



BRIDGE & PATRICKBOURNE C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Religious Education Policy & Procedure

Our school vision is based upon Jesus' words: *"I am the vine, you are the branches. If you abide in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit."* (John 15:5) which speaks of how we live and grow together as a Christian community.

We provide opportunities for everyone to flourish and grow within the love of God. Guided by the teachings of Jesus, we cultivate creativity, excellence, and resilience, inspiring pupils and staff to develop their unique gifts and become the best versions of themselves. We aim to equip our diverse community to make a positive difference in the world.

Our core values of Service, Forgiveness, Trust, Generosity and Compassion were chosen to underpin this vision for our school.

Key Personnel

RE Lead: Jordan Ablett

Link Governor: Ann Burgess

Key Dates

Reviewed: April 2023

Next Review Date: April 2026

We want to ensure your needs are met. If you would like this document in any other format, please contact us: office@bridge.kent.sch.uk

Religious education should enable every child to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate for dignity and respect encouraging all to live well together. Such an approach is offered through a commitment to generous hospitality, being true to our underpinning faith, but with a deep respect for the integrity of other religious traditions (and worldviews) and for the religious freedom of each person.

(Religious Education Statement of Entitlement February 2019)

Rationale

At Bridge and Patricxbourne Church of England Primary School, pupils and their families can expect a high quality religious education (RE) curriculum that is rich and varied, enabling learners to acquire a thorough knowledge and understanding of a range of faiths and world views. As a church school, the teaching of Christianity is at the heart of our RE curriculum. Through the Understanding Christianity resource, the use of an enquiry approach engages with significant theological concepts and the pupil's own understanding of the world as part of their wider religious literacy. Using the Diocese of Canterbury Agreed Syllabus we learn about other religions and world views, fostering respect for them. Links with our Christian values and vision, and support for pupil's spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development are intrinsic to our RE curriculum and have a significant impact on learners. We provide a wide range of opportunities for learners to understand and to make links between the beliefs, practices and value systems of the range of faiths and world views studied.

Vision of the School

To provide a curriculum that promotes creativity, excellence and resilience which enables children to flourish and make the most of every opportunity.

Aims of Religious Education

As stated in the Church of England Statement of Entitlement for Religious Education, our school aims for all pupils:

- 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 world-views 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 of living, believing and thinking.

Curriculum for Religious Education

RE is an academic subject that has a high profile in our school curriculum. It is a priority for senior leaders, who ensure that the teaching, learning and resourcing of RE is at least comparable with other curriculum subjects.

This means that the RE curriculum:

- Is intrinsic to the outworking of our distinctive Christian vision in enabling all pupils to flourish. In addition, it contributes to British values and to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- Is delivered in an objective, critical and pluralistic manner to engage and challenge all pupils through an exploration of core concepts and questions. Lessons provide meaningful and informed dialogue with a range of religions and worldviews.
- Reflects a good balance between the disciplines of theology, philosophy and human science, to enable pupils to develop their religious literacy¹
- Enables pupils to acquire a rich, deep knowledge and understanding of Christian belief and practice, including the ways in which it is unique and diverse, whilst engaging with biblical texts and theological ideas.
- Provides opportunities for pupils to understand the role of foundational texts, beliefs, rituals, and practices and how they help to form identity in a range of religions and worldviews.
- Supports the development of other curriculum areas and other general educational abilities such as literacy, empathy and the ability to express thoughts, feelings and personal beliefs.

¹ **Religious Literacy: Helping children and young people hold balanced and well-informed conversations about religion and belief. (Key Principles of a balanced curriculum in RE.)*

- Encompasses the full range of abilities to ensure that all flourish academically, using a wide range of teaching and learning strategies which consider the task, outcome, resource, support and pupil grouping as appropriate to pupils' needs
- Offers tasks that are age appropriate, challenging and sufficiently demanding to stimulate and engage all pupils, whilst extending the most able and providing support for those who need it.
- Ensures that all pupils' contributions are valued in RE as they draw on their own experiences and beliefs

Curriculum balance and time

Reflecting the school's trust deed, parents and pupils are entitled to expect that, in Church schools, Christianity should be the majority religion studied in each year group and should be at least 50% of RE curriculum time. Sufficient dedicated curriculum time, meeting explicitly RE objectives, should be committed to the delivery of RE. This should aim to be close to 10% but must be no less than 5% in key stages 1-4.

Schools must take note that the RE entitlement is totally separate from requirements for collective worship. Collective worship must not be considered curriculum time for RE or the teaching of RE.

Legal Requirements

Religious Education must be provided for all registered pupils in full time education except those withdrawn at their parents' request (or their own request if aged 18 or over).

(DfE Circular 1/94, paragraphs 44 & 49, and Non-Statutory Guidance 2010 page 28)

The law relating to Religious Education for pupils who are not yet in key stage 1 is different from that relating to subjects of the National Curriculum. As Religious Education must be taught to 'all registered pupils at the school', it includes pupils in reception classes, but not those in nursery classes or playgroups.

The school must comply with any request from a parent to withdraw their child and parents are not required to give their reasons for wanting to do so. However, in view of the Christian ethos and distinctive Christian character of our school, we would hope that all children admitted will participate fully in RE, and that anyone wishing to withdraw their child would discuss this with the headteacher before making this decision.

Teaching and Learning

Learning activities provide fully for the needs of all pupils, so that they develop a wide range of skills including enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection. RE lessons provide a safe space for pupils to explore their own religious, spiritual and/or philosophical ways of seeing, living and thinking, believing and belonging. They provide opportunities to engage in meaningful and informed dialogue with those of all religions and worldviews.

Pupils experience opportunities to learn and express themselves through an enquiry-based style of learning by:

- Posing and discussing 'big' and challenging questions.
- Reading and critically analysing texts.
- Interpreting information from different sources.
- Seeking information for themselves in libraries and on computers.
- Listening to and discussing with the teacher and other pupils.
- Engaging in pair and group work.
- Exploring a range of media such as artefacts, pictures, photographs, music and drama.
- Experiencing visits and visitors.
- Taking part in outdoor learning.
- Taking time for reflection.

Teaching in RE challenges stereotypes, misinformation and misconceptions about race, gender and religion. Lessons seek to present religions and world views in all their richness and diversity in terms of beliefs, traditions, customs and lifestyle in a sensitive and accurate way in order to encourage a positive attitude towards diversity. All questions, views, and opinions are treated with sensitivity and respect.

Teachers establish clear links between elements of religious belief and practice and aspects of the children's own lives. Teaching enables pupils to gain something of personal value from their study of religious belief and practice, for example the way that they might apply insights gained from religious stories to their own lives.

Teaching and Learning within the EYFS

RE in the EYFS should be planned, taught, and delivered in the same way as all other curriculum areas, for example the promotion of vocabulary through dialogue and modelling, use of resources at the start of a lesson to hook the children into their learning,

inclusion of a wide range of stories, ensuring the learning is relevant to the children and widening their knowledge of the world and people through story and practical activities.

Here is an overview of the structure of RE in the EYFS:

	Discrete RE input	RE activity	Linked and Continuous provision activities
Terms 1 & 2	10 minutes of whole class input. Teacher directed.	5 minutes. Independent or teacher directed.	Activities to build on and strengthen learning throughout the week.
Terms 3 & 4	15–20 minutes of whole class input. Teacher directed.	5–10 minutes. Independent or teacher directed.	Activities to build on and strengthen learning throughout the week.
Terms 5 & 6	20–25 minutes of whole class input. Teacher directed.	10–15 minutes. Independent or teacher directed.	Activities to build on and strengthen learning throughout the week.

RE is one of the vehicles used in our Reception classrooms to provide opportunities for children to explore the world in which they live. The suggested Diocesan overview for RE in the EYFS places meeting children of faith in the first weeks of the academic year and again in Term 5 and 6. By introducing the children to those of other cultures early on in Term 1, any learning about religious festivals can be connected to each of the children outside of RE learning.

Learning intentions from discrete RE lessons are revisited during Linked and Continuous Provision. Linked Provision is when children consolidate content from direct inputs through short, adult-initiated activities, for example making artwork to demonstrate how Christians believe Jesus helped others. Continuous Provision forms a large part of our day, and is when children's learning is extended through their self-initiated, meaningful play. Examples of how RE is supported with Continuous Provision include the Role Play Area being resourced with provocations for children to re-enact the story of Creation, and the Small-World Area being enhanced to encourage children to re-construct the story of Noah's Ark.

RE in Reception is recorded through the building of a year group 'Big Book' which collates learning from each lesson across a unit. This is an effective way of capturing the whole class in one book. It also serves as a powerful reminder and celebration of what the children have learnt across the year.

(Swansbury, R. (2021) Good Practice Guidance for Teaching Religious Education (RE) in EYFS)

Cross-Curricular Links

Religious education supports the development of general educational abilities such as literacy, empathy and the ability to express thoughts, feelings and personal beliefs. RE also makes a major contribution to pupils' SMSC development. It addresses issues which arise in a range of subjects, in particular English, art, history and music, as well as personal, social and emotional education and citizenship.

Teaching and Learning Resources

Religious education will be funded to enable a range of resources on different religions to be purchased, such as books for teachers, pupils and the library; posters, CDs, DVDs and artefacts. The school makes use of guidance material produced by the Diocese. Funding will also allow, where possible, visits to different places of worship and INSET opportunities for staff. All resources will be listed, stored, be easily accessible and kept in good condition. Resource banks will be available for both staff and pupils on all major religions and world-views as appropriate.

Health and Safety

Health and safety issues may arise in religious education on a number of occasions, for example when pupils:

- Handle artefacts.
- Consume food.
- Visit places of worship.

Teachers will conform to guidelines in the school's health and safety policy in these circumstances.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

Assessment in religious education will:

- Involve identifying suitable opportunities in schemes of work such as Understanding Christianity.
- Be directly related to the expectations of the Understanding Christianity Units and the Diocese of Canterbury Agreed Syllabus.

- Seek to identify development in the different areas of learning in the subject and not only in the acquisition of factual knowledge.
- Recognise the range of skills and attitudes which the subject seeks to develop.
- Employ well defined criteria for marking and assessments which identify progress and achievement as well as effort, following the school's marking policy.
- Include pupil self-assessment.
- Enable effective tracking of pupil progress to identify areas for development in pupil's knowledge and understanding, as well as whole school areas for development. This will involve the use of both low stakes 'flashbacks' to support retrieval practice, along with summative assessment of attainment.
- Enable effective reporting to parents.

Assessment of RE in the EYFS

Learning in the EYFS is covered within many areas of the Early Learning Goals, notably 'Understanding the World', 'Communication and Language' and 'Literacy'. However, we will collate specific information on the progress and attainment of pupils in RE in addition to the Early Learning Goals data. This information must be purposeful and have a direct impact on planning and therefore teaching and learning.


Assessing RE in the EYFS may look different to other year groups, but the fundamental principles of why and how children are assessed will be the same:

- What have the children learnt?
- What are the children finding challenging, and how can this be addressed?

Role of RE Subject Leaders

The subject leaders will:

- Ensure that all pupils receive their legal entitlement of religious education.
- Ensure RE provision reflects the Church of England Statement of Entitlement.
- Produce and regularly review a subject policy to ensure that it remains up to date.
- Ensure all teachers know what should be taught in religious education, what resources are available, and what standards of attainment are expected at the end of each Key Stage.
- Monitor and review the implementation of policy and units of work.
- Monitor the quality and effectiveness of teaching and learning in RE and pupils' progress and standards.

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- Ensure there are rigorous assessment systems in place to enable teachers and pupils to gauge progress and attainment in RE.
 - Monitor, analyse and question RE assessments carried out by staff.
 - Liaise with the HT and Governors to feedback on the monitoring and impact of RE across the school.
 - Support colleagues by sharing new ideas and pedagogy, to help develop their subject confidence and expertise through CPD opportunities and support sessions.
 - Seek opportunities to share effective practice locally and regionally and engage in professional development for themselves and other staff members.
 - Oversee the RE budget and monitor RE resources to ensure they are kept and stored respectfully and replaced where necessary.
 - Ensure there is a school protocol that covers safeguarding procedures and a suitability process, for when visitors are invited into RE lessons.