

POLICY DOCUMENT



Religious Education (RE) Policy

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Purpose of this policy

This policy statement outlines the agreed approach to the development of Religious Education (RE) and is a reference point for informing all practice within our school.

Aims & Objectives

Our aims are that all children should:

- Develop **religious literacy**. Being religiously literate means that our pupils will have the ability to hold balanced and well-informed conversations about religion and worldviews
- Encounter a variety of religious beliefs and lifestyles, developing their knowledge of the world and encouraging the celebration of diversity
- Explore and evaluate religious ideas and concepts and reflect on their own viewpoints, beliefs, values and attitudes whilst respecting those of other people
- Be actively encouraged to express their own beliefs, thoughts, feelings, opinions and questions confidently, effectively and sensitively
- Learn, appreciate and be given a thorough grounding in the beliefs, traditions and practices of the Church of England and the wider Anglican Communion, while taking into account the teachings and practices of the other principle Christian denominations represented in Great Britain
- Recognise and value the significance of being part a Church School and through this of the wider community of the Church, experiencing the benefits of shared values and a sense of belonging within the church school community and the wider community, preparing them for responsible participation in society
- Learn to understand, appreciate and respect the beliefs, traditions and values of other faiths besides Christianity (Christianity is made up of at least 50% of the RE Curriculum)
- Develop an awareness of the spiritual aspect of human experience, whether or not this is expressed through a particular faith or religious framework, and the mystery and complexity of the natural world and its people.

We achieve these aims by:

- Following our Inspire Curriculum based on the Essex Agreed Syllabus 2022
- Using a balanced multi-disciplinary approach to teaching RE. The three disciplines are **Theology**, **Philosophy** and **Human/social sciences**
- Using an **enquiry-based** approach for RE. Each new enquiry will be introduced by exploring a **core question**
- Providing time to think, reflect, discuss and question
- Promoting and rewarding school values and developing children's roles within the school community
- Maintaining relationships with our parish church, other local churches, the local community and other religious groups and faith traditions
- Actively seeking, and making children aware of, moments of wonder.

Curriculum planning

- The Kelvedon St. Mary's Inspire Curriculum outlines the core questions to be covered in each year group

- A variety of teaching methods are used including the use of ICT, first-hand experiences, artefacts, drama, visits to the parish church and other places of worship and visitors
- RE may be taught weekly or in the form of a focus week
- Teachers are to be encouraged to utilise the children's own experiences.

Resources

To help teachers plan for RE, some Knowledge Organisers can be found in the RE section in the Subject Leader folder on Google Drive. These include the Enquiry Question, Core Knowledge, Core Vocabulary, hyperlinked resources, Aims and Age Related Expectation Assessment Criteria. There are artefact-resource drawers for each of the main religions. Teachers also have access to the RE materials from the Saffron Trust.

Responsibilities

Teachers are responsible for ensuring that they are implementing this policy within their classroom practice. It is the responsibility of the RE Lead to monitor the effectiveness of both policy and practice, under the Head of School's direction and in line with the SIP. The Church Governors/Directors work alongside the RE Lead to help develop and progress the links between church and school.

Legal requirements

Religious Education is compulsory for all children, including those in EYFS who are under five years old. Parents may withdraw their child from RE classes if they so wish, although this should only be done once the parents have given written notice to the Head of School and the school directors. Likewise teachers may refuse to teach RE, but only after they have given due notice of their intention to the Head of School and the school directors.

Assessment & reporting to parents

Teachers at Kelvedon St. Mary's use the school's Assessment Policy to inform their practice. Teachers evaluate plans/lessons and use this to inform future learning in RE. In line with the school's Assessment Policy, we aim to involve children in reflecting on their own progress within lessons. Teachers gather evidence of children's attainment through observation, discussion and tasks. RE will be reported to parents' in line with Kelvedon St. Mary's Primary Academy reporting arrangements during the Summer Term.

Monitoring & review

The RE policy will be reviewed in 3 years, in line with the School Policy Review.