



Religious Education Curriculum Overview

Our School Vision

Jesus said 'I have come that you may have life in all its fullness' (John 10:10).

At St Mary & All Saints we believe the purpose of education is to nurture and enable every child to flourish so they can be the person they are fully capable of being.

Our vision is to enable each child to reach their full potential, both spiritually and intellectually, within a loving, safe and nurturing environment where they are central to all that we do. We are inclusive and welcoming to those of all backgrounds and faiths; all individuals are respected, supported and nurtured.

Our values of *kindness*, *curiosity* and *readiness* underpin every lesson, every experience and every day in our school.

We want every child to:

- be **kind** so they **become** responsible and caring citizens in their communities
- be **curious** so they **grow** into confident, resilient and independent learners
- be **ready** so they can **enjoy** and **take full advantage** of every opportunity in life

Our vision extends beyond the school gates, where we hope to see our wider community touched by the values lived by everyone in the school. We feel that in walking through life together we can all flourish so everyone can live life in all its fullness.

Intent - Why do we teach this? Why do we teach it in the way we do?

As a Church of England School, the Christian faith is the foundations of everything that we do at St Mary and All Saints. In all learning and life experiences, we aim to fulfil our school vision (as above). We promote an environment where all children feel known, accepted, and valued as individuals, within a caring community, where our Christian faith affects not only what we teach, but also how we teach.

We believe that it is fundamental for the children to belong to a safe and nurturing community, founded on strong Christian values where children will develop an array of skills that will enable them to make their own positive contribution to our global society.

Our aims for all the children in RE are:

- To provoke challenging questions about the ultimate meaning of life, beliefs about God, the nature of reality and morality.

- To develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of Christianity, other principal world religions, religious traditions and world-views, which offer answers to ultimate questions.
- To encourage pupils to develop their sense of identity and belonging, in order to flourish within communities, as responsible citizens in society and global communities.
- To teach pupils to develop respect for others and their beliefs and helps to challenge prejudice.
- To prompt pupils to consider their responsibilities to themselves and to others, and to explore how they might contribute to their communities and to wider society encouraging empathy, generosity and compassion.

Implementation - What do we teach? What does this look like?

Our whole curriculum is shaped by our school vision which aims to enable all children, regardless of background, ability, additional needs, to flourish and become the very best version of themselves they can possibly be.

The statement of entitlements lays out the entitlement of all children to receive a high-quality Religious Education which supports them in all aspects of their learning.

“Religious education in a Church school 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” (Statement of Entitlement)

The statement lays out the details of coverage of the RE curriculum in church schools. We ensure that we fully meet the requirement of the statement of entitlement for Church schools.

Our RE teaching is informed by Discovery RE. This scheme of work ensures that we are teaching about a multitude of religions that are revisited throughout the Key Stages to enable a progression of learning across the school.

In Early Years the children spend time exploring the religions of Christianity and Judaism in the first two terms. The children think about the celebrated festivals in the Christian calendar, linking this to the celebrations in Judaism. The final term brings this together with exploring special stories and places of a multitude of religions.

Years One and Two build upon this teaching as the children look in more depth at what Christians believe - the children take time to ask 'Big Questions' and make connections across religions. The children also learn about Judaism in Year One and are introduced to Islam in Year Two.

Key Stage Two builds upon the learning of Christianity, Sikhism, Judaism and Islam with the addition of Hinduism in Year Three. The children are encouraged to think critically and ask questions of a religion as each half term focuses on a 'Big Question'.

These religious topics have been chosen specifically from the 'Discovery RE' scheme to support and make links with our topics as part of the creative curriculum.

When planning, teachers begin by referencing the Pan-Berkshire Agreed Syllabus.

We use a variety of teaching methods including art, music, discussion, the development of thinking skills, drama, the use of artefacts, pictures, stories, and the use of reflection.

Impact

What will this look like? By the time children leave our school they will:

- Ask and offer possible answers to challenging questions about the meaning of life, beliefs, nature of reality and morality.
- Have a secure understanding and knowledge of the religions studied and be confident to answer ultimate questions.
- Have the ability to ask significant and reflective questions about religion and demonstrate a good understanding of issues relating to the nature, truth and value of religion.
- Have a sense of self, identity and belonging to flourish within the community and be responsible citizens.
- Show respect, tolerance and understanding of all religions and beliefs.
- Have a strong understanding of how the beliefs, values, practices and ways of life within any religion come together.
- The ability to link the study of religion and belief to personal reflections on meaning and purpose.
- The ability to exemplify the School's Christian values in all aspects of life that are rooted in the teachings of the Bible.