

St James's
Church of England
Primary School



Faith
Friendship
Fulfilment

RE Policy

Ratified on: 1.11.21

Ratified by: A Millichip

Review date: 01.12.2023

Our Christian Core Values at St James's

Respect, responsibility, honesty, friendship, perseverance, kindness, courage and forgiveness.

Vision:

Faith: "So God created man in His own image" (Genesis 1:26-27)

At St James's C.E. Primary School, we believe that every child is made in the image of God; inherently valuable and unique among God's creations. We are an inclusive and welcoming family who celebrate each other's achievements. Our Christian Values are at the heart of all that we do; nurturing a sense of belonging and shared identity.

Friendship: "Follow me and I will make you fishers of people." (Luke 5:10)

It is our vision that all of our pupils will have courage and belief in themselves, to follow their dreams. We will ensure that all children know, experience and understand the love of Jesus Christ; supporting children on their journey of learning, faith and spirituality. Through our established, local and global links, children learn to be responsible and respected citizens.

Fulfilment: "Take courage. It is I. Do not be afraid." (Matthew 14:27)

In a safe and nurturing environment, we support each child to reach their full, God given potential. High aspirations are set so that every child has every opportunity to fulfil their dreams. We will endeavour to instil a love of learning in our pupils, preparing them for the next phase of their lives and enable them to prosper.

Introduction

RE is central to the purpose of St James's Church of England Primary School because as a church school we see that the Christian faith, and learning about others' faith and beliefs, inform all aspects of our life together.

RE lessons at St James's Church of England Primary School explore how individuals and communities make meaning and sense of their lives. It helps all children to develop an understanding of the place that religion plays in people's lives and how it has influenced history and the growth and development of society. RE 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 James's Church of England Primary School.

Aims

The aims of Religious Education in church schools are:

- To enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living faith that influences the lives of people worldwide and as the religion that has most shaped British culture and heritage.
- To enable pupils to know and understand about other major world religions and world views, their impact on society, culture and the wider world, enabling pupils to express ideas and insights.
- To contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own beliefs and values.

(Statement of Entitlement Church of England Education Office June 2016)

The principle aim of RE is to engage pupils in systematic enquiry into significant human questions addressed by religion and world views. It allows them to develop the understanding and skills needed to appreciate and appraise varied responses to these questions, as well as develop responses of their own.

Children will:

1. Know about and understand a range of religions and worldviews, so that they can:

- describe, explain and analyse beliefs and practices, recognising the diversity which exists within and between communities and amongst individuals.
- identify, investigate and respond to questions posed, and responses offered by some of the sources of wisdom found in religions and worldviews.
- appreciate and appraise the nature, significance and impact of different ways of life and ways of expressing meaning.

2. Express ideas and insights about the nature, significance and impact of religions and worldviews, so that they can:

- explain reasonably their ideas about how beliefs, practices and forms of expression influence individuals and communities.
- express with increasing discernment their personal reflections and critical responses to questions and teachings about identity, diversity, meaning and value, including ethical issues.
- appreciate and appraise varied dimensions of religion.

3. Gain and deploy the skills needed to engage seriously with religions and worldviews, so that they can:

- find out about and investigate key concepts and questions of belonging, meaning, purpose and truth, responding creatively.
- enquire into what enables different individuals and communities to live together respectfully for the wellbeing of all.
- articulate beliefs, values and commitments clearly in order to explain why they may be important in their own and other people's lives.

At St James's CE Primary School, RE supports and strengthens the vision, ethos and values which are at the heart of what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. The importance placed on the development of the whole child spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in the RE curriculum.

Legal Framework

As a Church of England Voluntary Aided School, the provision of Religious Education must be in accordance with the school's Trust Deed. The Governors, in accordance with the Head teacher, have decided to adopt the Worcestershire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2020 – 2025, combined with the 'Understanding Christianity' resource.

Right of withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of religious education. However, as a Church School, we believe RE is central to the life and identity of St James's Church of England Primary School and is an academic subject. Therefore, we believe it makes an important contribution to the development of children regardless of their faith or background. For this reason, before exercising the right of withdrawal we would hope that all parents would wish to discuss the matter with the head teacher.

Teaching and Learning

1. The scheme of work for RE is written to ensure a balance between the Worcester Syllabus for RE and the 'Understanding Christianity' resource, ensuring two thirds of the content is Christianity.
2. The RE scheme ensures that we provide a challenging and robust curriculum, based on an accurate theological framework that draws on the richness and diversity of religious experience worldwide.
3. There are clear learning outcomes for all units of work, based on the appropriate expectations as set out in the RE syllabus.
4. A range of teaching and learning activities will ensure that pupils learn effectively and with interest, ensuring that there is continuity and progression for pupils and opportunities for pupils to deepen their understanding of the religion and world views as lived by believers, to 'dig deeper and linger longer'.
5. Pupil progress and attainment in RE will be tracked by teachers at the end of each unit and recorded and analysed termly by SLT/RE Leaders.
6. Progress in RE will form part of the pupils' annual report to parents.
7. RE will be taught as a discrete subject but we will endeavour to establish meaningful links with the other subjects of the curriculum. Our RE curriculum makes a positive contribution to SMSC development.
8. Visits to places of worship are planned to support learning in RE.
9. Dedicated RE will be given at no less than 5% of the curriculum time.

Subject Leadership

1. The RE subject leader team includes a member of the SLT.
2. The RE subject leader team will support and monitor the subject.
3. The RE subject leader team will ensure that their subject knowledge and expertise are kept up to date by means of regular training.
4. The RE subject leader team will ensure that staff receive appropriate training in the teaching and assessment of RE.
5. The RE subject leader team, senior leaders and foundation governors will regularly monitor the quality of RE teaching across the school.
6. The RE subject leader team will report at least annually to foundation governors on progress and attainment in RE.

The RE subject leader team and head teacher will ensure that the principles set out the National Society's Statement of Entitlement for RE are met.

Assessment, Monitoring and evaluation

The RE subject leader team is responsible for the monitoring of the development, progression and co-ordination of the subject throughout the school in consultation with the Head Teacher and Foundation governors. At the end of each unit of work, teachers record their judgements regarding a pupil's understanding against a series of 'I can' statements. Final judgements about whether a child is working towards the expected standard, working at the expected standard or is working at a greater depth than the expected standard on Fisher Family Trust, the school's monitoring system.

External partners are invited into the school to also contribute to the monitoring cycle which ensures the moderation of judgements on the quality of RE.

Review

Updated	December 2021
Governor Approved	December 2021
Shared with staff	December 2021