

St John's Church of England VA Primary School



Religious Education Policy

Agreed by the Full Governing Body

Agreed: July 2024

Review: July 2026

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Sharing joy and hope in the community

When considering matters of Religious Education it is important for all the school community to reflect, considering our vision statement, 'Sharing joy and hope in the community'; along with the school values Respect, Compassion, Friendship, Service and Endurance. Through this we will ensure we are guided into good decisions to support all those in the St John's community.

Vision Statement:

In our school our Christian vision shapes all we do. At St John's our vision is rooted in our firm belief that we are a community where all members are respected, cherished and valued. Our Christian mission is to provide a safe environment in which children can learn, make mistakes, and develop their confidence and understanding of the world around them to flourish, whilst being supported by their school community.

Jesus told a parable, often called The Parable of The Two Builders (Matthew 7: 24 - 29). After Jesus told the parable he explained to the people what the parable really meant. He said that the wise man was like someone who listened to Jesus' teaching and when someone builds their life with Jesus, as their foundation, they will flourish, withstanding many trials.

In supporting our children to discover their strengths and passions through our core Christian Values, embedded in our five School Values: Respect, Compassion, Friendship, Service and Endurance, our aim is to spread joy and hope throughout our school and the wider community.

'Religious education in a Church school should enable every child to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate for dignity and respect encouraging all to live life well together.'

RE Statement of Entitlement from the Church of England Education Office
Feb 2019

Policy Statement

Religious Education (RE) has a very high profile within the St. John's curriculum and makes a significant contribution to preparing pupils for life in Britain and across the modern world. Learning activities 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 the Church, alongside a range of religions and worldviews.

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

As a Church of England School, we are required to follow the locally agreed syllabus Awareness, mystery and Value 2019

<http://www.amvsomerset.org.uk/whats-new/> drawn up by the standing Advisory Council for Religious Education [SACRE],.

Section 48 of the 2005 Education Act requires the inspection of religious education in schools which have a religious character. This is the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS)

Managing the right to withdraw

Parents have a right by law to withdraw their children from the Religious Education curriculum. In this event, we will undertake responsibility for their supervision regarding health and safety. Information on these arrangements is clear on our website. There will always be opportunity for parents to discuss the contents of the RE curriculum should they have concerns.

Aims of RE

- 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.
- To engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose.
- To contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own beliefs and values.

Teaching and Learning

In line with the Church of England RE Statement of Entitlement [2019] at St John's we aim to provide:

- A curriculum that enables pupils to acquire a rich, deep knowledge and understanding of Christian belief and practice.
- A curriculum that draws on the richness and diversity of religious experience worldwide.
- The opportunity for pupils to deepen their understanding of the religion and world views as lived by believers.
- A pedagogy that instils respect for different views and interpretations; and, in which real dialogue and theological enquiry takes place.
- Engaging and varied learning activities that provide for the needs of all learners are supported by high quality resources. The lessons are balanced for children with additional needs and are provided with sensory resources when necessary.
- The opportunity for pupils to develop a wide range of skills including enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection.
- RE that makes a positive contribution to SMSC development and to pupils' understanding of British values.
- An assessment process which has rigour and demonstrates progression based on knowledge and understanding of core religious concepts.

Implementation

- Religious education may be taught in a 'whole class' setting but with flexibility to allow for discussion, questioning and reflection in small groups and individually.
- A variety of teaching approaches are encouraged: Teacher presentations, role play, drama and storytelling. Questions and answer sessions, discussions and debates. Individual and group research. Photographs, pictures and maps. Reflection of thoughts and ideas may be added to class webpages and our school Facebook page.
- Learning through engaging activities will be recorded in shared floor books throughout the school.
- Visits from 'Open the Book' to present bible readings to classes.
- Visits to all local churches and other places of worship are encouraged, whilst maintaining strong links with St John the Baptist Church.
- During the Christian Calendar, the school will hold services at St John the Baptist Church. This is to accommodate parents, carers, family members and our school community, and to show understanding of the Christian belief where all faiths are welcomed into the church as visitors, not necessarily as worshippers.

Curriculum balance and time

Christianity should be the majority religion studied and should be at least 50% of curriculum time. Sufficient dedicated curriculum time, meeting explicitly RE objectives, should be given to RE. This should aim to be close to 10% but no less than 5% in key stages 1 and 2, which is one hour per week in KS1 and just over an hour in KS2. Pupils will be taught a broad, balanced and full curriculum each year and this is shown in our long and medium term plans for every year group.

Resources

Wooden crosses in every class; cross in assembly hall; battery operated candles in all classes; a candle in the hall; assorted class bibles in each classroom; Candle Prayer and School Prayer on display in every classroom; artefacts boxes for Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Islam are located in the RE store cupboard in the hall; AMV units and links on One-Drive and direct through AMV website; Library resource boxes available on request from SSE school library service; People as resources – School Chaplain, our Church Reverend, the “Go Team” at the Diocese; Use of St John’s the Baptist Church and other local churches . Display boards in each class and in key areas of school to champion children’s learning in Christianity and other religions. Pupil Chaplain display in entrance area.

Monitoring, Evaluation, Assessment, Recording, Reporting

- Teachers use the statutory assessment requirements from AMV to assess the children. A code of green (ARE), Red (Working Well Below) and Yellow (Working Towards) is used to assess the children’s **skills** at the end of each unit of learning. **Knowledge and understanding** is tested at the end of each unit of learning through a written paper.

- Governors have responsibility for monitoring how the RE in the school reflects its Christian Vision.

- * The Ethos Team will meet termly to ensure that all school leaders contribute to sustaining, developing and nurturing the school’s Christian ethos. The Ethos team will also contribute to the Religious Education and Collective Worship policies ensuring the Christian faith is manifested through every aspect of school life.

- The RE subject leader will monitor long term and medium-term plans, complete regular floor book scrutinies, lesson drop-ins and discuss learning with pupils.

- * The subject leader will manage resources and endeavour to keep up to date with information, initiatives and developments in religious education and disseminate this as appropriate.

- The subject leader will be aware of staff development needs and encourage continuing professional development and will strive to facilitate the sharing of good practice, to ensure teachers understanding of curriculum content and spirituality.
- The subject leader will be responsible for drawing up an action plan for religious education.
- The subject leader will liaise with the Diocesan adviser with responsibility for Religious Education.
- The Subject leader will report to governors annually.