



Religious Education Policy February 2021

Love; Learn; Aspire; Achieve

The Importance of Religious Education

To a Church school, religious education and collective worship should be seen as part of an integrated experience, with collective worship acting as an expression of what is taught in many RE lessons. Pupils gain a religious education in its fullest sense in a Church school through good, well-planned and well-organized collective worship, through the example of Christian teachers, and through the quality of RE teaching.

The Way Ahead, para 4.14

Religious Education provokes challenging questions about the ultimate meaning and purpose of life, beliefs about God, the self and the nature of reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human.

Religious Education encourages pupils to learn from different religions, beliefs, values and traditions while exploring their own beliefs and questions of meaning.

(Religious Education the non-statutory national framework)

Religious Education makes a distinctive contribution to pupils' learning by enabling them to reflect upon themselves as whole people, experiencing life through the body, the mind and the spirit. The purpose of Religious Education is to help pupils understand the significance of religion and its contribution to their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

(Cheshire Agreed Syllabus 'Encounter and Response')

Our Church of England School seeks to express the Christian faith in all aspects of school life. Our actions are guided by adherence to our Christian values, British Values and our concern to do the best for our children and wider school communities. We aim to teach a full curriculum that prepares pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and diversity of life in modern Britain and the wider world through use of the Chester Diocese Syllabus.

Introduction

This document is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for the teaching and learning of Religious Education at Kingsley St John's Church of England Aided Primary School.

The spiritual and moral development of our children underpins all aspects of our school life.

Legal Requirements

Kingsley St John's is a Church of England Aided school, therefore Religious Education must be taught in accordance with the Trust Deed and should reflect the rites, practices and beliefs of the Church of England. The governing body is responsible for the subject in the school. This is delegated to the Headteacher and the Religious Education subject leader/coordinator on a daily basis. Rachel Jones and Jean Cowell

Following the Diocese of Chester Guidelines for Religious Education, the majority of work in Religious Education will be based on the Christian faith with the introduction of [one other major world religion – Judaism – at Key Stage 1](#) and then [the study of Judaism, Hinduism and Islam at Key Stage 2](#).

In accordance with the law we provide religious Education for all pupils at the school. Teaching of RE will be allocated not less than 5% of the timetable. In Key Stage 1 this amounts to between 40-50 minutes per week totalling 36 hours over the year. In Key Stage 2 children should be taught Religious Education for 1 ¼ hours per week totalling 45 hours over the year. At our school, staff ensure coverage by block planning units of work for each half term, classes then have an additional RE afternoon to embed key concepts and big questions.

Withdrawals

Parents have a right by law to withdraw their children from the Religious Education curriculum. In this event, the school will undertake responsibility for the supervision of withdrawn pupils with regard to health and safety, alternative work will be provided.

Aims

The purpose of teaching Religious Education in school is to:

- To show children that Christianity is about following the living God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and is relevant to their daily lives.
- To extend children's ability to reflect upon themselves as whole people, experiencing life through body, mind and spirit.
- To help pupils understand the significance of religion and its contribution to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of themselves and others.

Principles

We aim through our teaching

- To provide a course of Religious Education within the framework of the *Diocese of Chester Religious Education Guidelines* appropriate to the educational needs of the children in our school, at their different stages of development.
- To contribute to the spiritual, social and moral development of the school as a caring community and the pupils as individuals.
- To assist and encourage experience of Christian life and worship.
- Through study of major world religions to encourage and understanding and appreciation of the rich diversity of religious belief and practice in society today.

We aim to encourage children in our school:

- To grow in awareness of others through learning activities involving sharing and co-operation and to develop trust and respect for others.
- To formulate their own sense of purpose in life and to embark upon a personal search for a faith by which to live.
- To learn something of the religious experiences of others.
- To develop their own beliefs, values and ideals in the light of their experiences.
- To develop respect for other people, their beliefs and their life-styles.
- To develop an enquiring attitude towards religion and to explore the purpose of activities such as prayer and worship.
- To develop their understanding of The Bible and how elements sit in The Big Story.
- To develop a wide range of skills including enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection of the theology, philosophy and social sciences of faiths.

Entitlement

The children's entitlement is based upon the Governors' agreement to follow the Chester Diocesan Agreed Syllabus, supported by the high quality resource Understanding Christianity and these provide the basis for our planning and teaching.

- In the main, Religious Education will be taught as a discrete subject although the approach may vary.
- Religious Education in school is organised using a whole school overview or plan. This lays out which units, or themes, should be studied by each year group.
- Wherever possible all children will learn from primary source material as well as through the use of outside speakers with relevant experience and audio-visual aids. Visits to places of worship and drama workshops and visiting theatre companies also support the work of Religious Education in school

Implementation

- Religious Education will be taught throughout the school, by the class teacher and may be supported from time to time by clergy from local churches and visiting speakers.
- Religious Education may be taught in a 'whole class' setting but with flexibility to allow for discussion, questioning and reflection in small groups and individually.
- Visits to local churches and other places of worship will enhance children's knowledge and understanding. This includes St John's The Evangelist and The Hurst Methodist as well as Crowton and NORley Churches as part of NCK.
- A variety of teaching approaches are encouraged:

- ◇ Teacher presentations, role play and story telling.
 - ◇ High order (Big) Questions and answer sessions, discussions and debates to develop enquiry skills.
 - ◇ Individual and group research.
 - ◇ Photographs and artefacts.
 - ◇ I.C.T, television, video, film, tape, CD, radio and PCs to research and communicate ideas.
 - ◇ Bi-annual Inter-faith week and workshops led by visitors of different faiths.
- Mind Friendly strategies will support teaching and learning as appropriate.
 - Progression will be guided by the Diocese of Chester Agreed Syllabus supported by Understanding Christianity.
 - Religious Education may be integrated with other subjects as appropriate for example ICT, History and PSCE.
 - Religious Education resources will be reviewed regularly and supported by the Educational Library Services
 - Classroom support will be welcomed under the guidance of the teacher, eg. skilled individuals and parents etc.
 - INSET will be all supported by Sue Glover, Diocesan Advisor.

Special Educational Needs.

Children with special educational needs will work alongside the other children in their group, as in other curriculum areas, but differentiation in approach, language and expected outcome will be appropriate to the varying needs in the class. We aim to meet the full entitlement of every child in our school. To optimize inclusion the children's differing needs for learning (including children with special educational needs) will be addressed through differentiated activities.

See separate SEN school policy

Equal Opportunities

Religious Education as an essential part of the curriculum should be relevant, worthwhile and accessible to all. It should express that all pupils are loved and valued by God as part of creation.

We aim to help the children in our school to respect themselves and to be sensitive to the needs of others. Our school approach and ethos is supported heavily by the Valuing All God's Children publication, sincerely believing in equality for all.

Planning, Assessment, Reporting and Record Keeping

- Under the Diocese of Chester Religious Education Guidelines the statutory position is that all pupils will be assessed based on the level expectations informed by Scheme of Work and units of work.
- In order to show progress towards the end of Key Stage levels the staff appreciate that assessment of progress in Religious Education should be undertaken with sensitivity, based upon the teacher's observations of the child in class or group discussions, activities or recorded work.

- Children's work is evaluated and assessments for each child are carried out at the end of each unit of work. These statements will inform future planning assessment; reporting to parents; and curriculum monitoring by the coordinator and the Headteacher.
- Individual Pupil Progress Booklets are completed termly and are located at the back of each child's Golden Book.
- Records are kept by the class teacher, Headteacher and the Religious Education Coordinator. Samples of work are kept by the Religious Education Coordinator.
- Summative reports to parents will be made at the end of the year.
- **Long Term Planning** is informed by Diocese of Chester Religious Education Guidelines, supported by Primary Scheme of Work and
- Staff notate and divide the units of work from the **medium term planning** so that it informs the **short term planning**.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- The Headteacher has overall responsibility for monitoring and evaluation.
- The coordinator/RE subject leader will assist the Headteacher by monitoring Long Term and Medium Term plans.
- The coordinator will keep a file of examples of work to demonstrate continuity and progression.
- The coordinator will manage resources.
- The coordinator will endeavour to keep up to date with information, initiatives and developments in Religious Education and disseminate this as appropriate.
- The coordinator will be aware of staff development needs and encourage continuing professional development.
- The coordinator will facilitate the sharing of good practice.
- The coordinator will be responsible for drawing up an action plan for Religious Education. Generally this will be an annual plan and should be informed by this policy.

RE Subject Leader is Jean Cowell

Headteacher Rachel Jones

Date for Review February 2025