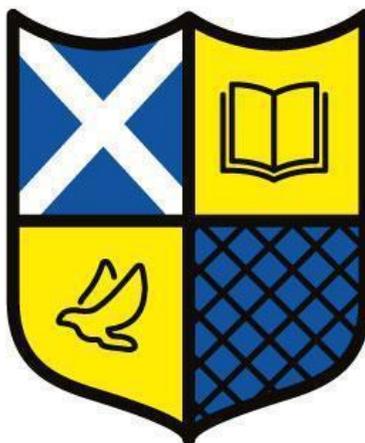


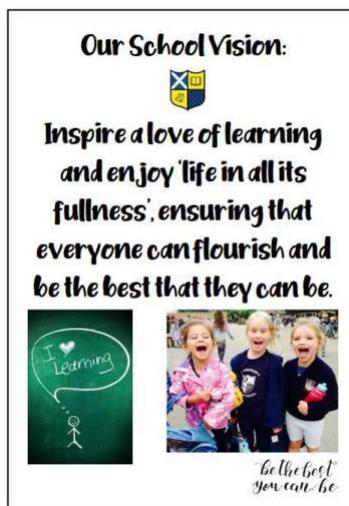
St. Andrew's CE Primary School

RE Policy



Approved by:	Teaching and Learning Committee
Last reviewed on:	March 2024
Next review due by:	March 2026

Inspire a love of learning and enjoy 'life in all its fullness', ensuring that everyone can flourish and be the best they can be. John 10:10



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 educate for dignity and respect encouraging all to live well together.

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 Statement of Entitlement February 2019)

Introduction: The School's Vision

At St. Andrew's, we believe that Religious Education should comprise a broad and balanced curriculum to which all pupils are entitled. We embrace and celebrate the diversity of cultures, beliefs and values that our children bring to our school community. Our School vision underlies everything that we do and RE provides an opportunity to explore our core values: Courage, Curiosity, Joy, Love and Respect. As children grow and progress through the school, our aim is that they respect and appreciate that everybody is entitled to their own set of beliefs and values and that these may differ from their own. Our RE curriculum encourages children to explore challenging 'Big Questions' and provides opportunities to express themselves in a variety of exciting, thought provoking and reflective ways. Children feel comfortable asking their own questions and expressing their own views and opinions in a safe, respectful and supportive environment.

Aims and Objectives of Religious Education

Our aims are expressed through our core school values:

Courage – We want our children to be strong on the inside so that they can face difficult times and take on challenge.

Curiosity – We want our children to be curious, always wanting to know more.

Joy – We want our children to feel good about themselves and to enjoy their lives.

Love – We want our children to live well with other people, showing them love.

Respect – We want our children to treat people the way they like to be treated, to protect other people and to help everyone feel special.

We aim for each child to develop:

A knowledge and understanding of Christianity as a living faith through exploration of core beliefs.

A knowledge and understanding of a range of diverse worldwide religions, beliefs and practices.

Exploration of their own religious, spiritual and philosophical beliefs.

Caring attitudes to the needs and beliefs of other people.

A sense of respect for religious traditions, beliefs and practices.

A sense of awe and wonder and mystery.

An interest and enjoyment in Religious Education.

This is taught through:

Acquiring knowledge of the Christian religion.

Gaining understanding of central beliefs and practices of major world religions including Judaism, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism, enabling pupils to develop a caring attitude and also empathy with people holding different religious beliefs and to respect and value those beliefs.

Developing awareness of how religious belief affects values and behaviour of individuals and communities.

Experiencing living faith through the school community and visitors.

Exploring those aspects of human experience which encourage the children to develop their own beliefs and values, and so contribute to their spiritual, moral, cultural and intellectual development.

Providing opportunities for pupils to relate their own experiences of life to religious beliefs and values and also time to reflect.

Nurturing an environment where pupils feel at ease to ask questions and share ideas.

Developing pupils' spirituality through creativity and imagination as they explore religion.

Links with Our Wider Community

We value the links and relationships we have with the local and wider community. The school has a very strong link with St Andrew's Church and Vicar Dan Henderson as well as links to local charities and organisations. We support and enrich pupil's faith through:

Weekly in school Service with Father Dan.

Additional services at St Andrew's Church for key events through the year. These include services for Harvest, Christingle, Christmas, Easter and Leavers' Services. We invite and encourage parents and carers to join us in our church services.

We support the local and wider community through fundraising. We have supported charities such as Off The Fence, local food banks, Amaze, Children in Need, Red Nose Day and the NSPCC.

We have active school councils who meet regularly to discuss school and wider issues.

Developing pupils' understanding of the wider world community through participation in days and events such as Black History Month and Armistice Day.

SEND and Equal Opportunities

As a school we have a duty and commitment to provide a broad and balanced curriculum to all children. A variety of teaching and learning strategies are used to support all children to make progress taking into account their needs, stage of development and age. Adults are sensitive to the needs, background and family situations of children when planning the lessons. We want all of our children to feel safe, secure and confident to explore their own and other children's beliefs.

Curriculum and Organisation

To ensure the highest quality of learning experiences for pupils and to meet the requirements of the syllabus, the RE curriculum is planned and delivered through a combination of methods to meet the learning needs and styles of the children at our school. RE is taught by the class teacher.

Religious Education is taught mostly through discrete RE units and on occasions where there are meaningful cross curricular links, RE is taught through school topics.

Religious Education at St. Andrew's is taught through an enquiry-based approach. The children are given the opportunity to engage, enquire, explore, evaluate and express their ideas

Christianity is taught using materials from the resource 'Understanding Christianity' (UC). Other faiths are taught using materials from 'The Emmanuel Project' (TEP). Both of these resources provide depth and breadth of learning through progression across year groups

The schemes of work have been planned to meet the requirements of the Brighton and Hove Syllabus. This considers the recommended balance of curriculum time for Christianity and other world faiths

Early Years	Christianity	Key festivals celebrated by pupils in the cohort
Year 1	Christianity	Judaism
Year 2	Christianity	Judaism
Year 3	Christianity	Hinduism
Year 4	Christianity	Islam
Year 5	Christianity	Judaism/ Islam
Year 6	Christianity	Buddhism

Religious Education is taught for at least one hour a week or as a block of time if the unit of work lends its-self better to this.

In Reception, in addition to learning through UC, pupils follow a Christian scheme of work devised by Jill Vaisey* involving 'Puddles the Cat'. This is tailored to meet the needs of the Early Years curriculum. Children also listen to stories from other world faiths and learn about key religious festivals such as Diwali or festivals celebrated by pupils in the particular cohort.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

In Religious Education, effective evaluation requires a personal knowledge of the children in terms of character for example; values, attitudes, co-operation and responsibility.

Teachers assess pupils' learning throughout each unit. The forms of assessment used are in line with the whole school assessment policy and include: -

- Reviewing of children's work in RE books in line with the marking policy.
- Observing the children at work, e.g. pupil voice, drama, mime, role-play, music.
- Listening to and being part of pupil discussion in RE lessons either individually or in groups.
- Assessing pupils against the UC 'Building Blocks'.
- Pupil's achievement in RE is reported in the annual pupil report to parents.
- Recording end of unit (UC) assessments are recorded onto the tracker sheets.

Responsibility for RE

Class Teacher

To ensure the work being covered is appropriate and sensitive to pupils, regardless of religious background.

To plan engaging, inspiring lessons using The Understanding Christianity and The Emmanuel Project resources. Planning will enable opportunities for children to make sense of the text, understand the impact and make connections while exploring a 'big question'.

To use a variety of resources and techniques to encourage curiosity, interest and enjoyment such as music, art, ICT, drama and moments of reflection.

RE Subject Leaders

To understand the requirements of the RE Guidelines for Church of England Aided Schools set out by Brighton and Hove and the Diocese of Chichester alongside The Religious Education in Church of England Schools: A Statement of Entitlement.

To monitor the teaching and learning of RE across the school.

To sustain professional development; keep up to date with current initiatives within Religious Education, to attend appropriate courses, ensure staff are aware of relevant courses and attend local cluster meetings.

To lead in the preparation and review of policy documents, curriculum plans and schemes of work for Religious Education.

To provide support to staff in the development of schemes of work, medium term plans, assessment and differentiation.

To provide support to new staff in order for them to understand and be able to effectively use and plan RE using the UC and TEP resources.

To update, purchase and organise new resources when necessary.

To write the RE action plan and update and implement initiatives.

To lead INSET and staff meetings as and when necessary on aspects of the development in Religious Education.

In partnership with the Head Teacher and SLT, be responsible for the monitoring and evaluating of Religious Education.

Monitoring of RE

RE will be monitored regularly throughout the year by the RE subject leaders in order to assess the quality of pupil's learning and progress and also the effectiveness of the teaching of RE.

This will be done through:

Book looks.

Discussions with staff.

Planning checks.

Pupil voice.

Subject leaders and pupil Faith Council meetings.

*Gill Vaisey is a qualified teacher and Religious Education Consultant specialising in Primary and Early Years education. She provides training and support for LAs, Church Dioceses, Schools and Nursery Settings across England and Wales

RE Subject Leaders Jo-Anne Gibson and Lucy Kaufmann