

St Anne's C of E (A) Primary School



'Let all that you do be done in Love' 1 Corinthians 16:14

St Anne's strives to *'develop the whole child, spiritually, mentally and physically* by helping pupils to:

Love God

Love learning and

Love themselves and others in a caring, Christian environment through close links to the Church and community.

Religious Education Policy

St Anne's C of E (A)Primary School Policy For Religious Education

Religious Education is unique in the school curriculum in that it is neither a core subject nor a foundation subject but the 1988 Education Act states that 'Religious Education has equal standing in relation to core subjects of the National Curriculum in that it is compulsory for all registered pupils.'

St Anne's is a Church of England Voluntary Aided School therefore the provision of RE must be in accordance with the Trust Deed of the School. The Governors in consultation with the Head teacher have decided, following advice from the diocese, to adopt the Locally Agreed Syllabus and supplement this with material from the Diocese and elsewhere, most recently 'Understanding Christianity'. Religious Education is central to the churches understanding of education and mission.

'The National Society Statement of Entitlement' outlines the following aims for RE in a Church of England School.

- To enable pupils to encounter Christianity as the religion that shaped British culture and heritage and influences the lives of millions of people today
- To enable pupils to learn about the other major religions, their impact on culture and politics, art and history, and on the lives of their adherents
- To develop understanding of religious faith as the search for and expression of truth
- To contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own faith and beliefs

MISSION STATEMENT:

- To help all children at the school develop as individuals through teaching and by providing positive role models.
- To provide a high quality education through a broad and balanced curriculum in a stimulating and secure working environment.
- To promote a Christian ethos, an awareness of responsibility to self and others and a sense of self-worth.
- To strive for high standards in all aspects of school life.
- To develop the whole child; mentally, physically and spiritually in a caring, Christian environment with close links to Church and community.

In recognizing and accepting these responsibilities we aim to:

- Develop a caring community in which all members have respect for the dignities, rights, values and needs of others regardless of race, religion, disability or gender.
- Provide an education to help pupils to develop the knowledge, skills and understanding required to realise their aspirations as well as the desire to use them.
- Help pupils to assess their own values and their relationships with others developing personal motivation, self-discipline and the necessary social skills.
- Prepare pupils for their adult lives in the home, at work and in the wider community and become contributing members of society.

- Foster an openness of mind which maintains an interest in learning as a continuing process throughout life.

The Aim of RE in Nottinghamshire

The curriculum for religious education aims to ensure that all pupils:

A

Know about and understand a range of religions and world views, so that they can: Describe, explain and analyse beliefs and practices, recognising the diversity which exists within and between communities;

Identify, investigate and respond to questions posed by, and responses offered by some of the sources of wisdom found in religions and world views;

Appreciate and appraise the nature, significance and impact of different ways of life and ways of expressing meaning.

B

Express ideas and insights about the nature, significance and impact of religions and world views, so that they can:

Explain reasonably their ideas about how beliefs, practices and forms of expression, influence individuals and communities;

Express with increasing discernment their personal reflections and critical responses to questions and teachings about identity, diversity, meaning and value;

Appreciate and appraise varied dimensions of religion.

C

Gain and deploy the skills needed to engage seriously with religions and world views, so that they can:

Find out about and investigate key concepts and questions of belonging, meaning, purpose and truth, responding creatively;

Enquire into what enables different communities to live together respectfully for the wellbeing of all;

Articulate beliefs, values and commitments clearly in order to explain reasons why they may be important in their own and other people's lives.

The contribution RE makes to other curriculum aims in particular to SMSC, promotion of the schools Christian values and the promotion of 'British Values'

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

SMSC prepares pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life'. Learning about and from religions and beliefs, through the distinct knowledge, understanding and skills contained in RE within a broad-based curriculum, is essential to achieving these aims. Exploring the concepts of religion and belief and their roles in the spiritual, moral and cultural lives of people in a diverse society helps individuals develop moral awareness and social understanding.

The school's Christian values

RE should contribute to the promotion of the school's distinctively Christian values. Making connections between the values and learning in RE will bring about greater understanding of the values and how they can be put into practice across a range of experiences.

Respect for All & Global Learning

RE makes an important contribution to a school's responsibility to promote respect for all & global learning. It provides a key context to develop young people's understanding and appreciation of diversity, to promote shared values and to challenge racism, discrimination & extremism.

The school community – RE provides a positive context within which the diversity of cultures, beliefs and values can be celebrated and explored.

The community within which the school is located – RE provides opportunities to investigate patterns of diversity of religion and belief and forge links with different groups in the local area in particular local churches.

The UK community – a major focus of RE is the study of diversity of religion and belief in the UK and how this influences national life.

The global community – RE involves the study of matters of global significance recognising the diversity of religion and belief and its impact on world issues.

The promotion of 'British Values'

RE provides opportunities to promote the 'British Values' of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty & mutual respect. (See Nottinghamshire Agreed Syllabus for RE 2015 'Religious Education for All' and the supporting document 'Guidance for delivering Religious Education in church schools' which we fully uphold).

Approaches to teaching RE

- 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 through the locally agreed syllabus and diocesan materials taking into account the need to offer breadth of content
- In order to make religious education a lively, 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
- Where possible we want our pupils to have opportunities to encounter local faith communities through visits to local places of worship or visits from members of local faith communities

We use as a basis for our planning the Locally Agreed Syllabus. As a source of ideas and teaching strategies we also make use of the 'Understanding Christianity' materials, ideas from R.E. Today and other ideas from Diocesan networks.

2. How RE is organised

RE is delivered as a discrete subject for at least 1 hour each week.

In accordance with the structure of the locally agreed syllabus we have agreed that in EYFS pupils study a variety of celebrations as part of their 'knowledge and understanding of the world'.

At KS 1 pupils study Christianity and Judaism

At KS 2 pupils study Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and compare other religions (e.g. Sikhism and Judaism) when studying festivals, celebrations and other cultures.

3. Assessment and Recording of RE

In line with the school policy on assessment and recording, staff evaluate children's attainment and progress in RE.

.From week to week, staff assess children's learning and depth of understanding through written outcomes, discussion and creative responses. Assessment for learning is used and children given the opportunity to reflect on their learning.

4. Arrangements for monitoring standards of teaching and learning in RE, including how RE contribute to SIAMS School Self Evaluation

The Head and co-ordinator will monitor RE within the school through analysis of assessment data, observation, lesson studies, learning walks, planning analysis, work scrutiny and discussions with pupils. The Head and co-ordinator are responsible for contributing to the Church school self-evaluation process by reviewing each area of the SEF, monitoring and evaluation as above, followed by plans to move forward.

5. Responsibilities for RE within the school, (Head teachers & Governors)

As well as fulfilling their legal obligations, the governing body and head teacher also make sure that:

- all pupils make progress in achieving the learning objectives of the RE Curriculum
- the subject is well led and effectively managed and that standards and achievement in RE and the quality of the provision are subject to regular and effective self-evaluation
- those teaching RE are suitably qualified and trained in the subject and have regular and effective opportunities for CPD
- teachers newly appointed to church schools are provided with support offered by the diocese to enable them to become effective teachers of RE
- teachers are aware of RE's contribution in developing pupils' understanding of religion and belief and its impact as part of the duty to promote community cohesion
- teachers explore how new pedagogies and technology can be fully utilised to support RE learning objectives
- clear information is provided for parents on the RE curriculum and the right to Withdrawn
- RE is resourced, staffed and timetabled so that the school can fulfil its legal obligations on RE and pupils can make good progress

The right of Withdrawal from RE

At St Anne's C of E (A) Primary School we wish to be an inclusive community but recognise that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from religious education on the grounds of conscience. However, the right of withdrawal does not extend to other areas of the curriculum when, as may happen on occasions, spontaneous questions on religious matters are raised by pupils or there are issues related to religion that arise in other subjects such as history or citizenship. We would ask any parent considering this to contact the head teacher to discuss any concerns or anxieties about the policy, provision and practice of religious education at St Anne's C of E (A) Primary School.

6. Date of policy review: January 2022