



Religious Education Policy

January 2017

St John's C of E (Controlled) School	
SCHOOL BEHAVIOUR POLICY	
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Review Date _____	Next Review Date _____
Link Governor <u>D. WARD</u>	Governor Signature <u>[Signature]</u>
Headteacher <u>[Signature]</u>	



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Vision statement

*Imagine a place where all are equal and all are different,
living compassionately, learning together,
embracing challenges, building tolerance and resilience,
standing strong and making a positive difference in God's amazing world.*

ALL EQUAL, ALL DIFFERENT, LEARNING TOGETHER IN GOD'S WORLD

At St John's Church of England school, Religious Education is an important and integral part of our school life. We are a Voluntary Controlled Primary School with a Christian foundation and, as such, Christianity forms the basis of all the teaching in the school and how we treat each other. RE is taught in accordance with the Kent Agreed Syllabus supported by the Rochester Diocese syllabus 2014, as we are required to do by law. Also by law, RE must focus mainly on Christianity, whilst taking account of the other principal religions of Great Britain.

The aims of this policy are to:

- Establish a clear and workable framework for the learning and teaching of Religious Education at St John's;
- Show a common purpose amongst staff, pupils and Governors which may be clearly understood by all stakeholders.

1. Statement of Aims for Teaching R.E at St John's School

Our aim is to ensure that we enable our children to achieve aspirational standards in this core subject. We are aware that some children may already arrive at our school with a level of AT1 "knowledge about" at least one religion: Christianity. We are also aware that many parents have chosen our school for its Christian ethos, within which they wish their child to be educated and nurtured. We aim therefore to extend the children's "knowledge about" five (Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism) main world faiths (AT1), with a focus on the Christian faith which is at the centre of our school ethos. We will do this through the use of the Rochester Syllabus 2014. We also aim to provide a safe, open but guided environment in which the children are challenged to reflect, discuss and ask searching questions about faith expression, values and ultimate questions: provoked by a stimulus from a world faith, but linked back to the context of their own faith and experience (AT2). In this way we seek to educate and nurture all of our children with respect to their individual backgrounds, in line with our school ethos and in preparation for their future role as thoughtful, reflective and empathetic members of our global society.



2. Aims of Religious Education

As a core subject, our aim is for every child to enjoy RE and through equality of access and quality teaching, to achieve high standards. Through high quality, enjoyable Religious Education we aim to develop:-

- Knowledge and understanding of the beliefs and practices of Christianity.
- Opportunities for personal reflection, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- An understanding that the St John's Christian values of compassion, forgiveness, tolerance and trust are demonstrated through the life of Jesus Christ and rooted within Christianity.
- Understanding of what it means for different people to be committed to a religious faith community.
- Knowledge and understanding of major world religions and the similarities and differences within and between them.
- An appreciation of cultural and religious differences and the need for tolerance and discernment in our multi-cultural/faith society, challenging stereotypes and prejudice.
- The ability to ask and answer fundamental questions of life raised by human experience and how religious teaching relates to them.

3. Teaching and Learning

Religious Education will be taught and learned as a discreet timetabled subject. R.E is taught as a distinctive subject within the wider context of our cross-curricular approach to learning at St John's. The Rochester agreed syllabus requires a minimum 5% curriculum time for R.E.

There are two attainment targets for RE and they require equal emphasis:- 1 hour per week KS1; 1.25 hour per week KS2.

1. Learning about religion (AT1)
2. Learning from religion (AT2)
3. Our Agreed Syllabus emphasises the importance of distinctive RE skills, such as enquiring, questioning, analysing and interpreting, as well as responding and reflecting. Lessons are planned to develop each skill at a time.

The programmes of study clearly indicate the focus for teaching and ensure that there is an on-going balance between teaching to both of these attainment targets.

4. Programmes of Study



The Kent Agreed Syllabus must be taught from Reception and is linked to the EYFS curriculum through the areas for learning and development (ALDs). Christianity is the main religion taught at this early stage, with other religions drawn on as appropriate. They are taught through “special” themes eg. Special People, Special Places, Special Times etc.

Key Stage One, RE is predominately about Christianity, together with Judaism/Hinduism.

At lower Key Stage Two, RE is also predominately about Christianity, together with Judasim.

At upper Key Stage Two, Christianity predominates together with Islam/Sikhism.

The majority of the units in this scheme focus on one religion at a time, to avoid confusion and to do justice to the distinctiveness of each religion. However, there are opportunities to compare and contrast religious ideas and beliefs in a number of the units and also a few thematic units included.

In line with the school's assessment of other core subject, teachers assess RE in accordance with Rochester Diocese advice, at the three annual assessment points in October, February and May/June. Assessment will be based on work sampling and oral contributions to class discussions. Staff will use the Attainment Targets to assess a “best fit” level across AT1 and AT2 for each child. Children's progress will be tracked using the school's tracking grids and monitored by Assessment and Inclusion Leaders and RE Subject Leader. 2016 is a transitional period between use of level 3 descriptors and new assessment procedures.

5. Inclusion

We live in a multi-cultural, multi-racial society and encourage the respect and understanding of other religions and cultures. In a school where the majority of the children come from Christian backgrounds we are particularly aware of the need to ensure that children from other backgrounds feel valued, whilst we maintain our Christian ethos. We intend to follow Jesus' example to love and serve one another so that all may be included, regardless of race and culture. We believe that all children irrespective of race, disability and gender should have equal access to the RE curriculum. Through a variety of learning methods and differentiation we will ensure that children with Additional Educational Needs can fully access the RE content.

6. The Role of RE Subject Leader

- To review, monitor and co-ordinate the RE policy and its implementation in conjunction with the Governing body.
- To monitor RE, ensuring good progress for every child and groups of children.
- To be informed about the latest developments in this curriculum area through attending diocese courses.



St John's CE Primary School

- To support teachers, providing where necessary appropriate training and development.
- To audit, monitor and order RE resources.

7. Right to Withdrawal

The recent Education Acts established the parent's right to withdraw their children from Religious Education if they wish. The expectation at St John's CE Primary School is that any parent who wishes to exercise this right would do so after discussion with the Headteacher.