

St Matthew's High Brooms CE Primary School

Powder Mill Lane
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RE Policy

Headteacher: Mrs Stephanie Hayward
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Fulfilling God-given potential

*Distinctive Christian values-
Honesty, Kindness, Respect, Responsibility*

Policy Statement for Religious Education

'Fulfilling God-given potential'

At St Matthew's School we recognise that each person has unique gifts and seek to enable them to fulfil their God-given potential.

"See how very much our father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are!" (1 John 3 v1, New Living Translation)

"I feel proud to be part of a community that has been designed by God. We are all part of his plan. If we are made in God's image, he must think that we are perfect." Joshua Y5

Introduction

At St Matthews' High Brooms Primary School, pupils and their families can expect a high quality religious education (RE) curriculum that is rich and varied, enabling learners to acquire a thorough knowledge and understanding of a range of faiths and world views. As a church school, the teaching of Christianity is at the heart of our RE curriculum. Through the Understanding Christianity resource, the use of an enquiry approach engages with significant theological concepts and the pupil's own understanding of the world as part of their wider religious literacy. Using the *Kent Agreed Syllabus(2017)* we learn about other religions and world views, fostering respect for them. Links with our Christian values and vision, and support for pupil's spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development are intrinsic to our RE curriculum and have a significant impact on learners. We provide a wide range of opportunities for learners to understand and to make links between the beliefs, practices and value systems of the range of faiths and world views studied.

Aims

RE has a particular contribution to make towards the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural education of each pupil. It involves learning about religion i.e. understanding what people believe and do, and how they express themselves, and also learning from religion i.e. making sense of who we are, of life, and of right and wrong. We encourage respect for religious commitment and for those holding different beliefs. As stated in the Church of England Religious Education Statement of Entitlement, religious education in this school aims

- To enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living faith that influences the lives of people worldwide and as the religion that has most shaped British culture and heritage.
- To enable pupils to know and understand about other major world religions and world views, their impact on society, culture and the wider world, enabling pupils to express ideas and insights.
- To contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own beliefs and values.

Objectives

As stated in the Church of England's Religious Education Statement of Entitlement, appropriate to age at the end of their education in our school, the expectation is that all pupils are religiously literate and as a minimum pupils are able to:

- Give a theologically informed and thoughtful account of Christianity as a living and diverse faith.
- Show an informed and respectful attitude to religions and world views in their search for God and meaning.
- Engage in meaningful and informed dialogue with those of other faiths and none.
- Reflect critically and responsibly on their own spiritual, philosophical and ethical convictions.

Teaching and learning

RE has a high profile within our school curriculum. Quality teaching in RE helps generate respect for different views and interpretations where real dialogue takes place. Learners develop and use a wide range of higher level skills such as enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection to deepen their understanding of the impact of religion and world views as lived by believers. Key cross-curricular skills such as reading, writing, observation, and discussion are practised. Religious Education is taught in accordance with the Kent Agreed Syllabus (2017). The majority of units in this scheme focus on one religion at a time, to avoid confusion and to do justice to the distinctiveness of each religion. Christianity is taught using the 'Understanding Christianity' scheme and the teaching units which cover other faiths have been provided by the Rochester Diocesan Board of Education. Children are assessed on their knowledge and understanding of core religious concepts. This ensures children make progress and achieve at least in line with age related expectations in developing an understanding of Christianity and a range of other world religions and on other world views as appropriate.

RE offers a wide variety of teaching and learning experiences, understanding that pupils learn best in different ways. Pupils will experience opportunities to learn and express themselves through an enquiry based style of learning by:

- Listening to the teacher and each other.
- Reading of texts.
- Seeking information for themselves in libraries and on computers.
- Discussion with the teacher and other pupils.
- Pair and group work.
- Using a range of media such as artefacts, pictures, photographs, music and drama.
- Visits and visitors.
- Artwork.
- Outdoor learning.
- Time for reflection.

Differentiation and Special Educational Needs

Policy and practice in Religious Education reflects whole school policy and encompasses the full range and ability of all pupils. All pupils' contributions are valued in RE as they draw on their own experiences and beliefs. A range of teaching and learning strategies to achieve differentiated learning are used including task, outcome, resource, support and pupil grouping. Tasks are planned to be challenging and sufficiently demanding to stimulate and engage all pupils whilst extending those pupils who are more able.

Breadth and balance

Although work on Christianity will predominate, there will be in-depth work on the major world religions and on other world views as appropriate. Teaching will seek to bring about a deeper knowledge and understanding of religious traditions but also to develop a range of skills such as the ability to empathise and evaluate attitudes, and develop respect for diversity.

Equal Opportunities

Religious education will challenge stereotypes, misinformation and misconceptions about race, gender and religion. It seeks to present religions and world views in all their richness and diversity in terms of beliefs, traditions, customs and lifestyle in a sensitive and accurate way in order to encourage a positive attitude towards diversity. All questions, views, and opinions will be treated with sensitivity and respect.

Relevance

Teachers will establish clear links between elements of religious belief and practice and aspects of the children's own lives. Teaching will enable pupils to gain something of personal value from their study of religious belief and practice, for example, the way that they might apply insights gained from religious stories to their own lives. This will be done through engaging pupils in an enquiry based style of learning and by posing challenging questions to and by pupils.

Cross-curricular links

Religious Education supports the development of general educational abilities such as literacy, empathy, and the ability to express thoughts, feelings and personal beliefs. RE also makes a major contribution to pupils' SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) development. It addresses issues which arise in a range of subjects, such as English, Drama and History, Geography, Computing, Music as well as Personal, Social and Emotional Education and Citizenship.

Health and Safety

Health and safety issues may arise in RE on a number of occasions for example, when pupils:

- Handle artefacts
- Consume food
- Visit places of worship

Teachers will conform to guidelines in the school's health and safety policy in these circumstances.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

Assessment in religious education will:

- Include teachers' observations during lessons
- Involve identifying suitable opportunities in schemes of work such as Understanding Christianity
- Be directly related to the expectations of the Kent Agreed Syllabus and the Understanding Christianity resource
- Seek to identify development in the different areas of learning in the subject and not only in the acquisition of factual knowledge.
- Recognise the range of skills and attitudes which the subject seeks to develop.
- Follow the Assessment, Marking and Feedback Policy
- Encourage pupil self-assessment within lessons.
- Enable effective tracking of pupil progress to identify areas for development in pupil's knowledge and understanding, as well as whole school areas for development.
- Enable informed annual reporting to parents.

Role of the RE subject leader

The subject leader will:

- Ensure that all pupils receive their legal entitlement of religious education. (Statement of Entitlement June 2016 The Church of England Education Office)
<http://www.rdbe.org.uk/uploads/pdf/Statement%20of%20entitlement%202016.pdf>)
- Produce and regularly review a subject policy to ensure that it remains up to date
- Ensure all teachers are aware of what should be taught in religious education, what resources are available, and what standards of attainment are expected at the end of each Key Stage.
- Support colleagues and help develop their subject expertise.
- Monitor and review the implementation of policy, schemes of work, the quality and effectiveness of the delivery of RE, pupils' progress and standards.
- Liaise periodically with the **SLT** and Governors.
- Seek opportunities for professional development for themselves and other staff.
- Order resources.
- Monitor assessments.
- Monitor the teaching of RE in school, providing support and guidance for teachers.

Resources

Religious education will be funded to enable a range of resources on different religions to be purchased, such as books for teachers, pupils and the library; posters, CDs, DVDs and artefacts. The school makes use of guidance material produced by the Diocese. Funding will also allow, where possible, visits to different places of worship and provide training for staff. All resources will be stored, be easily accessible and kept in good condition in the RE cupboard.

Legal Requirements

Religious Education is part of the curriculum for all children.

From the time of the 1944 Education Act, parents have had the right to withdraw their children from RE lessons. The school must comply with any request from a parent to withdraw their child and parents are not

required to give their reasons for wanting to do so. However, in view of the Christian ethos and distinctive Christian character of our school, we would hope that all children admitted will participate fully in RE, and that anyone wishing to withdraw their child would discuss this with the Headteacher before making this decision.