

**St John's Upper Holloway CE Primary
School**



Religious Education (RE) policy

March 2022

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Religious Education (RE) Policy 2022-2023

Vision statement

Our Vision

Jesus said: 'Love each other as I have loved you'. John 15:12

As we are loved, so we shall love.

As we are taught, so we shall teach.

As we are nurtured, so we shall flourish.

Our Mission

St John's is a small, caring Church of England Primary School. It is committed to supporting our pupils to be happy, successful and fulfilled throughout their lives. We believe that everyone is unique and valued by God. We aspire to be a high achieving school that provides an outstanding education:

- ❖ promoting the highest standards of teaching and learning, with excellent leadership
- ❖ being inclusive, celebrating diversity and valuing all religions, faiths, cultures and backgrounds
- ❖ providing a rich and stimulating curriculum that will inspire and challenge
- ❖ being a happy, healthy and safe place
- ❖ providing excellent care, guidance and support with a strong partnership between school, parents and the community.

We seek to promote six Christian values of creativity, thankfulness, truthfulness, friendship, perseverance and courage, each linked by our core value of love. We believe these help to prepare our children for a successful and fulfilling life, so being:

- ❖ considerate and respectful with excellent manners
- ❖ confident, happy, independent and self-motivated
- ❖ co-operative and collaborative
- ❖ honest and trustworthy
- ❖ resilient, hardworking and determined
- ❖ highly principled with moral, spiritual, cultural and social awareness, including shared British Values.

Background

Our school is situated within an increasingly diverse community, reflecting a multi-faith and multi-racial community, which we recognise and value. The school aims to reflect the local community while ensuring that the Christian foundations are still maintained.

The words of Robert Runcie are very significant with regard to the position of Church of England schools:

"A Church school nourishes Christians in their faith, encourages those of other faiths and challenges those with no faith."

Aims

The following aims are taken from the LDBS scheme of work, as our main priorities:

- To foster spiritual awareness by developing a sense of awe, wonder, mystery, joy and sorrow at the created world.
- To enable all children to become religiously literate.
- To ensure RE enables all children to live life in all its fullness – vision for Education (Church of England).
- To offer a systematic enquiry-based approach to the teaching of RE so that the following skills are developed:
 - Ability to be critical thinkers
 - Ability to engage critically with texts
 - Ability to ask deep and meaningful questions
 - Ability to make connections within and across religions and world view
 - Ability to reflect, respond and express their own religious, spiritual and/or philosophical convictions
 - Ability to make their own choices and decisions concerning religion and belief based on a deep knowledge and understanding of religions and worldviews, belief systems, values and practices.

Legal framework

It is a legal requirement that Religious Education be taught to all pupils.

In voluntary aided schools the Governing Body is responsible for the syllabus for RE. The Head teacher and staff work with and under the direction of the Governors. It is the Governors' responsibility to ensure that RE is provided for all pupils in accordance with the Trust Deeds. Where these are missing, the religious education provided should be in harmony with the teachings and practices of the Church of England.

The law contains a "conscience clause" which gives parents the right to withdraw their children from religious education. This applies to both community and voluntary aided schools.

RE and the school curriculum

RE flourishes in schools when it is given equal status with other subjects of the National Curriculum. RE is a core subject in our school.

In voluntary aided schools the time allocated to RE and the content is determined by the Governors. In law, RE is a fundamental entitlement of all pupils and should therefore be given its place as part of the basic curriculum.

Time allocation of RE/ requirements

RE should have approximately 5% of curriculum time. In Key Stage 1 this equates to about 40 hours per year and in Key Stage 2 about 45 hours per year.

This can be calculated to approximately 1 hour 20mins per week, or if required, 2-3 hours in a more concentrated period in the school year.

- **Professional responsibility** – teachers should be honest about their own ideas and at the same time ensure that they understand what their role is in the teaching of RE. All new staff are made clear as to the Christian foundation of our school and that when becoming part of a Church of England school, they must uphold the aims and ethos of the school, and

implement the RE and Worship policies. Support is provided by the RE leader and through LDBS advice for those teachers needing help with the planning and delivery of RE. Children should be helped to gain confidence in asking questions, seeking answers and reflecting on their own experiences.

- **RE and Worship** – RE and Worship are separate areas of the curriculum. When planning for the curriculum, worship cannot be regarded as RE time; in our school we do not include worship time as part of the RE allocation.
- **Resources** – each religion covered in RE lessons has a topic box which is located in the Resource room. Each box contains artefacts, photographs and helpful activities to deliver the curriculum. Each classroom also has an RE/worship area which displays two age appropriate bibles, Published and class made Prayer Books, candle, cross, School prayer and the Lord’s Prayer.
- **Spirituality** – This permeates all aspects of school life (see Worship and Spirituality policies)
- **Differentiation** – RE is differentiated according to the age, year group and ability of the individual child.

Scheme of work/ planning

The school uses the LDBS scheme of work.

- This is mapped into year groups. The LDBS scheme of work makes provision for all classes from Reception up to Year 6. We also provide a foundational programme for our Nursery, based upon core Christian stories as an introduction to Christian teachings and principles.
- From the LDBS scheme of work we have long term maps, then onto weekly planning formats by the class teacher.
- The RE leader is responsible for reviewing and updating these maps annually.
- The RE Leader is responsible for reviewing and evaluating teacher’s planning, books and assessments.

Each class teacher has a copy of their appropriate scheme of work. Additional resources to support planning, teaching and learning are located in topic resource boxes (located centrally in the school). There are also materials to support the teaching of Godly Play, which is plotted onto the RE Curriculum map and encouraged to be taught once a term at the teacher’s discretion) Teachers also receive additional resources from the School Library Service (SLS) to enhance their RE lessons.

Assessment

The school uses the LDBS Assessment guidelines to evaluate the impact of our teaching and learning in the education and lives of our children.

Reviewed: March 2022

Next review: March 2023

Signed by head teacher _____ date _____

Signed by chair of CS&W committee _____ date _____