



Christ Church CE Primary Academy

R.E.S.P.E.C.T

Religious Education Policy



As a Rights Respecting School we believe in “Article 28: Children have a right to education” and therefore accept that as a school we have a responsibility to provide all children with an excellent quality education that is relevant and personalised to their individual needs.

Introduction

Christ Church CE Primary Academy is a caring and nurturing school with a real sense of family and community. Staff, LAC members and St Chad’s Academies Trust care deeply about the children and families we serve and our strong Christian distinctiveness ensures that every child is nurtured in a caring Christian environment where they know they are special and highly valued.

Our school motto “*Learning with God and Each Other to be the Best We Can Be*” sits at the heart of our school alongside our vision:

*We are one Christ like family seeking to achieve our school aims and allowing all to flourish by demonstrating the same endurance, friendship, dignity, and respect as the Good Samaritan did with **respect** as our key:*

We will achieve this by demonstrating respect in all that we do as we live life together just as the Good Samaritan did.

Realising our God given potential

Enjoying each day

Supporting and serving our communities

Praising and worshiping

Encouraging each other

Celebrating diversity

Treating others as we would want to be treated. Luke 6: 31

At Christ Church CE Primary School Religious Education (RE) plays an important role in defining the school’s distinctive Christian character. We have excellent links with Christ Church and the incumbent vicar visits the school regularly leading collective worship in school and supporting pupils, staff and families as our chaplain.

Legal Requirement

RE teaching follows the legal requirements of the Education Reform Act (1988), which places RE as part of the basic curriculum; a statutory subject which is an entitlement of all pupils. The school bases its RE provision on the 2021-2026 Stoke-on-Trent Agreed Syllabus and Understanding Christianity. The school recognises the right of withdrawal of pupils at the request of their parents.

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Subject Rationale

RE is a significant subject in its own right but we recognise the links it has with PSHE, the important role RE has in the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils (although this development is the concern of the whole curriculum) and its contribution to the promotion of British Values. Through R.E., Collective Worship and all other curriculum subjects, pupils will be helped to reflect upon those aspects of human life and the natural world, which raise questions of the ultimate meaning and purpose, and to recognise the spiritual dimension of experience.

Aims and Objectives

The aims of Religious Education in our school are:

- To offer a full and positive presentation of living Christianity in an opportunity for encountering the Christian life in Anglican and other contexts, and 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 other major religions, their impact on culture and politics, art and history, and on the lives of their adherents
- To develop an understanding of religious faith as the search for and expression of truth, and so to consider important human questions, values and concerns.
- To develop an understanding of humanist views and the views of people with no faith
- To contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual / philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own faith and beliefs.
- To consider important human questions, values and concerns.
- To develop a thoughtful creative attitude to pupils own experiences, and to formulate their own values and allegiances

The outcomes for pupils at the end of their time in our school are that they are able to:

- Compare and contrast the key beliefs and practices of the religions studied and show how they are connected to believers' lives
- Describe different aspects of belonging to a religion – symbol, story, festival, belief, faith in action, ritual, worship
- Express religious beliefs and ideas with the appropriate language, vocabulary and terminology and describe what they mean
- Ask questions sensitively about the lives of believers and suggest appropriate answers
- Reflect on the decisions people make – including believers – and suggest possible outcomes
- Compare their own experience and identity with others – including believers
- Reflect and empathise with the big questions of life, suggesting some answers / insights
- Be confident to explore their own spirituality and search for truth
- Value the religious journey of faith
- Develop pupils' ability to interpret and appreciate religious imagery and expression

In addition the subject contributes to other areas of education and human experience and plays an important part of the wider programme of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

- Spiritual - widening pupils' vision of themselves and their own experience, within the context of a growing awareness and understanding of God.
- Moral - helping each pupil develop their own informed values.
- Social - helping pupils understand some major forces shaping the values in our society.
- Cultural - aiding pupils in exploring aspects of their own cultural heritage, and in developing positive attitudes towards diversity.

Additional links will be found across the curriculum especially with Citizenship, PSHE and British Values. RE can also make a positive contribution to enhancing creativity and enjoyment and ensure the well-being of all pupils.

Teaching and Learning

RE is taught through explicit R.E. lessons, themed days and class discussions linked to other curriculum subjects. RE is planned on a half termly or termly basis with teachers ensuring differentiation is implicit in their planning. Differentiation could be by outcome or by task/activity. Pupils learn about Christianity, Islam and Judaism as well as other world faiths and the beliefs of those with no faith. See appendix 1 for our scheme of work. This is based upon the Stoke-on-Trent Agreed syllabus with Understanding Christianity.

At Christ Church CE Primary we believe we have a duty to foster an accurate and increasing understanding of world religions and world views. As a result, pupils will gain greater insight into the world in which they are growing up. They will also be able to appreciate the faith of others and develop a deeper understanding of their own beliefs and practices. These outcomes must contribute to harmonious relationships within and between communities, promoting social inclusion and combating prejudice.

Assessment of RE is ongoing and meets the requirements set out in the Stoke-on-Trent Agreed Syllabus (2021-2026)

In RE pupils will be encouraged / have opportunities to:

- Think theologically and explore ultimate questions
- Give a theologically informed and thoughtful account of Christianity as a living and diverse faith.
- Develop the skills to analyse, interpret and apply the Bible text
- Engage in meaningful and informed dialogue with those of other faiths and none.
- Recognise that faith is a particular way of understanding and responding to God and the world
- Analyse and explain the varied nature and traditions of the Christian community
- Show an informed and respectful attitude to religions and world views in their search for God and meaning.
- Reflect sensitively on areas of shared belief and practice between different faiths
- Enrich and expand their understanding of truth

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- Reflect critically and responsibly on their own spiritual, philosophical and ethical convictions.
- Express religious ideas with the appropriate language, vocabulary and terminology
- Be confident in expressing and nurturing their own faith journey

Leadership of RE

The RE Subject Leader is responsible for:

- Producing a scheme of work for the school, sharing this with staff and making any amendments where necessary
- Supporting colleagues in the delivery of RE provision
- Ensuring Religious Education has status within the school
- Keeping in touch with subject developments and disseminating information as appropriate
- Auditing and recording current resources, supplementing resource provision when money is available and disseminating this information to staff
- Undertaking personal development and subject training and ensuring provision for staff INSET
- Monitoring RE provision, practice and outcomes. This will take place through lesson observations, book scans, planning scans and pupil interviews by the RE Leader with support from foundation governors where possible.
- Ensuring assessment strategies are in place in line with the Agreed Syllabus
- Creating the RE Development Plan and ensuring its regular review
- Accountability for RE standards in the school
- Meet with member of the Diocesan RE advisory team when possible

Equal Opportunities

All pupils, irrespective of ability, gender or ethnic origin are entitled to an education that will provide the opportunity for them to develop, to the best of their abilities, a competence in all aspects of R.E. Staff provide a variety of experiences / activities during a course of study and during a lesson, employing teaching methods and resources that allow all pupils to have equal access to R.E. and to experience success and enjoyment in their work.

The Role of the Incumbent

Within R.E. the incumbent is able to offer a range of practical support and advice. He is willing to assist teachers in their delivery of R.E., either in school or church. He also supports the academy with the delivery of our school worship programme.

Right to withdrawal - see appendix 2

At Christ Church CE Primary Academy we wish to be an inclusive community but recognise that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from religious education or collective worship on the grounds of conscience, without giving a reason. Parents wishing to exercise this right are asked to write to the Principal who will then invite the parents into school to discuss their concerns, clarify the nature of the RE and worship provided by the school and set out the options open to the parents as set out in education law. However, the right of withdrawal does not extend

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to other areas of the curriculum when, as may happen on occasion, spontaneous questions on religious matters are raised by pupils or there are issues related to religion that arise in other subjects. Where a pupil is withdrawn from RE and do not take part in alternative religious education they will be supervised by an appropriate member of staff whilst doing work set by their parents which will seek to further their knowledge and understanding of their parents beliefs and values.

Appendix 2

Guidance for schools and academies on the right to withdrawal from Religious Education March 2017

Religious Education

The government guidance *Religious Education in English schools: Non-statutory guidance 2010* states that:

Every maintained school in England must provide a basic curriculum (RE, sex education and the National Curriculum). This includes provision for RE for all registered pupils at the school (including those in the sixth form), except for those withdraws by their parents (or withdrawing themselves if they are aged 18 or over)

In voluntary controlled schools and academies, religious education must be provided in accordance with the local Agreed Syllabus provided by the SACRE (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education) of the local authority in which the school is situated.

In voluntary aided schools and academies, the decision on the content of religious education rests with the Governing Body, and should be in line with the Trust Deeds of the school.

In all forms of church school, the religious education provided should contribute to the Christian character of the school, and this is in aspect of the school's work which is subject to the **Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS)**, whether VC, VA or academy.

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 occasion, 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. (Non-statutory Guidance 2010)***

Any parent considering withdrawal must contact the Headteacher / Principal to discuss any concerns relating to the policy, provision and practice of religious education at the school.

Managing the Right of Withdrawal

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It is important that the school makes clear on its website and through other forms of communication, the RE syllabus being taught in school. There needs to be a clear understanding of the relevance of the RE curriculum and how it respects pupils own beliefs. It is good practice to review requests to withdraw from RE and collective worship annually.

Consideration needs to be given to:

- Whether the parents wish their children to be withdrawn from the whole of the subject or specific parts of it.
- Parents can withdraw their child from a specific activity, such as a visit to a place of worship, and not withdraw their child from the remainder of the RE.
- Where pupils are withdrawn from Re or collective worship, schools have a duty to supervise them, though not to provide additional teaching or incur extra cost.
- Where a pupil has been withdrawn from RE, the law provides for alternative arrangements to be made for RE of the kind the parent wants the pupil to receive. This could be provided at the school or the pupil could be sent to another school where suitable RE is provided. Outside arrangements are permitted providing the necessary safeguarding procedures are in place and the LA or Trust Board is satisfied that any interference with the pupil's attendance at school resulting from withdrawal will only affect the start or end of a school session (**Non-statutory Guidance 2010**)

It is important that schools are fully aware of issues surrounding religion, race and culture and ensure that parental right to withdrawal requests to not hamper their responsibilities to ensure equality for all and the promotion of British Values.