

# Religious Education Policy



Date agreed: May 2018

Review date: May 2021

## **Our vision**

Our vision statement 'Explore, Enjoy, Excel together; be amazing' captures the ambition that we have for our children to be the best that they can be. We believe that every child is created uniquely and so it is our role to make sure that their individual gifts are nurtured so that children can reach their aspirations, believe in themselves and work together to achieve great things.

Our vision finds its root in Psalm 139, verse 14: 'I will praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made'.

Our vision motivates us to be a school community who through our vision and values create warm, supportive, positive relationships, allowing every person (staff, pupils, parents, governors and more) to 'be amazing' and 'be the best that they can be.'

Statement/Principles

## **Introduction**

St. Mary's Primary School is a Voluntary Aided Church of England School and as such, Religious Education (R.E.) is taught in accordance with the Trust Deed of the school. The purpose of this policy is to provide parents, staff and Governors with a clear overview of R.E. within the school.

## **Rationale**

We believe that R.E. makes a vital and specific contribution to children's developing sense of themselves and their relationships with others. It begins to explore the possibility that life is more than the material and temporal. It encourages children to reflect on their place in the world, and the experience of others, in ways which may bring greater understanding and meaning to the rest of their learning. They will also gain understanding and respect of other world faiths.

Furthermore, R.E. at St. Mary's should play a major role in developing the Christian character and ethos of the whole school.

## **Aims and Objectives – What are we trying to achieve through R.E.?**

- To enable children to grow in their spiritual development through reflection on their thoughts, beliefs, feelings and relationships.
- To explore a range of questions of meaning and the ways in which Christianity and other world faiths have responded to them.
- To develop the particular attitudes of respect, open-mindedness, self-esteem, sensitivity, critical awareness, appreciation and wonder, and the particular skills of reflection, empathy, communication, reasoning, enquiry, analysis and evaluation.

- To develop an understanding of Christian beliefs and practices, what it means to belong to the Christian faith, the importance of the Bible and the nature of the Church.
- To develop knowledge, understanding, respect and tolerance of other principle religions represented in the United Kingdom, particularly their beliefs, values, culture and traditions.
- To develop awareness of the many ways in which religious belief may be expressed e.g. art, music, drama.

### **Teaching and Learning - How will R.E. be organised and delivered?**

The Staff plan and teach from three schemes of work: South Gloucestershire Locally Agreed Syllabus, Understanding Christianity and Discovery RE. These are organised over a two year rolling programme. The R.E. Curriculum Map gives an overview of which units of work are to be taught, and when. Different religions are covered as follows:

EYFS: Christianity and key religious festivals from other faiths

Key Stage 1: Christianity and Judaism

Lower Key Stage 2: Christianity, Sikhism and Hinduism

Upper Key Stage 2: Christianity, Sikhism and Islam.

Teachers will draw on a variety of teaching strategies, as outlined in the school policy on Teaching and Learning.

### **Assessment**

Teachers will formatively assess children's progress in R.E. by referring to the learning outcomes at the end of each unit. The assessment will take place in Terms 3 and 6.

### **Monitoring**

The R.E. Co-ordinators, along with the Ethos Committee, will monitor teaching and learning using a variety of strategies; sampling work, scrutiny of work, reviewing plans, observing lessons, pupil conferencing etc.

### **Resources**

R.E. resources will be held in 'The Hub' and available to all staff. They include books, videos, artefacts, posters, photo packs etc.

### **Equal Opportunities and the right of withdrawal**

Children will be actively taught to respect all individuals and their views. All children will have an equal opportunity to benefit from R.E., with work being differentiated or extended as necessary.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from R.E. lessons after consultation with the Head teacher.

### **Policy Review**

This policy will be reviewed every three years.