

St Saviour's C of E Academy

Religious Education Policy

Summer 2020

Introduction

Religious Education is unique in the school curriculum as it is neither a core subject nor a foundation subject but the 1988 Education Act states that,

'Religious Education has equal standing in relation to core subjects of the National Curriculum in that it is compulsory for all registered pupils'.

Religious Education is taught in our school because it makes:

"...a major contribution to the education of children and young people. At its best, it is intellectually challenging and personally enriching. It helps young people develop beliefs and values and promotes the virtues of respect and empathy, which are important in our diverse society. It fosters civilised debate and reasoned argument and helps pupils to understand the place of religion and belief in the modern world." (RE: Realising the potential, Ofsted)

This embodies our ethos *'Believe, achieve, grow with Christ'*

St Saviour's C of E Academy is a Church of England Academy. We deliver RE in line with the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus. We use the Discovery RE and Understanding Christianity programmes as our schemes of work, supplemented with additional materials from Lichfield Diocese and the local church.

The RE policy is informed by the National Guidance:

RE in English schools: Non-statutory guidance 2010

RE: Realising the potential Ofsted 2013

A curriculum Framework for RE in England, 2013

Encouraging students to think critically about religion and ethics Ofsted 2014

Staffordshire agreed syllabus Nov 2016

SIAMS inspection framework April 2018

Christian Values

We identify the values of Friendship, Honesty, Respect, Perseverance, Forgiveness and Aspiration. These values are embodied in the New Commandment that Jesus gave us: John 13:34-35

"...love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples".

We also actively seek to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection.

Values Education

We blend Christian teaching and Values Education in order to create opportunities for children to develop physically, emotionally, personally, socially, mentally and intelligently so that their self-esteem and well-being is sound and supported by ever growing emotional intelligence; leading to an understanding of their rights and responsibilities as young citizens.

Aims and objectives

RE teaching at St Saviour's C of E Academy meets the requirements of our locally agreed syllabus. It aims to:

- Adopt an enquiry based approach, beginning with the children's own life experience before moving into learning about and from religion.
- Develop pupil's knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other principal religions.
- Develop an awareness of religious traditions.
- Reflect on the meaning and importance of religious teachings for the believer.
- Encourage pupils to consider how religious teachings can apply to their own lives.
- Encourage pupils to explore their own beliefs (religious or non-religious).
- Provoke challenging questions about the meaning and purpose of life, beliefs, the self and issues of right and wrong, commitment and belonging.
- Teach pupils to develop respect for others, including people with different faiths and beliefs, and helps to challenge prejudice.
- Prompt pupils to consider their responsibilities to themselves and others, and explore how they might contribute to their communities and to wider society.
- Encourage empathy, generosity and compassion.
- Develop a sense of awe, wonder and mystery.
- Nurture children in their own spiritual development.

How R.E. is organised in this school

Teachers plan RE lessons using the 'Understanding Christianity' and 'Discovery RE' resources to meet the statutory requirements of the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus. Understanding Christianity and Discovery RE bring together learning about and from religion, questioning and spiritual development in a comprehensive scheme of learning. Teaching strategies are varied. Each enquiry starts from the children's own life experiences using these as a bridge into the investigation of the religion being studied.

RE is timetables each week for 1 hour. It is taught at least two thirds of the academic year by the class teacher. A wide range of activities, including drama, discussions, art and music are used to investigate religious teaching. Work is sometimes recorded in individual RE books and at other times in the class RE big book.

Differentiation/Inclusion

Re teaching at St Saviour's C of E Academy is fully inclusive. Teachers tailor each enquiry to meet the needs of the pupils in their classes. All children are encouraged to contribute to whole class discussions and participate in storytelling and drama activities. A variety of ways of recording work are used including comic strips, pictures and voice recording.

Assessment

Teachers use children's responses (oral and written) to assess the progress with their learning. Teachers aim to address misconceptions and factual inaccuracies at the discussion and writing stage. Each enquiry has an end of enquiry assessment which is used to determine progress. Teachers record whether children are below expected, expected or at greater depth at the end of each unit.

Reporting to parents/carers

Parents are informed about their child's learning and progress during parent's evenings and within the end of year report.

Monitoring and evaluation

RE is monitored by the RE lead and SLT. Feedback from monitoring is given to individual members of staff. Training needs are identified and actioned following monitoring.

External contributors

RE gives particular opportunities to promote an ethos of respect for others, challenge stereotypes and build understanding of other cultures and beliefs. This contributes to promoting a positive and inclusive school ethos that champions democratic values and human rights.

Learning environment

- Teachers establish a safe, open and positive learning environment, based on trust between all members of the class, adults and children.
- Respect of others views and respect for others belief is expected at all times.
- Articles of faith are handled with respect and care.
- Each classroom has a distinctively Christian worship/reflection area.

Teaching sensitive and controversial issues involving parents and carers

Sensitive and controversial issues are certain to arise in learning from real life experience and discussing personal beliefs.

Topics are presented using a variety of views and beliefs so that pupils are able to form their own informed opinions, but also respect that others have the right to have different opinions.

Teachers are never expected to discuss their own beliefs unless they feel comfortable doing so and can ensure that this will not influence or restrict the children's own expression. They must uphold and respect the Christian ethos of the school.

Links to other policies and curriculum areas

There are clear links to RE and staff are aware that they may need to refer to the following policies when appropriate:

SEND, Collective worship, SMSC, Teaching and learning, Equal opportunities, Safeguarding and Health and safety.

Training and support for staff

Training needs are identified following monitoring. Staff meetings are used to address any CPD requirements.

Review Summer 2023