

RE Policy

Updated Spring 2013
Reviewed Spring 2016
Approved at C&PW Spring 2016
Next review Spring 2019

Context

Reigate Parish Church School is currently a 180-place school for children aged from 4 to 7 years. The school has six classes organised as mixed ability, parallel classes across the three year groups. **There are plans for it to expand over the next four academic years into a two-form primary school.**

The school has a distinctive Christian ethos which is at the heart of the school and provides an inclusive, caring and supportive environment where children, of any faith or no faith, learn to flourish in a setting shaped by Christian values. We welcome applications from all members of the community and expect all parents to respect the Christian ethos of the school and its importance to our community.

Religious Education is identified as part of the basic curriculum with equal standing in relation to the core and foundation subjects. Religious Education is taught, in addition to a daily time of collective worship, following guidance from the Diocese of Southwark, Foundation Stage and KS1 Religious Education curriculum.

The Religious Education Policy is

- To communicate to staff, governors, parents and visitors how religious education is taught within the school
- To ensure that the practice in relation to the teaching is consistent throughout the school

Aims

Our aims for teaching Religious Education are to enable children to:

- Develop knowledge and understanding of the beliefs, teachings and practices of Christianity.
- Apply an understanding of Christianity to make reasoned and informed responses to life issues, moral choices and use to respect all people.
- Develop the ability to reflect on and communicate with others issues of truth, belief and faith.
- Prepare children for citizenship in the world of today and the future through Christian teaching.
- Develop interest in and enthusiasm for the study of religion and enhance their own spiritual, moral, social and cultural education which is reflected in their attitude, thoughts and behaviour.
- Develop strong and deep knowledge and understanding of other world religions, ie Judaism.

Teaching and Learning Styles

A variety of teaching and learning styles are used in Religious Education lessons which take into account pupil's age, development, understanding and needs.

Our aim is to give a balanced approach to the teaching of Religious Education. We do this through a weekly lesson incorporating whole class and group teaching. During these times children are encouraged to develop through:

- Learning about Christianity and Judaism – their knowledge and understanding (AT1)

- Learning from Christianity and Judaism - to explore, reflect and respond to religious beliefs, values and experiences (AT2)
- Learning about other world religions in AT1 and AT2.
- Empathy – considering others, seeing the world through the eyes of others, identify feelings
- Investigate – ask relevant questions, gather information from a variety of sources,
- Reflection – consider the feelings of others, think about the relationships, ponder on how I can use this in my life, impact on me
- Interpretation – draw meaning from artefacts, music, art, poetry, symbolism
- Evaluation – deepening their understanding, to draw conclusions.
- Analysis – distinguish between opinion and fact
- Synthesis – linking features of religion together
- Application – making a connection between religion and daily life
- Expression – explaining concepts, rituals and practices
- Visiting places of worship linked to school, such as St Mary's Parish Church
- Visitors to share aspects of Christian life, such as the local Vicar talking about the meaning of colour in the church
- Attending church services at St Mary's, such as
 - Harvest – the children are invited to St Mary's Sunday Harvest service
 - End of Autumn term school Christmas service led by year 2
 - End of Spring term Easter service led by year 1
 - End of term summer School's Leavers' service led by year 2
 - SDBE year 2 leavers' service with local diocesan infant schools – this service could be at another local church

Planning

Religious Education is planned carefully by the teachers. The long term planning is based on the Diocese of Southwark scheme of work. Each half term the teachers plan their medium term planning and identify the main theme for the weekly RE lessons. Then weekly the actual RE lesson is planned, delivered and assessed. The outcome of that lesson will contribute towards the next lesson. RE is seen as a valued and valuable lesson that is taught for an hour a week. It is acknowledged the contribution RE makes to the spiritual development of pupils and as such RE has a very important place in the education provided by our Christian school.

Special Educational Needs

All lessons are differentiated, as is our normal practice, thereby enabling all children to achieve their best, such as by using different resources, adult support, scaffolded work. Teachers also, as their normal practice, incorporate the different learning styles and have the appropriate resources available. Equally the more able children are challenged to extend the breadth and depth of their learning by providing higher level questioning, alternative activities and research etc.

Assessment, recording and reporting

Continuous formative assessment assists with planning to ensure appropriate differentiation of activities for the current and future lesson, such as talking to the children and marking their work. This also allows teachers to monitor the children's progress. Each term children are formally assessed in

both AT1 and AT2 and their progress is recorded and analysed. This assessment is monitored to ensure children are working to the desired standard.

Reporting to parents

Details of curriculum content are included in half termly parents' information letters. A written report, issued in the summer term, informs parents of their child's learning, skills and progress and covers both AT1 (knowing and understanding the facts) and AT2 (making a personal response).

Monitoring and evaluating

The RE subject leader regularly monitors, evaluates and proposes recommendations. RE has a prominent place on the school's SDP and features annually in the governors' monitoring timetable. When appropriate RE will be the focus of a lesson study, which is an occasion where staff carry out practical research on how children learn with the intention of changing their practice by incorporating the conclusions from the study.

Monitoring ensures the standards of learning in RE (AT1 and AT2) are at their highest and staff undergo the relevant CPD. The RE leader will listen and support colleagues with schemes of work, displays, assessment and recording. The leader will also promote links between Religious Education and other curriculum areas and will organise an annual focus day. SDBE also provides excellent CPD for teachers.

RE across the curriculum, for example

Daily collective worship:

- Themes may reinforce or/and expand on Religious Education topics – creation, festivals, life of Jesus
- Social, Emotional Aspect of Learning (SEAL) is incorporated in worship on a weekly basis using Christian themes.

English:

- Reading about Christianity, Judaism, Islam and Hinduism
- Finding information in non-fiction texts
- Discussing a variety of issues e.g. creation, life of Jesus,
- Expressing feelings to self and others

Maths:

- Working co-operatively with other
- Exploring time, ie. Festivals in Christian year, creation
- Playing dreidel game for Hanukkah

Science:

- Opportunities to foster awe and wonder of creation
- Engage in the five senses trail during a visit to St Mary's Church

ICT:

- CD ROMs to listen to bible stories and internet to access information
- Digital camera to record drama, displays

History:

- Use of appropriate language to discuss the past and passage of time
- Use of artefacts and appropriate questions

Geography:

- To develop knowledge and understanding of other countries and cultures and respect the beliefs and practices of others, ie. Year 2 studying their topic of India.

Art:

- Observational drawings e.g. fruit at Harvest, artefacts,
- Christianity expressed through work of different artists

Music:

- Listening to a variety of Christian music and using instruments to accompany songs
- Learning and singing Christian and Jewish songs

PE:

- Dance – response to Christmas theme / production

Design and Technology:

- Making clay tiles depicting Christian symbols
- Making a small Torah, making and decorating a Diva light
- Cooking and tasting festive food e.g. fruit salad/bread at Harvest, doughnuts at Hanukkah

PHSE

- Dealing with feelings and emotions in a positive way
- Value one another
- Recognise how their behaviour affects other people
- To recognise and respect the differences and similarities between people
- To know that they belong to various groups and communities such as family and school

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from religious education and collective worship as identified in the Education Act 1944 and its subsequent legislation. Reigate Parish Church School 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 the religious education and collective worship. Parents who have concerns about this should discuss them with the Chair of Governors and the Headteacher before their child is admitted to the school.