

ST BARNABAS CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL



Religious Education Policy

Mission Statement

St Barnabas Church of England School aims to provide a safe, caring Christian environment where each child is valued, nurtured and given the opportunity to thrive educationally, personally and spiritually.

Working together we can aspire, learn and achieve through our Christian Values of Forgiveness, Honesty, Kindness, Love, Obedience and Respect.



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Religious Education Policy

Our school's R.E. policy conforms to the legal requirement of the Education Reform Act, 1988 (see Circular I/94). This act requires R.E. to be taught to all registered pupils in school as part of the foundation curriculum

The law states that R.E. must be taught according to the local agreed syllabus in county and controlled schools. At St Barnabas we follow the Northamptonshire Agreed Syllabus as currently the Peterborough Diocesan Board of Education recommends the Northamptonshire Agreed Syllabus for use in all Church of England Schools in the Diocese of Peterborough.

Aims of R. E. at St Barnabas

We are a voluntary controlled church school and have close links with St Barnabas Church. We introduce the children to the Christian traditions and those of other faiths. Through teaching the programmes of study of the Northamptonshire Agreed Syllabus (including School Designed Units) we aim to enable pupils to begin to explore their own beliefs, to think about and question their hopes and fears and to gain tolerance towards each other.

Religious education is a fundamental part of our school and as such enables us to achieve our whole school aims and ethos.

How R.E. contributes to our whole school aims and ethos

We are a Church of England school and our pupils come from a wide range of home backgrounds and experiences. Two of our school aims state:

- To encourage the pupils to value themselves and others within the Christian ethos of the school
- To provide a caring community in which everyone can interact sympathetically and empathetically, recognising and accepting individual differences with tolerance.

We recognise the particular potential in religious education for offering opportunities to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural and social development of our pupils whilst acknowledging that this development is a whole school issue.

How R.E. contributes to the spiritual and moral development of our pupils

We aim to offer pupils experiences upon which they may reflect on issues beyond the here and now and on issues of the purpose and meaning of life. Through stories, role-play, dance and exposure to customs and beliefs of other faiths, pupils are encouraged to understand more about their own beliefs. Children also begin to gain an understanding of and tolerance towards other social and cultural groups. Through the use of particular stories pupils are encouraged to explore problems and dilemmas, human relationships and emotions. We aim to help pupils to distinguish right from wrong behaviour.

How R.E. contributes to the Social and Cultural development of our children

Through our R.E. teaching we aim to enable pupils to gain a greater understanding about living and working together in a community. Much of our teaching encourages co-operative group work, communication, negotiation and respect of other peoples' viewpoints. Individual's achievements are noted and celebrated; these could be as varied as rewarding a particularly effective piece of work or a spontaneous, kind action.

Our pupils come from a variety of cultural backgrounds. We recognise these differences and value each child's interests and achievements. We consider this diversity as an excellent resource to broaden all our children's experience through music, stories and artifacts.

R.E. and the use of language

R.E. can also make an important contribution to pupil's use of language by enabling them to acquire and develop a specialist vocabulary; communicate their ideas with clarity and listen and respond to the views and ideas of others.

How R.E. is organised at St Barnabas School

At St Barnabas School R.E. is taught within the whole school curriculum in specific units for each year group. Some topics will be R.E. focused, others will have a smaller R.E. content and some aspects of R.E. will be addressed as discrete units. The balance will be addressed over the year. We aim to have a 5% time allocation for R.E. during the year. This complies with the Northamptonshire Agreed Syllabus expectation of 70-80 hours in the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1. We ensure continuity and progression by identifying appropriate elements for each year group.

Assemblies will be used as a stimulus for some aspects of R.E. These assemblies may be followed up in the classroom and some aspects of R.E. in the classroom may be developed further in assemblies.

Approaches to teaching Religious Education

R.E. is an exciting curriculum subject so we employ a variety of teaching methods:

These include; visiting places of worship and receiving visitors from faith communities.

We use St Barnabas church on a regular basis as an additional resource to our R.E. teaching, and for the celebration of festivals.

Other approaches include;

- Using stories, art, drama, music, pictures and photographs to enrich students understanding.
- Using artifacts to help pupils develop their understanding of religious beliefs and forms of expression.
- Developing discussion as a means of formulating and defining their ideas.
- Developing the use of ICT including the internet to promote understanding of religions and beliefs.
- A prayer corner in the library enables pupils' time for quiet reflection and to be able to develop their own thoughts and ideas.

All staff have a responsibility for the teaching of R.E. This will be monitored by the Head Teacher, R.E. co-coordinator and R.E. Governor to ensure continuity and progression. Monitoring will include observation, sharing good practice and agreeing levels achieved at the end of Key Stage 1.

In order to implement and deliver the R.E. curriculum teachers may need to undergo professional development training and will attend courses as necessary.

Equal Opportunities and Inclusion

Through our R.E. teaching we hope to help children to have respect and value for their own as well as other cultures and religions. As our children are from a wide variety of backgrounds, our R.E. teaching draws on the strengths of their previous and current experiences.

Resources

We regard the church as a valuable resource. We regularly invite visitors with a particular expertise to deliver assemblies or talk to the children, e.g. Gospel Hall (cSalt), Christian Assembly Team (CAT), Open the Book, Leapfrog, Jesus and Me (JAM), and Reverend Christine (Vicar of St Barnabas C.E. Church). JAM also holds an after-school club for pupils to attend.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

The Northamptonshire Agreed Syllabus has identified two attainment targets and key stage statements relating to them. Children will be assessed on these attainment targets and their achievements recorded at the end of Key Stage 1. Children's progress in religious education is reported to parents annually.

Right of Withdrawal from Religious Education

We firmly believe that RE is an important subject in pupils learning. We fully recognise the legal right of parents to withdraw their children from all or any part of RE. We do encourage parents to contact the Head teacher if they have any concerns about RE provision and practice at the school.