

# St James CE, Hanney.

## RE Policy

### Introduction

In St James Church of England School, RE plays an important role in supporting the Christian ethos of the school. RE reflects the 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. Respect, perseverance and trust are our school values, and these underpin all that we do at St James.

### The Legal Position

Every maintained school in England must provide a basic curriculum (RE, sex education and the National Curriculum). This includes provision for RE for all registered pupils at the school, except for those withdrawn by their parents in accordance with Schedule 19 to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. As a voluntary controlled school, RE is therefore taught in accordance with the Locally Agreed Syllabus (<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/religious-education>) 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 the way that RE contributes to the Christian character of the school and the teaching of RE will reflect this requirement.

### 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 James CE school, follows the Locally Agreed Syllabus for Oxfordshire. Christianity is taught in every year group, with key concepts revisited on a spiral curriculum. Approximately 2/3rds of the time is devoted to Christianity. Other religions are covered according to the syllabus, for example Judaism in KS1 and aspects of Hinduism, Islam and Sikhism at KS2.

The total time for RE is between 5% and 10%, and it is taught as appropriate in weekly lessons, blocks of time or it is integrated into other aspects of the curriculum, such as Literacy. The time dedicated to RE is separate to 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. 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 with the appropriate strands of the British Values agenda. All faiths will be 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. See the V.A.T SEND policy for further information.

Assessment procedures will follow those of the Agreed Syllabus and be in accordance with other assessment and feedback procedures in 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 leader 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. Head teacher 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; 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.

\*An enquiry based approach is based around Big Questions and an investigative approach, as recommended by the Diocesan Scheme of Work and the Discovery RE Scheme of Work.

## Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually in line with the school's procedure

Date November 2016

Policy to be reviewed November 2016

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ (Headteacher)

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair of Governors)