

St. Andrew's Church of England Primary School

Religious Education Policy

The reason for this policy

Religious Education (R.E.) is an important subject at St. Andrew's Church of England Primary School. The R.E. provided at school is founded in the Christian faith and is taught in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus for Lincolnshire LEA.

As a Church school the R.E. we deliver is important to our children for their day to day life, both in and around school. In keeping with our school ethos and aims there is the need for an emphasis on praise and thanks which feature frequently in our R.E. policy. There is also a need to prepare our children for the outside world and for them to appreciate that not everyone has the same views but that we can learn about and respect the views and beliefs of others as well as our own.

Principles related to the aims and ethos of the school

- To develop enquiring minds and a spirit of curiosity.
- To encourage children to become highly motivated life-long learners.
- To be flexible and adaptable for the modern world.
- To have high self-esteem – respecting themselves, others and the environment.
- To help children seek to extend themselves in mind, body and spirit.
- To provide a broad and challenging curriculum with extra-curricular activities and visits.
- To provide a stimulating learning environment that promotes enquiry and independence.
- To provide an ethos of support challenge and encouragement.
- To provide learning partnerships between home and the community.

The Nature of the Policy

Through the teaching of Religious Education, we hope to foster children's feelings of awe and wonder, delight and mystery. We hope to assist them in their exploration of the meaning of life, to support them in making life choices and help them confront difficult or painful situations they may have to encounter. We want children to value themselves and to recognise the way in which they are valued by God, enabling them to show care and respect for others.

Through the teaching of Religious Education, following the Lincolnshire Agreed Syllabus, we seek to:

- develop enquiring minds and a spirit of curiosity;
- encourage children to become highly motivated life-long learners;

- develop the children’s knowledge and understanding of Christianity and the other principle religions represented in Great Britain and their ability to respond to the core beliefs and practices of these religions;
- explore issues within and between faiths to help them understand and respect different religions, beliefs, values and traditions, and understand the influence of these on individuals, societies, communities and cultures;
- consider questions of meaning and purpose in life;
- develop their sense of identity and belonging, preparing them for life as citizens in a multi-faith society;
- provide children with opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Entitlement

At Key Stages 1 and 2 every child irrespective of ability, race or gender will have the opportunity to have experience of the five general concepts:

- authority
- celebration
- religious belief and lifestyle
- the sacred
- ultimate questions

R.E. is taught on a two year rolling programme and has been incorporated into our creative curriculum and where possible, the R.E. links closely to topic being studied.

Key Stage 1 children will look at these in relation to Christianity, Sikhism and Judaism.

Key Stage 2 children will look at these in relation to Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, Islam, Sikhism and Hinduism.

The teaching of R.E. forms part of the Early Years curriculum for PSED and KUW. The R.E. objectives are covered through free play activities, circle time and religious stories and children also get the opportunity to experience and celebrate major religious festivals.

All pupils will be given the opportunity to develop their ability to:

- explore and make meaning of their own religious experiences and those of others, and respond to those experiences;
- explore a set of religious concepts in order to make their response to a variety of issues;
- extend their knowledge of religious beliefs and practices and of the special nature of religious language.

Resources

The school has a varied range of resources for R.E. These include DVDs, information books and posters as well as collections of artefacts from the major world faiths, appropriate editions of biblical stories and children’s bibles.

Enrichment Opportunities

Where possible, children should experience first-hand what they learn about in the classroom. Visitors to the school to enhance R.E. teaching and learning are strongly encouraged. Teachers are encouraged to organise out-of-school visits for the children to enhance their learning, where possible, particularly to places of worship. "Virtual" visits to places of worship are also available on www.request.org.uk.

St. Andrew's Church is a valuable resource for the teaching of R.E. and children will spend time in the church learning about Anglican tradition and comparing St. Andrew's with other churches and other places of worship.

Children in Year 4 and Year 6 will have the opportunity to take part in the Lincolnshire Church Schools Festival held each year in St. Deny's Church, Sleaford and Lincoln Cathedral.

Equal Opportunities

At St. Andrew's C of E Primary School we believe that every child should have the opportunity to experience success in learning and achieve as high a standard as possible. We aim to provide effective learning opportunities for all pupils in this curriculum area and we recognise individual pupil's learning needs.

Withdrawal

A parent of a child may request in writing that their child may be wholly or partly excused from receiving religious education given in accordance with the school's basic curriculum. The school does not provide any special teaching for children so withdrawn.

Implementation

- The Lincolnshire Agreed Syllabus will form the basis of school curriculum for Religious education.
- Activities within the classroom will be planned in such a way as to encourage full and active participation by all children.

Assessment

- Informal assessment will be made on a regular basis in all classes by the class teachers.
- Use of "I can" Statements will be used to help inform teacher's assessments of R.E.

- Annual reports to parents will be based on indicator statements which represent the outcomes in the Agreed Syllabus.

Success Criteria

This policy will be followed successfully if the following criteria are observed:

- A balanced and varied approach to R.E. is going on throughout the school;
- That all pupils are given access to their own and other religions;
- Most children will be able to describe their beliefs and feelings about different experiences and religions.

Drafted by: J. Bentley, Subject Leader for R.E.

Approved by Governing Body on: May 2016

This policy was reviewed in:

Next review due: Jan 2022

Person to initiate review: Subject Leader for R.E.

Appendix 1

	TERM 1		TERM 2		TERM 3	
YEAR A	Year 1/2	Belonging to a Christian church	Year 1/2	Talking about God	Year 1/2	Celebrations (World Religions)
	Year 3/4	Christmas and Diwali	Year 3/4	Christian Journeys	Year 3/4	Hindu Beliefs and lifestyle
	Year 5/6	Christian Symbols	Year 5/6	Jewish Beliefs and lifestyle	Year 5/6	Buddhist Beliefs and lifestyle
YEAR B	Year 1/2	Celebrations for Christians	Year 1/2	Stories of Authority	Year 1/2	The good earth
	Year 3/4	Religion in the neighbourhood	Year 3/4	Beautiful World	Year 3/4	Christian Beliefs and lifestyle
	Year 5/6	Beautiful World, Wonderful God	Year 5/6	The Bible and its importance to Christians	Year 5/6	Sikh Beliefs and lifestyle