



St Andrew's CE VC Primary School

A church school that learns, grows and achieves together

"Train up a child in the way he should go,
and when he is old he will not depart from it"
Proverbs 22:6

RE Policy

Signed (Chair)	Name Derek Jones	Date
Signed (Head)	Name Helen Green	Date
Ratified by Governing Body on		Next Review

Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

This policy has been assessed with regard to its impact on equalities issues. The equality impact assessment has been conducted by the relevant Governors' sub-committee and focused on race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity and religion/belief. Community Cohesion has also formed part of the impact assessment work in order to ensure respect for diversity, alongside a commitment to common and shared bonds.

EqIA outcomes

- The assessment found no areas of potential negative impact and actions resulting in positive impact are in place.

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Policy for Religious Education

Preface: Christian Ethos:

Always be ready to give a reason for the hope that is within you, but do it with gentleness and respect. (1 Peter 3:15)

This verse is a key Bible verse for Christians when it comes to sharing their faith. It also has transferable values to the teaching of Religious Education. In Collective Worship students are invited to explore the Christian "reason for the hope" as a Church school and something foundational to what we do, however, recognising that faith can never be coerced. When Religious Education is taught the reason for different belief systems is communicated. As faith and religion are often personal and sensitive areas, whether in Collective Worship or the teaching of Religious Education, the spirit of "gentleness and respect" will pervade our school's RE policy.

Rationale

RE is central to the purpose of St Andrew's Primary School because as a church school we see that the Christian faith informs all aspects of our life together and commits us to a search for truth. RE in St Andrew's School explores how individuals and communities make meaning and sense of their lives through the major religions of the world. It enables pupils to know about, understand and respond to the important and ultimate questions of life. RE is taught in such a way that it inspires pupils to explore, develop and affirm their own faith and values and have respect for the faith, beliefs and values of others.

It is not the practice of this school to preach to or seek to convert children. Values education permeates the RE curriculum at St Andrew's.

Aim

- To ensure that as a Church of England school the principles of the Christian faith lie at the heart of the teaching and life of the school, with an emphasis on the thematic and systematic investigation of the core beliefs of Christianity.
- To ensure that the school fulfils the requirements of South Gloucestershire's agreed syllabus, whilst using resources and materials from Gloucestershire Diocese' syllabus.
- To contribute, as part of the whole curriculum, to the promotion of the pupil's spiritual development.
- To appreciate that people have varying needs that may include different forms of worship.
- To begin to explore the basic questions of life – its meaning, value and purpose and to begin to see how religion may answer them.
- To appreciate the richness and diversity of religious belief, both between religions and within each religion.
- To enable the pupils to understand the multi-layered dimension of belonging to a diverse community within school, the locality, the UK and globally.

- To understand that religions have aspects that are explicit (buildings, clothes, books) and implicit (feelings, beliefs, values).
- To encourage children to show their sensitivity and respect towards people whose beliefs differ from their own.
- To appreciate the many religious traditions that Christianity has provided.
- To learn about the major world religions.
- To use a range of enquiry skills e.g. investigation, interpretation, analysis, evaluation and reflection.

Guidelines

- We ensure that RE is timetabled for at least 5% of curriculum time i.e. 1 hour per week in the foundation stage and key stage 1 and 75 minutes per week in key stage 2.
- RE is taught through specific units which focus on belief, impact and connections. A 2 year long term plan ensures progression and breadth of coverage across year groups
- RE for reception children will reflect the requirements of the Foundation Stage Profile and be covered by Understanding the World.
- Wherever possible, children will visit St Andrew's Church and maintain links with Cromhall Chapel.
- Opportunities will be provided for children to visit Christian places of worship, alongside places of worship from other faiths.
- The use of selective Bible stories in Collective Worship will help reinforce the Christian values and the school's own values. Children will learn memory verses from the Bible which reinforce these values.
- Collective Worship will be used to share the implicit nature of RE, where the whole school/class is able to share thoughts and ideas of their own beliefs, attitudes and values and to learn from one another.
- St Andrew's will draw on all different resources, including Understanding Christianity to deliver the different units.
- The teacher will assess each of the 3 strands: Making sense of the Text, Making Connections and Understanding the Impact, twice over the year.

Subject Leadership

- The RE subject leader alongside the Head Teacher will support and monitor the subject
- The RE subject leader will ensure that subject knowledge and expertise are kept up to date by means of regular training.
- The RE subject leader alongside the Head Teacher will regularly monitor the quality of RE teaching across the school.
- The RE subject leader alongside the Head Teacher will liaise with the governor who holds responsibility for RE and they will report regularly to the governing body on progress and attainment in RE.
- The RE subject leader and head teacher will ensure that the principles set out in the National Society's Statement of Entitlement for RE are implemented.

Right of withdrawal

Parents have a legal right to withdraw their children from RE. If parents have any concerns or anxieties about the teaching of RE, they are advised to speak to the Headteacher.

Conclusion

St Andrew's School has a very Christian ethos and we use RE lessons to develop this, fostering respect and consideration to all. We recognise that RE can be a particularly sensitive area but by following the agreed syllabus and following Diocesan guidelines, all teachers at St Andrew's can teach RE, whatever the personal beliefs or religious and cultural traditions of the children.