



Church of England  
Primary School

## **St Peter's Church of England Primary School**

### **Religious Education Policy**

#### **Excellence In All We Do - Excellence In Who We Are - Excellence In Our Service With Others**

We are a caring, Christian community. In recognising both the Christian Foundation of the school and the legal requirements for teaching RE, our teaching is based on a Church of England resource, "Understanding Christianity 2016" and the Somerset agreed syllabus for RE, "Awareness, Mystery and Value 2011." We believe that Religious Education can assist pupils in learning about and understanding the nature of religion and also in aiding their quest for meaning and purpose. It can help children to understand what it means to take a religion seriously. Whilst providing positive nurture, religious education helps children to develop their own beliefs, attitudes and values.

#### **AIMS**

- To help pupils to acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and the other principal religions represented in Great Britain.
- To help children develop an understanding of the influence of beliefs, values and traditions on individuals, communities, societies and culture.
- To help children develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues with reference to the teachings of the principal religions represented in Great Britain.
- To enhance children's spiritual, moral, cultural and social development by developing an awareness of the fundamental questions of life and what religious teachings have to say about them.
- To enable children to reflect on their own beliefs, values and experiences in the light of their study of RE.
- To develop a positive attitude towards other people, respecting their right to hold different beliefs from their own and towards living in a society of diverse religions.
- To help children to develop a sense of awe and wonder at the world around them and to see that there is something more to life than outward appearances might suggest.

- To bring children to the knowledge that there are central elements to religions – e.g. rituals, ceremonies, festivals and moral values.

## **GUIDELINES**

1. Religious Education is a statutory requirement for all children, having equal standing with the National Curriculum subjects. It is the legal collective responsibility of the whole governing body to determine the religious education syllabus in accordance with the trust deed.
2. To support teaching and learning of Christianity, we will follow the theological concepts and guidance set out in the Church of England's resource, "Understanding Christianity." We will also follow the programmes of study and curriculum guidance set out in the agreed syllabus "Awareness, Mystery and Value."
3. 10% of curriculum time will be dedicated to the teaching of RE as set out in the Church of England's Statement of Entitlement. As a church school, two-thirds of this time will focus on Christianity.
4. At KS1, children will study Christianity, Judaism and Sikhism. At KS2, children will study Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism and Islam, with some reference to other faiths such as Buddhism, Sikhism and Humanism.
5. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from RE lessons. In this circumstance we would seek to understand, discuss and confirm reasons for this request and final confirmation of the request is required in writing. Teachers will ensure that any children withdrawn from RE will occupy this time in private study.
6. Care should be taken to respect the religious or non-religious background and cultural traditions of all children and staff.
7. Teachers of RE should not require a particular commitment from the children.
8. Teachers will assess and track children's attainment in RE at the end of term 2 and 4 using the "Understanding Christianity" units on Incarnation and Salvation. Children will be assessed as working below, expected or with depth. This will be recorded on an assessment proforma and given to the RE co-ordinator with examples of work.
9. A link governor will be nominated who will be responsible for liaising with the co-ordinator for RE to ensure that RE is being delivered in an appropriate manner and that all legal requirements are being met. The link governor is Rev Chris Judson.

## **Leadership of RE**

St Peter's ensures that leaders of RE have the opportunity to attend regular conferences on RE. These may either be provided by the LSP or by the diocese. The school also has an Ethos Committee and this team meets at least three times a year to review and report on progress in the subject.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

St Peter's has a two yearly cycle of monitoring of the curriculum. In Year A a subject is monitored in a detailed way and in Year B there is light touch monitoring. At the end of each year, a report is produced for Governors on Standards and areas for development.

Monitoring of RE is done in a variety of ways:

- Lesson Observations
- Pupil Interviews
- Learning Walks
- Work sampling

Foundation Governors also undertake monitoring of RE.

**Last Review and approved by LGB on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020**