



Our aim is as simple as **ABC**

Achieving, Belonging, Caring

'Be courageous, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go' Joshua 1:9

Religious Education Policy

2018

Proud to be a Church of England School

We are proud to be Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) School and have strong links with our Church, St. Mary's, and other local churches. Our Christian Values are an integral part of the character of our school and are reflected in the daily life and work throughout the day.

We welcome children and families of differing religious beliefs and recognise and celebrate a variety of religious and cultural traditions that reflect the lives of our children

Inclusion and Ethos

Our Christian Foundation and Values form the basis of our everyday lives. We believe that all children and adults have the right to be treated equally, with respect and with dignity. We aim to prepare children to live harmoniously in a multicultural society, to value their culture and to have respect for other cultures.

We are committed to giving children equal opportunities to succeed in all subjects by identifying and addressing potential barriers to learning. Within RE staff will plan the content, pace and style of teaching to match the profile of the class and include all learners.

We aim to ensure the core standards in our Equality Statement are an integral part of our inclusive curriculum.

We take account of our duties under equal opportunities legislation that covers race, disability, sex, religion or belief, sexual orientation. Racism in any form is unacceptable in our school.

At Cubbington Church of England School we believe that Religious Education both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life.

Our caring ethos, and the value which we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in the RE curriculum.

Religious Education Syllabus

We follow the SACRE Warwickshire and Coventry Agreed Syllabus for teaching Religious Education. We have created our own schemes of work based on using Understanding Christianity and Discovery RE. Concepts and key questions are arranged in year groups to ensure that there is breadth and balance of study throughout the school. Discovery RE supports us in teaching other religions and faiths and Understanding Christianity ensures that children develop a deep understanding of the Christian faith.

Key Objectives

We aim to enable children of all abilities and levels of development to:

1. Acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of principal world faiths practised in Great Britain. These include Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism.
2. Develop an understanding of the influence of beliefs, values and traditions on individuals, communities, societies and cultures, including the local community.
3. Develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues with reference to the teachings of the principal religions.
4. Enhance their own spiritual, moral, social and cultural development by:
 - developing awareness of the fundamental questions of life arising from human experiences, and how religious beliefs and practices can relate to them;
 - responding to the fundamental questions of life in the light of their experience and with reference to religious beliefs and practices;
 - reflecting on their own beliefs, values and experiences in the light of their study;
 - expressing their own personal viewpoints in a thoughtful, reasoned and considerate way;
5. Recognise the right of people to hold different beliefs within an ethnically and socially diverse society.

Content

The RE curriculum seeks both to a) impart knowledge and b) develop understanding of religious experiences, feelings and attitudes. Content is focused around six key areas:

- **Beliefs and teachings** - e.g. stories, religious leaders, books, God/gods, self-sacrifice, truth, life after death;
- **Religious practices and lifestyles** - e.g. people, festivals, pilgrimages, places, events, artefacts, lifestyle choices, actions, effects on individuals;
- **Ways of expressing meaning** - e.g. sacred texts, art, music, literature, symbolism, poetry, dance, drama, prayer, forms of religious and spiritual expression, silence/stillness;
- **Human identity, personality and experience** - e.g. belonging, preferences, relationships within family and community, influences on own lives, inspirational people;
- **Questions of meaning and purpose** - e.g. amazement, sadness, disappointment, joy, awe, in connection with the natural world and life's journey, making sense, ultimate questions of life raised by life experiences;

- **Values and commitments** - e.g. values, ethics, principles, rules, morality.

Organisation and the Creative Curriculum

As a Church of England School we welcome our Vicar, Rev Graham, and other local Ministers into school to enhance and support our teaching.

Every class has a discrete RE lesson each week. Where appropriate, and to enhance children's understanding and wider experience, RE may be linked in to thematic learning.

The content, organisation and delivery of the RE curriculum supports the 3 major 'Drivers' within our Creative Curriculum:

- 1) Developing Self Awareness and Motivation
- 2) Growth and Independence
- 3) Diversity in the Wider World

These aim to ensure that our children develop their personal abilities and attributes alongside specific subject knowledge and skills.

Lessons involve some direct teaching and whole class, group, paired or individual activities. A range of teaching styles are used including enquiry, exploration, discussion, asking and answering questions.

Where possible we also use the following:

- visits to places of worship and visitors from other religions; enabling children to experience at first hand people of different faiths and objects, symbols, places, events and stories within those faiths,
- role play; encouraging children to learn through familiar or unfamiliar settings and ask questions from their own encounters,
- artefacts; being able to explore items which are precious and/or used in religious worship, encouraging respect and questioning whilst deepening knowledge,
- families; we value the family backgrounds of the children and aim to make everyone part of the school community.

Assessment, recording and reporting

Teachers use a variety of informal and formal activities to support their judgements of children's' progress and achievements. These include: discussion, group activities, marking and guiding work, observing, displaying work, asking and answering questions. We aim to involve children in reflecting on their own progress and achievement wherever possible and also give opportunities for peer assessment and support. Guidance on assessment is included in Understanding Christianity and Discovery RE. We have developed a system for identifying and recording attainment for each unit taught. Teachers complete this at the end of every unit.

At the end of the summer term the Annual Report includes an indication of a child's attainment in RE throughout the year.

Resources

Resources to support the teaching about different religions, including artefacts and specific books, are kept in a central store. The library also contains a good supply of Religious Education books. Within the guidelines of the ICT and eSafety policies, the internet can be used to support children's individual research.

Withdrawal from Religious Education

Families have the right to withdraw their children from Religious Education if they so wish. They are not obliged to state their reasons but should notify us in writing if they wish to do so.

In such an event, we are responsible for the supervision of any child withdrawn by their families unless the children are lawfully receiving education from elsewhere.

Monitoring

The Subject Leader liaises closely with the Vicar, Foundation Governors and the Link Governor to ensure that Religious Education has a high profile in school and developments are in line with the Strategic direction of Cubbington as a Church of England School.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years or in line with changes made to Understanding Christianity and Discovery RE.

Juliet Jones
September 2018