



Religious Education (RE) Policy

Agreed: Spring 2020

Review: Spring 2023

This policy was agreed by the Faith Committee, a sub-committee of the Full Governing Body of Twineham Church of England School.

Introduction

This policy is a statement of the aims, principles and approaches taken to ensuring effective teaching and learning in Religious Education at Twineham Church of England School. It was written and reviewed by teachers and governors following training, staff meetings, monitoring and governor visits considering the Religious Education.

Aims and objectives

Our vision is that everyone is a gift and everyone is gifted; all of God's children are unique, special and will grow to be even more special. Together we will create a fun environment where we feel secure and valued, remembering that we are all made in the image of God.

At Twineham Church of England School, we believe that Religious Education in our school contributes fundamentally towards the development of children's social, moral, spiritual and cultural well-being. We encourage all children to learn about, respect and value the beliefs of others reflecting our Christian values and ethos.

Our Religious Education policy is intended to be a practical working document which sets out clear expectations for the teaching of Religious Education and ensures a consistent approach which can easily be monitored. The school follows the aims and objectives set out in the West Sussex Agreed Syllabus 2015 which sets out what pupils are expected to know and understand about religion, and the skills needed to do this. Through the teaching of Religious Education we aim to ensure that all pupils:

A. Know about and understand a range of religions and worldviews, so that they can:

- describe, explain and analyse beliefs and practices, recognising the diversity which exists within and between communities and amongst individuals;
- identify, investigate and respond to questions posed, and responses offered by some of the sources of wisdom found in religions and worldviews;

- appreciate and appraise the nature, significance and impact of different ways of life and ways of expressing meaning.

B. Express ideas and insights about the nature, significance and impact of religions and worldviews, so that they can:

- explain reasonably their ideas about how beliefs, practices and forms of expression influence individuals and communities;
- express with increasing discernment their personal reflections and critical responses to questions and teachings about identity, diversity, meaning and value, including ethical issues;
- appreciate and appraise varied dimensions of religion or a worldview.

C. Gain and deploy the skills needed to engage purposefully with religions and worldviews, so they can:

- find out about and investigate key concepts and questions of belonging, meaning, purpose and truth, responding creatively;
- enquire into what enables different individuals and communities to live together respectfully for the wellbeing of all;
- articulate beliefs, values and commitments clearly in order to explain why they may be important in their own and other people's lives.

Agreed Approach to Religious Education

At Twineham Church of England School, Religious Education is taught both discretely and, when appropriate, through cross curricular links. To achieve our aims we provide activities and learning experiences which will help children to:

- Increase their awareness of the significance of religious ideas and experiences
- Explore and communicate religious and spiritual thoughts and feelings
- Develop religious, spiritual and moral values
- Clarify and enhance their own ideas about religion and spiritual experience
- Acquire more coherent knowledge about the life and teaching of Jesus Christ
- Understand the structure of the bible and obtain a basic knowledge of its key characters
- Explore the nature of Christian worship and the use of signs and symbols in expressing religious feelings and beliefs
- Acquire knowledge of the teachings of The Church of England, its main festivals and celebrations, and to become familiar with the characteristics, places, artefacts and meanings of important elements of worship
- Understand that there are many different ways of communicating and interpreting different religious and spiritual experiences
- Become aware of a spiritual dimension in their own experience and in the experiences of other individuals and communities

- Acquire a basic understanding of the place of religion in the world and its relevance to personal, social and moral issues
- Understand that it is important not to prejudge others and their ideas, beliefs and commitment just because they are different and/or unfamiliar through explicit teaching of other faiths.

Teaching and Learning

In principle, 5% of teaching is devoted to RE. In practice, this may be spread over a length of time in small timeslots or may be concentrated in larger blocks of time, depending on the nature of the work currently being carried out in the class.

Children need access to materials and artefacts to stimulate interest and to clarify ideas. Boxes of resources are available to support the teaching of the many world religions in school including; Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism and Buddhism.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from RE. Where parents are wishing to exercise this right, parents are asked to put their request in writing to the Headteacher.

Assessment

The standard of learning in Religious Education is expected to be the same high standard as with all other subjects, to ensure that children are shown the importance of the subject in their lives. Written work in will be marked in line with our whole school Marking and Feedback policy. Annual reports to parents include assessments for effort and achievement in RE.

Governors are involved in developing, supporting, monitoring and reviewing Religious Education alongside the Headteacher. This will be undertaken in a number of ways including:

- Regular pupil conferencing
- Learning Walks
- Work scrutiny

These actions will inform the Headteacher as RE leader and play an important role in the development of the school's Christian distinctiveness.