

## **St. Laurence C of E (A) Primary School**



### **RE POLICY**

#### **Our Vision**

A Community where  
every member, from the tiniest seed to the fullest tree, is nurtured and cared for.  
Everyone can flourish and be ready to fly the nest and soar high.  
We come to grow, learn, love and be loved.

*It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade." Mark 4:30-32*

#### **Introduction**

In St Laurence C of E (A) School, RE plays an important role in supporting the Christian ethos of the school. RE reflects the vision and values that are held and promotes understanding of people of all faiths and none. RE has the same high status as any other subject and contributes to the overall development of our pupils from all backgrounds and traditions.

#### **The Legal Position**

Every maintained school in England must provide a basic curriculum (RE, sex and relationship education and the National Curriculum). This includes provision for RE for all registered pupils at the school, except for those withdrawn by their parents (see paragraph below). The school, in accordance with its Trust Deed, provides religious education for all pupils registered at the school. Following advice from the Oxford Diocesan Board of Education, the governors decided that religious education in our school should be based upon the Oxfordshire Locally Agreed Syllabus for RE 2015-2020 while also reflecting the requirements of the Statement of Entitlement for Religious Education published by the Education Office of the Church of England in June 2016. The statutory section 48 (SIAMS) inspection will evaluate RE and the way that it contributes to the Christian character and vision of the school and look for evidence of progress and attainment. Religious education has the same status and importance as any other subject and, as such, the same high standards are applied to this as to other subjects.

#### **Purpose and Aims of RE**

The purpose of RE is to teach children about the religious and non-religious world-views that they will encounter in modern Britain and enable them to engage in meaningful and considered dialogue with those of all faiths and none. This is religious literacy.

Therefore, the aims of RE in our school are:

- To enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living faith that influences the lives of people worldwide and as the religion which has most shaped British culture and heritage.
- To enable pupils to know about and understand other world religions and world views and their impact on society, culture and the wider world.
- To enable pupils to consider and express their own ideas and insights.
- To contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and their own spiritual and philosophical convictions.  
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.

## Curriculum and Time Allocation

The RE curriculum at St Laurence C of E (A) School, has been approved by the governors. Christianity is taught in every year group, with key concepts revisited on a spiral curriculum. Approximately two-thirds of the time is devoted to Christianity. Other religions are covered according to the syllabus; e.g. Judaism in KS1, Hinduism & Sikhism/Islam in KS2.

The agreed syllabus has four aims for RE

- to enable pupils to understand the nature, role and influence of different religions, traditions, beliefs and lifestyles in the world;
- pursue personal quest for meaning, purpose and value;
- formulate reasoned opinions/arguments in relation to controversial issues and truth claims;
- develop understanding of and respect for different beliefs and lifestyles.

The total time for RE is between 5% and 10%, and it is taught in dedicated lessons/blocks/cross-curricular settings as appropriate. The time dedicated to RE is separate from the time given to Collective Worship. In KS1 this will amount to approximately 36 hours per year; in KS2 this rises to 45 hours per year.

## Teaching, Learning and Assessment

RE is taught using an enquiry based approach, that is challenging and robust. An enquiry-based approach is focused around Big Questions and an investigative approach, as recommended by the Diocesan Scheme of Work, Understanding Christianity and the Discovery RE Scheme of Work. It is recommended in the National Statement of Entitlement.

Learning will be organised to encourage the development of attitudes such as self-awareness, respect for all, open-mindedness, appreciation and wonder, as well as providing opportunities to engage appropriately with Fundamental British Values. All faiths are treated respectfully, and opportunities will be made to engage in age-appropriate, meaningful discussion. Where possible pupils will encounter believers and visit places of worship.

A variety of resources, styles, and techniques will be used as appropriate to enable all children to make progress in RE regardless of their starting points, ability or background.

Assessment procedures will be robust and in line with the assessment procedures and feedback policy of the school. Students will engage in a variety of activities which will also enable teachers to assess what they have learnt. Records kept will include information about pupils' experiences and judgements about their attainment and progress, as well as being used to inform planning.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

The RE subject co-ordinator and SLT will monitor teaching and learning in RE in accordance with school policy. The RE subject leader will observe teaching, conduct book and planning reviews and pupil interviews when appropriate to assess the quality of teaching and learning. The headteacher and governors will ensure that adequate monitoring takes place and that the impact of such activity is assessed.

## Resources

The RE subject leader will ensure that RE resources are kept up-to-date and that staff are informed when new resources are purchased or made available electronically. Resources will include source materials (e.g. Bibles, visitors, artefacts) where appropriate and be treated with respect by all staff.

## The Right of Withdrawal

Pupils may be withdrawn from RE or part of RE by a parent or guardian in accordance with Schedule 19 to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998; teachers can exercise their right to withdraw from teaching the subject. However, we hope that all parents and teachers will feel comfortable with the type of religious education being taught at this school. Parents who wish to withdraw their children must provide written notification to this effect and provide suitable activities for their children. The school will keep pupils safe, but will not provide any work or reading material for pupils who have been withdrawn.

## Policy Review

This policy should be reviewed regularly in line with schools' procedures. An annual review is recommended if possible, but review must be done within a 3-year period.

Date 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Signed N Cooper            (Headteacher)

Approved B Newey        (Chair of Governors)