



CHRIST CHURCH CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Policy for RE

Original Policy Date: October 2002

Current Policy Date: September 2017

Date for Review: September 2019

Christ Church CE Primary School

RE Policy

As a Church of England school RE is at the heart of our Christian distinctiveness and the foundation of our school effectiveness. RE is a core subject in the curriculum and it is intended that there will be high quality provision, with its relevance made clear to all. We aim to make lessons innovative, creative and exciting.

From September 2016 we are following the new SDBE (Southwark Diocesan Board of Education) RE Syllabus which comprises units of study for the teaching of Christianity across foundation Stage, KS1 and KS2, and the study of the other principal world religions from KS1. The syllabus clearly identifies opportunities for pupils to learn about religion and learn from religion.

The RE we provide enables pupils to:

- Develop a strong foundation of the Christian faith through knowledge and understanding. It includes learning about and from the Bible, Old Testament characters, the local Church, the Christian community, rites of passage, living out the faith and values rooted in Christianity
- Apply their understanding of Christianity to make some responses to life issues and moral choices
- Recognise that there are other branches of Christianity who share common beliefs but practise their faith in different ways.
- Develop some knowledge and understanding of the other principal world faiths, developing informed respect and sensitivity towards all people, and helping build bridges of understanding within the community

RE lessons over the year will be broadly two thirds Christianity based, and one third based on a different world religion in each year group. The other religions are: Judaism (with most coverage), Islam, Sikhism, Buddhism and Hinduism. Pupils are encouraged to share from their own experiences and begin to find common ground and compare similarities and differences between the religions.

Visits to places of worship of all religions are expected during the study of the religion, and also visits to churches of different Christian denominations.

A pupil Faith Group has been established to inform the RE Co-ordinator of their experiences within RE lessons. A prime factor over the last two years has been their appreciation of learning about different religions and their clear understanding of the benefits of this.

Each classroom has a display board dedicated to the RE unit being studied, and also a prayer area where children are encouraged to reflect and create their own prayers.

All children in KS1 and KS2 have their own RE books, and Reception have a Class RE book. Classes are also encouraged to produce class books, for example after a visit to a place of worship. Opportunities to examine and make artefacts are a key part of their learning, as is learning through drama and art. Recording can be through written work, photographs, videos or artwork.

We hold an annual RE week where the whole school are immersed in a topic. The topic for 2017 is the Lord's Prayer which includes workshops, a prayer carousel at Christ Church and in-depth study at different levels of this key Christian prayer.

Children's learning is assessed at the end of each unit to inform future teaching.

The RE Co-ordinator provides support and training for teaching staff, and attends regular meetings at the SDBE to keep up to date with current trends in RE teaching.

Christ Church with St Stephen is our 'home' church and is visited regularly throughout the year by classes as part of their RE unit, and for special events such as the Carol Service or during Lent or RE week. The Vicar is also a regular visitor to the school.

Parents have the right to withdraw children from RE but as our lessons are inclusive to those of other faiths or none, we believe all children will benefit by attending them.

Date: 4th January 2017

Review Date: September 2019