

BROAD CHALKE CE VA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Religious Education Policy

Mission Statement: With the love of God, we learn, care, grow and share.

Introduction

Religious Education (RE) is unique in the school curriculum in that 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 2013).

According to the 2011 Statement of Entitlement to RE in C of E schools the aims of Religious Education in church schools are:

- To enable pupils to encounter Christianity as the religion that shaped British culture and heritage and influences the lives of millions of people today
- To enable pupils to learn about the other major religions, their impact on culture and politics, art and history, and on the lives of their adherents
- To develop understanding of religious faith as the search for and expression of truth
- To contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual / philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own faith and beliefs

Also from 2014:

- To teach children the British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

However RE alone cannot achieve these aims; they are part of a whole school ethos.

Teaching and Learning about Christianity

Christianity is the major religion which is studied in our school. At least two thirds of our RE teaching will be about Christianity. Understanding Christianity as a living religion is the foundation of pupils' Religious Education in schools. It is important that this draws on the richness and diversity of Christian experience in the breadth of its Anglican and other denominational forms, and in the variety of worldwide forms. The encounter must be an open one which stems from and instils respect for different views and interpretations and in which real dialogue and education takes place. Pupils will be enabled to deepen their understanding of God as encountered and taught by Christians.

Teaching and learning about other faiths and world views

Church schools have a duty to foster an accurate and increasing understanding of world religions and world views. As a result, pupils will gain greater insight into the world in which they are growing up. They will also be able to appreciate the faith of others and develop a deeper understanding of their own beliefs and practices. These outcomes must contribute to harmonious relationships within and between communities, promoting social inclusion and combating prejudice.

Organisation

- We deliver RE in line with the locally agreed Wiltshire syllabus and in accordance with the Trust Deed of the school.
- We draw on units of work from Discovery RE and Understanding Christianity.
- We have developed a whole school subject plan for RE.
- We believe that RE is about subject knowledge, critical / evaluative thinking and personal spiritual development.
- RE is an important part of the whole education of the child and threads throughout the curriculum.
- RE will be allocated at least 5 - 10% of curriculum time.
- RE will be taught to all pupils unless any parent exercises their right for their child to be withdrawn (see below in 'Legal Status').
- RE is sometimes taught in the form of whole school RE Days which cover a unit of work for each class in a creative and engaging way, allowing for a deeper understanding to be explored.

Approach

RE should always be appropriate to the age, aptitude and ability of the pupils, in a meaningful and relevant way. RE will be well planned, adopting a range of teaching strategies including class, group and individual learning activities. The use of art, drama, music, story, artefacts, discussion and questioning, reflection, visits and visitors are all vehicles for effective teaching and learning in RE.

Special Needs

To ensure inclusion for all pupils, teachers will respond to pupils diverse learning needs and set suitable and appropriate tasks.

Legal Status

The Governors of Broad Chalke VA CE Primary School are responsible for the Religious Education policy of the school. The policy has been drawn up by the RE Co-ordinators with the initial approval of the staff and Headteacher. The Religious Education policy for the school follows the guidelines set out in the agreed syllabus for Wiltshire and those of the Diocesan Board of Education. Parents have a legal right to withdraw their child from religious education. The school would require a written request and a discussion with the Headteacher to make appropriate arrangements for supervision.

Recording and Assessment

Assessment should be part of the teaching and learning process and planned into the programme of study. Over the academic year both knowledge and skills should be assessed 3 times a year. Assessment will take place in a variety of different ways, including oral question-and-answer sessions based on discussion and reflections on completed work. Each class has an assessment folder which follows them through the school and contains assessment sheets and samples of work. Evidence of work can be found in children's individual RE books.

Provision for Monitoring and Review

The teaching and learning of RE will be monitored and reviewed annually by the Headteacher, RE co-ordinators and other staff. Strengths and areas for development will be highlighted and noted on the RE position statement. The RE Policy itself should be reviewed every two years.

Adopted by FGB:	Spring 2015
Reviewed	March 2016, Sept 2017
Next review due	Autumn 2019

Subject Leaders: Katie Hill & Annie Cadge

*RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOLS

A Statement of Entitlement from the Board of Education/National Society Council 2011