



St Jude & St Paul's
Church of England Primary School

Religious Education (RE) Policy

Date: July 2016

Lead: Headteacher/RE Leader

Committee: Children Families and Community Committee

Review: July 2018

'Bless us to encourage, love and learn'

Value Statement

We are living in a multi-cultural, multi-racial, and multi-faith society. We need to raise a generation of young people who have knowledge about their own beliefs and the beliefs of others. At St. Jude and St. Paul's School, children are taught that all people, including themselves, have the right to choose what they believe in. Children are taught that they need to respect the rights of others to choose for themselves, and to be able to agree or disagree without fear of prejudice. Knowledge empowers us to be able to engage on an intellectual level in meaningful debate with others, enabling us to develop our own ideas and values, and to choose which religion or set of beliefs to live our lives by, "You can only find out the rights and wrongs by Reasoning - never by being rude about your opponent's psychology", (C.S. Lewis).

Religious education is a national curriculum subject. All children are entitled to learn about the six major world faiths: Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Islam, Sikhism, and Buddhism. Children also study non faith beliefs, and aspects of life. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from religious education. St. Jude and St. Paul's respect this right. However, it should be remembered that learning about the beliefs of others is not an act of worship. Pupils do not carry out activities which compromise their faith or religion. We strongly advise that parents allow their children to have full access to this area of the curriculum. Active non-association with, or lack of acknowledgement of faiths and religions can often lead to ignorance. Ignorance breeds ignorance, and ignorance leads to fear, isolation, misunderstanding, prejudice, and confrontation. We are all aware of the dangers of ignorance. We only have to look at the news to see the devastating effects of prejudice. If we want our young people to be effective adults, we have to allow them to explore (with guidance) a variety of beliefs and ideas about life. Truth cannot be got at through fear.

Legal requirement

The Educational Reform Act requires that Religious Education should be taught to all registered pupils.

The Educational Reform Act gives parents the right to withdraw their children from Religious Education. Parents are informed of this in the school prospectus.

The current Religious Education Policy for St. Jude and St Paul's School has been written by the Religious Education teacher, with reference to the old policy and new requirements. The governing body for the school approves the policy. The RE co-ordinator and the governing body

are responsible for making sure that the policy is in line with the teaching and practices of the Church of England.

St. Jude and St. Paul's is a Voluntary Aided School. It is closely involved with the Parish church, St. Jude and St. Paul's, and values the support and involvement of the clergy. We also admit children from other faiths and religions, and value the ethnic diversity of the community we serve.

Time Allocation

The time allocation for RE at St Jude and St Paul's for Key Stages 1 and 2 is 60 minutes per week.

Syllabus

The school follows the LDBS scheme of work which was produced to better match the needs of the children in Diocesan schools and our commitment to Christian education. The children revisit topics as they get older due to the cyclical nature of the curriculum. Furthermore, the scheme is considered a more creative and innovative approach to delivering the RE curriculum. Lessons are adapted where necessary, but are in keeping with the scheme.

Stories, music, video and photos from websites such as 'Explorer', dance, drama, writing, visits to religious buildings, religious artefacts, and art work are some of the resources used for teaching and learning in this subject.

Aims

- To provide a foundation of Christian teaching relevant to both the school and the diversity of the community in which we live and serve.
- To become familiar with the life of the Church.
- To acquire an appreciation of all that is embraced by the term 'religion'. Children from all faiths and religions in our school should be given support, and encouraged to grow in love, understanding and tolerance.
- To provide an understanding of what is meant by the Christian heritage of the British isles, and of the contribution religion has made to our history.
- To establish a pattern of religious education within which children can develop an awareness of the spiritual dimension, and develop their own ideas and make decisions about beliefs and lifestyles.
- To set the whole experience of learning within a Christian environment, by helping children to achieve a personal awareness of God.

Objectives

- To help children towards an understanding of the Christian concept of God.
- To learn more about the life and teachings of Jesus as recorded in the New Testament and their relevance to us today.
- To acquire knowledge about the lives and works of Christians throughout the ages.
- To develop an understanding of prayer and worship, and to participate in it.
- To acquire knowledge about the 6 major world religions: Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Sikhism, Hinduism, and Buddhism.
- To learn about beliefs, key figures, religious artefacts, historical events, practices, places of worship, and celebrations and festivals belonging to each of these religions.
- To learn about the social and economic backgrounds of well-known figures of faith, such as Martin Luther King, Mother Theresa, and Ghandi.
- To develop a respect for themselves and for the right of others to choose what they believe in.
- To enter into positive relationships with other people and to learn to cooperate.

- To appreciate all living things.
- To develop a caring and sensitive attitude towards people from all walks of life.
- To approach life with a confident spirit and an enquiring mind.
- To develop an understanding of self and one's personal gifts and needs.
- To develop the capacity to appreciate and ponder the wonder of being alive and unique.
- To appreciate what it is to be valued and respected as a person.
- To promote a framework for living, by introducing pupils to a moral code.

Nature of RE

RE must conform to the same educational principles that govern all other aspects of the curriculum.

The purpose of the RE programme is to prepare pupils for life in a diverse society. The requirement to promote the spiritual, social and cultural development of pupils is mainly addressed through RE. However, responsibility for these aspects of development should be shared across the curriculum.

Continuity and progression

Curriculum development in RE must give consideration to ensuring both continuity and progression. There should be no sharp divisions between Key Stages. Key Stage 2 should build upon areas explored at Key Stage 1.

Assessment and record keeping

Children should be assessed at the end of each topic covered. There are sheets for Key Stage 1, and for Key Stage 2. These sheets display attainment targets relevant to the child's age. Early learning goals should be referred to when assessing and planning RE for Reception.

Staff Training and awareness

The RE co-ordinator attends RE training days run by a variety of educational organisations; including the LDBS and Islington LA.

Members of various faiths are invited to staff meetings to help to ensure appropriate care and consideration of the needs of all our pupils, in a manner which does not undermine or compromise the Christian ethos of our school. Our Christian ethos means that we endeavour to express the love of Jesus to all our children, parents/carers, cleaners, clergy and cooks, mentors, teaching assistants and teachers, site premises managers and volunteers, and all others who work in our school, as well as those in the local and worldwide community. Our Christian ethos encourages us to remain faithful and to give thanks and praise to God in our school.

Collective Worship

A daily act of collective worship takes place in the school (see CW policy)

Legal requirement

All pupils in attendance shall take part in the act of worship. Parents have the right to withdraw children from the formal act of collective worship.

Aims

- To give expression to the common values which underpin the school's existence as a Christian environment, where all are welcome and cared for.
- To provide an experience which strengthens and motivates all pupils enabling those who have made a faith commitment to worship more, and to allow those who are uncommitted to develop a capacity to approach the 'threshold of worship'.

- To inspire a sense of awe and wonder in our children.
- Collective worship should be educational. The Educational Reform Act requires schools to promote the spiritual, cultural and moral dimension in pupils. Collective worship has an educational role in the curriculum to contribute to such development. We need to ensure that, like any other area of the curriculum, worship is professionally planned, delivered, evaluated and resourced.
- To ensure that everyone feels that they can contribute to our collective worship.
- Collective worship is an occasion valued by everyone through which the aims and values of the school are expressed and celebrated.
- To inspire children to reflect on his or her own personal experience.

Elements of Worship might include:

- Singing
- Reading
- Speech and silence
- Eyes open or closed
- Prayer (shared verbally, or private)
- Meditation
- Reflection
- Physical movement or stillness
- Music, dance and poetry
- Dramatised stories
- Individual and group activity

Good practice

The act of collective worship highlights good practice in St Jude and St Paul's School.

The Religious Education teacher plans and organises assemblies that celebrate specific holy dates in the Christian calendar, such as Easter, Harvest, and Christmas. We recognise and inform pupils about other faiths and their holy festivals and celebrations. There are also opportunities for children to discuss any religious celebrations during circle times.

Collective worship should provide a time of quiet and stillness to help children to deal with the pressures of the school day.

Collective worship should celebrate the achievements of individuals, classes and staff co-ordinated areas of the curriculum. It should celebrate and highlight extracurricular activities, as well as achievements and current affairs in the local and wider community.

The act of collective worship at St Jude and St Paul's School is carefully organised, planned and managed. The involvement of the school community, together with the ethos of the school, provides a sense of occasion, which leads to the learning experience.