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living faith that influences the lives of people worldwide, and as the religion that has most shaped British culture and heritage.
- To enable pupils to know about and understand other major world religions and world views, their impact on society, culture and the wider world, and to appreciate (the) diversity, continuity and change within (those religions and world views) these patterns of belief.

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- To engage with challenging questions about life's meaning and purpose.

- To contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual/philosophical convictions, allowing them to explore and enrich their own beliefs and values.

Teaching and Learning

In line with the Church of England R.E. Statement of Entitlement [2019] at St Andrew's Church School we aim to provide:

- A curriculum that enables pupils to acquire a rich, deep knowledge and understanding of Christian belief and practice. It will also draw on the richness and diversity of religious experience worldwide.
- The opportunity for pupils to deepen their understanding of religions and world views as believers live them out.
- A method of teaching that instils respect for different views and interpretations and allows real dialogue and theological enquiry to take place.
- Engaging and varied learning activities that provide for the needs of all learners, supported by high quality resources. There will be the opportunity for pupils to develop a wide range of skills including enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection.
- R.E. that makes a positive contribution to Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC) and also to pupils' understanding of British values.
- A rigorous accompanying assessment process which demonstrates progression in the pupils' knowledge and understanding of core religious concepts.

Curriculum Balance and Time

Sufficient dedicated R.E. time should be given for the meeting of (explicitly) R.E. objectives. This should aim to be close to 10% (but) and no less than 5% of school time in Key Stages 1 and 2. Reflecting St Andrew's Church School's Trust Deed/academy funding agreement, Christianity should be the (majority) religion mainly studied and should account for (be) at least 50% of R.E. curriculum time.

Resources

Christianity units are taught and assessed using '*Understanding Christianity*' resources. Meanwhile children are also given the opportunity to learn about a range of religions and non-religious viewpoints including Judaism, Sikhism, Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism. Each year group will focus on a different world faith. We use '*Discovery R.E*' resources to teach and assess pupils' knowledge and understanding of these other religions or worldviews.

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Monitoring, Evaluation, Assessment, Recording, Reporting

- Governors have responsibility for monitoring how R.E. provision reflects the school's Christian vision.
- The headteacher has overall responsibility for the monitoring and evaluation of R.E. The R.E. subject leader will assist the headteacher by monitoring long term and medium-term plans and by a scrutiny of pupils' work.

The subject leader will keep a file of examples of work to demonstrate pupils' continuity and progression.

- The subject leader will manage resources.
- The subject leader will endeavour to keep up to date with information, initiatives and developments in R.E. and disseminate these as appropriate.
- The subject leader will facilitate the sharing of good practice, being aware of staff development needs and encouraging continuing professional development.
- The subject leader will be responsible for drawing up an action plan for R.E. Generally, this will be an annual plan and will be informed by this policy.
- The headteacher and subject leader will liaise with the Diocesan adviser responsible for R.E.

Dissemination of This Policy Document

We will ensure that this policy is known to all staff and governors, parents and carers and, as appropriate, to all pupils. This policy is available on our school website.

Monitoring and Review

The governing body monitors this policy on a regular basis and reviews the policy every 3 Years.

Policy adoption and reviews		Signed Headteacher	Signed Chair of Governors
Date Policy adopted	February 2023	Jayne Rochford-Smith	Louise Leach
Date of next review	September 2024		