Religious Education Policy

St Catherine's
CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our Vision:
Love like Jesus with
Our heads and our hearts
Valuing the similarities and differences
Everyone in our St Catherine's family

We use our heads and our hearts

Values that enable us to fulfill our vision:
Love
Wisdom
Community
Dignity
Hope



"Love one another as I have loved you" John 15.12

"The wise listen ..." proverbs

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Introduction

This policy has been written in the light of the Church of England's *Vision for Education* (Autumn 2016), *Valuing all God's Children* (Summer 2019) and through reflection on the 2018 SIAMS Evaluation Schedule for schools.

Legal Position of Religious Education in School

Religious Education (RE) is unique in the curriculum as it is neither a core or foundation subject. The 1988 Education Act states 'Religious Education has equal standing in relation to core subjects of the National Curriculum in that it is compulsory for all pupils'.

St. Catherine's school is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled School and therefore follows the Worcestershire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2020 – 2025.

The Church of England's Statement of Entitlement

The Church of England's *Statement of Entitlement* (February 2019) outlines the aims and expectations for RE in Church of England schools and guides this school's approach to RE.

It begins by stating: 'Religious Education in a Church school should enable every child to flourish and to live life in all its fullness (John 10:10). It will help to educate for dignity and respect, encouraging all to live well together'. Quoting from the Church of England's *Vision for Education: Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good*, it continues: 'Such an approach is offered through a commitment to generous hospitality, being true to our underpinning faith, but with a deep respect for the integrity of other religious traditions (and worldviews) and for the religious freedom of each person'.

Religious Education and our School's Vision

Our Vision:

Love like Jesus with
Our heads and our hearts
Valuing the similarities and differences of
Everyone in our St. Catherine's family.

At St Catherine's school our vision underpins everything we do. Through our RE provision, we provide children with opportunities to gain a deep knowledge, understanding and awareness of Christianity, the other major world religions and non religious world views.

As a school, we are predominantly white British. Therefore, we consider it important to educate our children in the diverse beliefs and traditions of the major world religions, so they can gain the knowledge and understanding and skills needed to handle questions raised by religion and belief, reflecting on their own ideas and ways of living. After all at St. Catherines we strive to learn together using our heads and our hearts.

Religious Education Intent

The intent of Religious Education at St Catherine's School is to:

-Provide staff and children with the knowledge, understanding and awareness of Christianity as a diverse global living faith and its relevance to their daily lives.

- Provide staff and children with the knowledge and understanding of other major world religions and worldviews, their impact on society, culture and the wider world.

- Develop staff and pupils' capacities to engage in a search for meaning and purpose in order to enhance their own spiritual and moral growth.

- To explore their own religious, spiritual and philosophical ways of living, believing and thinking and to develop pupils' willingness to challenge religious, racial and cultural stereotyping.

- To develop children's religious literacy skills, so they can hold balanced and well-informed conversations about religion and belief.

Organisation and Time Allocation

In accordance with the structure of the Worcestershire agreed syllabus 2020, RE is organised that:

- In Reception children study Christianity and other faiths, as part of their growing sense of self, their own community and their place within it.They will be introduced to a range of faith traditions.

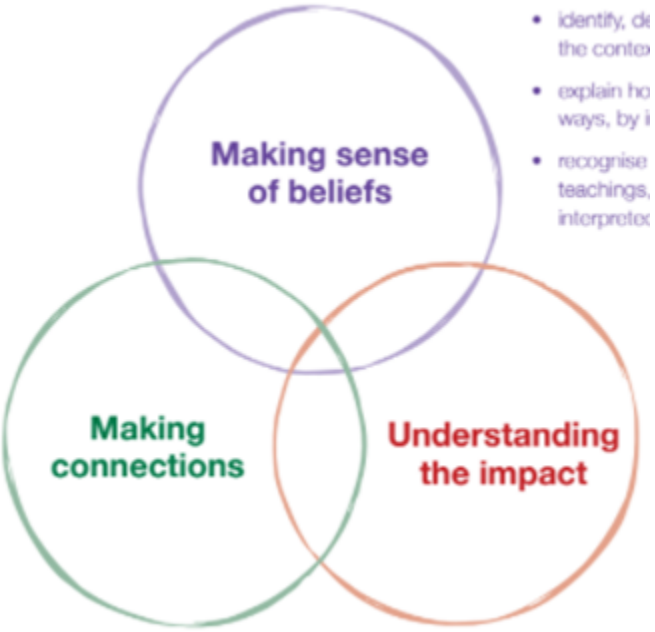
- In Key Stage One pupils will study Christians, Jews, Muslims and non-religious world views.
- In Key Stage Two pupils will study Christians, Jews, Muslims, Hindus and non-religious worldviews.

School Approach to Religious Education

In line with all church schools, this school has a duty to provide accurate knowledge and understanding of religions and world views.

Our English curriculum is book led at St. Catherine's which often means RE lessons are taught discretely. However, where links can be made with other subjects it is encouraged. RE is seen as a core subject and is allocated at least 5% of the curriculum time to ensure sufficient time is given in order to enable pupils to meet the expectations set out in the agreed syllabus. RE is considered to be part of the curriculum time and is separate from collective worship.

Our long term plan focuses on each year group studying two main religions using the systematic units, before exploring the thematic topics towards the latter part of the year. These thematic topics allow children to build on their learning by comparing the religions, beliefs and practices they have studied.



The agreed syllabus has three core elements which are covered in every unit of work. They are woven together to provide breadth and balance within teaching and learning about religions and beliefs.

In order to make religious education a lively, active subject we employ a variety of teaching methods including art, music, discussion, the development of thinking skills, drama, the use of artefacts, pictures, stories, and the use of periods of stillness and reflection.

All year groups, except Reception, have individual RE books to record their work and personal ideas and beliefs. The two Reception classes have a whole class RE Scrapbook, which provides a record of their learning opportunities and the activities they do.

Care is taken throughout the teaching of RE to ensure appropriate language is used. Belief or non- belief is not assumed on the part of children or adults. The phrase ‘many Christians believe’, ‘some people believe’ is used rather than ‘we believe’.

Visits

Throughout their time at St. Catherine’s, our children are given the opportunities to encounter local faith communities through visits to local places of worship, or visits from members of local faith communities. This includes visits to St.Barnabas church, Franche Community church, a Synagogue, Worcester Cathedral, a Mandir and the Islamic centre. We recognise it is vitally important that teachers demonstrate respectful attitudes towards all faiths, modeling the attitudes and responses we would expect from our pupils.

We also have strong links with our local churches and strive to look for opportunities to invite the clergy to join us in our lessons when it is appropriate.

Assessment/ Recording and reporting

The Worcestershire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2020-2025 sets out a structure for recognising pupil achievements and each pupil can work progressively towards achieving the expected end of Key Stage learning outcomes as outlined in the syllabus.

The SLT and RE coordinator are responsible for monitoring the RE teaching and learning across the school. This is done through classroom observations, scrutiny of planning, books and scrapbooks and having conversations both with staff and pupils.

Class teachers will assess their pupils' attainment and progress throughout the year, using a range of formative assessment strategies to form a judgement at the end of each unit taught.

A teacher's assessment is informed by activities including:
- Marking written work
- Observations of discussions
- Observation of group activities
- Discussions with individuals
- Quiz questions based on the key objectives from the unit

School reports are sent home in the Summer term of each year. Parents are told whether children are achieving year group expectations for RE, or working below year group expectations.

Responsibilities for RE in School

The Headteacher has ultimate responsibility for ensuring that the legal framework for RE is carried out and that the teaching of RE fits within the school's distinctively Christian vision. At St.Catherine's School some of the responsibilities for RE may be delegated to other members of staff.

The Subject Leader is responsible for:

- ensuring personal subject knowledge and expertise are kept up-to-date by participating in Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for RE and share good practice
- attending RE cluster meetings
- providing and sourcing in-service training for staff as necessary
- ensuring the staff are familiar with the syllabus and supporting resources such as *Understanding Christianity*
- supporting and clarifying approach to planning, delivery and assessment being clear about the subject's intent, implementation and impact
- acquiring and organising appropriate resources and managing the RE budget
- monitoring the teaching and learning of RE through regular lesson observations, work scrutiny, learning walks and pupil voice and being able to discuss impact and standards, all in conjunction with the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team
- contributing to the SIAMS self-evaluation process, including, but not limited to Strand 7.

The Headteacher, Curriculum Lead and Governors must ensure:

- RE has a high profile within the curriculum
- that the legal framework for RE is upheld within the school
- that all pupils make progress in achieving the learning outcomes of the RE curriculum
- the subject is well led and effectively managed and that standards and achievement in RE and the quality of the provision are subject to regular and effective self-evaluation
- those teaching RE are suitably qualified and trained in the subject and have effective and regular opportunities for CPD
- teachers newly-appointed to church schools are provided with support offered by the diocese to enable them to become effective teachers of RE
- that clear information is provided for parents on the RE curriculum and the right to withdraw
- RE is resourced, staffed and timetabled so that the school can fulfil its legal obligations on RE and pupils make good progress
- appropriate support is in place to ensure the effective provision of RE.

Entitlement

Every pupil has an entitlement to religious education. At St Catherine's school we wish to be an inclusive community but recognise that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from Religious Education lessons. Any parent considering this is asked to contact the Head teacher to discuss their concerns and the provision of alternative Religious Education for their child.