



# St Andrew's CE Primary School

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## **Policy for Religious Education.**

"Love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12) is at the heart of St Andrew's Primary School as we guide our young people through their journey- not just their educational journey; a journey that allows them to flourish socially, emotionally and academically knowing

that 'God is always with us' to help all our children Love, Learn, Grow, Flourish.

At St Andrew's Primary, we believe that religious education is paramount to nurturing our children's wellbeing, helping our young people to grow spiritually, morally and culturally; we believe that religious education is the stepping stone to children understanding and being part of their local community, but also the wider-ever changing- world and the pressures and responsibilities this may bring; we believe religious education is central to our children having a better understanding of themselves as well as tolerance, respect and understanding of others from all backgrounds locally and across the globe.

The RE curriculum is determined by the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE), which is responsible for producing the locally agreed syllabus for RE. Schools with a religious designation may prioritise Christianity within their R.E curriculum, but all schools must recognise diverse religions and systems of belief in the UK both locally and nationally.

In brief, legislation requires that:

- academies and free schools must teach RE within the requirements for a locally agreed syllabus, set out in section 375 (3) of the Education Act 1996 and paragraph (5) of Schedule 19 to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The requirements are that a syllabus must 'reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are, in the main, Christian while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain'
- for foundation and voluntary controlled schools with a religious character, RE must be taught according to the Agreed Syllabus unless, parents request RE in accordance with the trust deed of the school; and
- in voluntary aided schools RE must be taught in accordance with the trust deed.

As a village school at the heart of a close Christian community, we feel that religious education unifies both our school and the community together, wrapping around our children to create a safe, caring and nurturing environment led by God.

*This policy should be read in conjunction with the Single Equality Policy. The general equality duty requires that, in the exercise of their functions, schools must have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010. This school endeavours to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations for all.'*

### **Aims**

We believe that Religious Education makes a major contribution to children's learning especially in terms of their spiritual awareness and development as individuals.

'All children need to acquire core knowledge and understanding of the beliefs and practices of the religions and worldviews which not only shape their history and culture but which guide their own development. The modern world needs young people who are sufficiently confident in their own beliefs and values that they can respect the religious and cultural differences of others, and contribute to a cohesive and compassionate society.' (National Association of Teachers of Religious Education).

We aim to help pupils to:

- 1) Grow in their spiritual development through reflection on their feelings and relationships and develop skills and attitudes which will support our children in their personal, moral and social development.
- 2) Develop in their knowledge and understanding of Christianity, its impact on our local community and on society today.
- 3) Think about their beliefs and values in the light of the beliefs and values of others, including religious traditions and values of the school community.
- 4) Develop knowledge and understanding of the other principal religions in Great Britain and the world.
- 5) Develop the skills of reflection, empathy, enquiry and communication and attitudes of respect, sensitivity, open mindedness and self esteem.

### **Curriculum Balance and Curriculum Time Allocation:**

As a Church school, St Andrew's Primary School understands that Christianity should be the majority religion studied in each year group at 50%. Religious Education within our school aims to have dedicated curriculum time and is taught discreetly by class teachers. At St Andrew's, we acknowledge that the teaching is separate from requirements for collective worship; collective worship must not be

considered curriculum time for R.E or the teaching of R.E.

Religious Education at St Andrew's Primary School is timetabled to one hour a week, although this, as one concentrated hour, may differ and is at the discretion of the class teacher, particularly in early years.

### **Approaches**

In order to make Religious Education a lively, active subject we employ a variety of teaching methods including art, discussion, drama, the use of artifacts, pictures, photographs, videos, stories, books, and the internet as well as using of periods of stillness and quiet reflection. We visit local places of worship and listen to visitors from our local faith groups. Much of our work in religious education begins with children's own experiences and emphasizes how special and unique they are.

Religious Education at St Andrew's CE Primary School is organised through units of work from the Understanding Christianity and Discovery RE schemes supplemented by events which occur throughout the year which are natural learning opportunities, ie Christmas, Easter, Ramadam, etc.

### **Assessment**

Assessment will:

- be a continuous process identifying strengths and weaknesses;
- involve children in the process, reflecting and reviewing, questioning and answering;
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Evidence is provided by:

- children's work, photographs, displays, questioning.
- Reflection and discussion on work completed allowing for teacher-child self evaluation

### **Legal Requirements regarding Individual Withdrawal from Religious Education**

#### **Pupils:**

Parents may withdraw their children from RE lessons or any part of the RE curriculum and the school has a duty to supervise them, though not to provide additional teaching or to incur extra cost. Where the pupil has been withdrawn, the law provides for alternative arrangements to be made for RE of the kind the parents want the pupil to receive. These arrangements will be made by the parents; the school is not expected to make these arrangements. This RE could be provided at the school in question, or by another school in the locality. RE is provided for all pupils, and is inclusive and broad minded. Parents do have the right to withdraw pupils from RE: if parents wish to do this, they should be

encouraged to make an appointment with the head teacher or R.E subject leader. The school does not support selective withdrawal from R.E.

**Teachers:**

Teachers may withdraw from the teaching of RE unless they have been specifically employed to teach or lead and manage RE. An application to withdraw must be given in writing to the head and chair of governors. Pupils must not miss out on RE teaching because a teacher has withdrawn from teaching RE. The school must make alternative provision for the pupils to be taught RE.

**Summary**

We hope that Religious Education at St Andrew's CE Primary School is an interesting, exciting and relevant activity for our children to share in. We regard it as a particular area of the curriculum where the values and school ethos 'come alive' in the classroom. We are aiming to help children develop respect and sensitivity for all people and to understand more of the importance of religion in today's world.