

The Federation of St. John's and St Paul's Whitechapel CE Primary Schools

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Rationale

As Church of England primary schools in diverse communities, we recognise that religious education (RE) provides a vehicle for engagement in an open dialogue about faith and beliefs. Belonging to a safe and nurturing community, founded on strong Christian Values, our children develop an array of skills that will equip them to experience 'Life in all its fullness,' meeting the challenges of our ever-changing world and to make their own positive contributions to our global society.

We believe that the teaching and delivery of RE is of paramount importance, as it is concerned with the personal and spiritual development and an understanding and appreciation of faith amongst our pupils. Within this area of the curriculum, acknowledging our multi-faith context, our pupils enquire, ponder and learn about a variety of religious beliefs and world views, and are subsequently empowered to express their learning and understanding about faith and their personal values in a range of ways.

Aims and objectives

- To know about and understand Christianity as a diverse global living faith through the exploration of core beliefs using an approach that critically engages with biblical text.
- To gain knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews appreciating diversity, continuity and change within the religions and worldviews being studied.
- To engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose raised by human existence and experience.
- To recognise the concept of religion and its continuing influence on Britain's cultural heritage and in the lives of individuals and societies in different times, cultures and places.
- To explore their own religious, spiritual and philosophical ways living, believing and thinking.

from: 'Religious Education in Church of England Schools A Statement of Entitlement', The Church of England Education Office, 2019.

Planning and Delivery

We use the 'Discovery Religious Education' scheme of work with additional units from the SACRE and THRE schemes to ensure that 2/3 of RE teaching is focussed on Christianity. A yearly overview of units to be studied can be found in the Appendix.

RE is considered an academic subject, therefore should be delivered by the class teacher or an experienced practitioner. Recording should always be of a high standard with the same expectations as for English and mathematics.

Teachers should consider when RE sessions are timetabled and how they plan their lessons, ensuring that there is time to stop, pause and reflect: thus, providing opportunity for children to learn knowledge and skills and develop an understanding about their own spirituality.

We encourage the development of creative links between RE and the wider curriculum. In planning, teachers should thoughtfully plan links with, for example, Philosophy for Children, topic work and mathematics and provide opportunities for extended writing opportunities. Curricular visits to places of worship and religious visitors are encouraged to enhance the learning experience.

Additionally, lessons should display a variety of teaching approaches such as including drama, art, whole class, group and individual activities, and a variety of groupings. Throughout each unit, class teachers should make good use of their classroom RE working walls clearly displaying the enquiry question and development of the children's ideas over the half-term.

Management, Monitoring and Assessment of R.E.

Assessment tasks are built into the Discovery scheme of work. All children carry out an evaluation at the end of each unit which counts towards their assessment. Teachers use the 'I can' statements from 'RE: Online' to make a summative assessment of each child. Summative assessment is carried out at the end of the Autumn and Summer Terms, where class teachers will level each pupil's attainment in AT1 and AT2 on the RE Assessment Grid.

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The RE Coordinator/ SLT will monitor the teaching and learning of RE in the following ways:

- A termly book scrutiny;
- A bi-annual lesson observation in all classes;
- An annual pupil questionnaire in the Summer Term

The RE Coordinator/ SLT will lead on the dissemination of good practice in RE through leading INSET, modelling sessions and co-teaching sessions.

Resources

St John's School: Teaching resource books are located in the school P.P.A. room and library, and are monitored and updated annually. RE artefacts can be found in the Resources Room.

St Paul's School: RE artefacts are stored in the cupboards opposite the Studio/ Year 6.

Additional books and resources can also be obtained from the PDC library.

File name	Fed - Religious Education RE Policy 2021
Date of latest revision	December 2020
Date Ratified by Governors	
Date of Review	Autumn 2023

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APPENDIX

RE Overview

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
EYFS	Christianity Theme Special People Key Question: What makes people special?	Christianity Theme: Christmas Key Question: What is Christmas?	Islam, Judaism Theme: Celebrations Key Question: How do people celebrate?	Christianity Theme: Easter Key Question: What is Easter?	Christianity, Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism Theme: Story Time Key Question: What can we learn from stories?	Christianity, Islam, Judaism Theme: Special Places Key Question: What makes places special?
1	Christianity Theme: Creation Story Key Question: Does God want Christians to look after the world?	Christianity Theme: Christmas Story Key Question: What gift would I have given to Jesus if He had been born in my town and not in Bethlehem?	Christianity Theme: Jesus as a friend Key Question: Was it always easy for Jesus to show friendship?	Christianity Theme: Easter – Palm Sunday Key Question: Why was Jesus welcomed like a king or celebrity by the crowds on Palm Sunday?	Judaism Theme: Shabbat Key Question: Is Shabbat important to Jewish children?	Judaism Theme: Chanukah Key Question: Does celebrating Chanukah make Jewish children feel closer to God?
2	Christianity Theme: Christians Key Question: What is a Christian and what do they believe? SACRE	Christianity Theme: Jesus as a gift Key Question: Why did God give Jesus to the world?	Christianity Theme: What did Jesus teach? Key Question: Is it possible to be kind to everyone all of the time?	Christianity Theme: Easter - Resurrection Key Question: Is it true that Jesus came back to life again?	Islam Theme: Prayer at home Key Question: Does praying at regular intervals everyday help a Muslim in his/her everyday life?	Islam Theme: Hajj Key Question: Does completing Hajj make a person a better Muslim?
3	Hinduism Theme: Divali Key Question: Would celebrating Divali at home and in the community bring a feeling of belonging to a Hindu child?	Christianity Theme: Christmas Key Question: Has Christmas lost its true meaning?	Christianity Theme: Jesus' Miracles Key Question: Could Jesus really heal people? Were these miracles or is there some other explanation?	Christianity Theme: Easter - Forgiveness Key Question: What is 'good' about Good Friday?	Christianity Theme: The Bible Key Question: Why is the Bible important to Christians? SACRE	Hinduism Theme: Pilgrimage to the River Ganges Key Question: Would visiting the River Ganges feel special to a non-Hindu?
4	Judaism Theme: Beliefs and practices Key Question: How special is the relationship Jews have with God?	Christianity Theme: Christmas Key Question: What is the most significant part of the nativity story for Christians today?	Judaism Theme: Passover Key Question: How important is it for Jewish people to do what God tells them to do?	Christianity Theme: Easter - Key Question: Is Forgiveness always possible?	Christianity Theme: The Gospels Key Question: Why are there four Gospels and how are they relevant to Christians today?	Christianity Theme: Prayer and Worship Key Question: Do people need to go to church to show they are Christians?
5	Sikhism Theme: Belief into action Key Question: How far would a Sikh go for his/her religion?	Christianity Theme: Christmas Key Question: Is the Christmas story true?	Christianity Theme: Trinity Key Question: Does belief in the Trinity help Christians make better sense of God as a whole?	Christianity Theme: Easter Key Question: Did God intend Jesus to be crucified?	Sikhism Theme: Prayer and worship Key Question: What is the best way for a Sikh to show commitment to God?	Christianity Theme: Belief and Practices Key Question: What is the best way for a Christian to show commitment to God?
6	Islam Theme: Beliefs and Practices Key Question: What is the best way for a Muslim to show commitment to God?	Christianity Theme: Christmas Key Question: How significant is it that Mary was Jesus' mother?	Christianity Theme: Beliefs and Meaning? Key Question: Is anything ever eternal?	Christianity Theme: Easter Key Question: Is Christianity still a strong religion 2000 years after Jesus was on Earth?	Islam Theme: Beliefs and moral values Key Question: Does belief in Akhirah (life after death) help Muslims lead good lives?	Christianity Theme: Covenant Key Question: How did Jesus create a 'New Covenant' and what does that mean to Christians today?