



St Barnabas' C.E. Primary School

Religious Education Policy Statement

Introduction

St Barnabas' C.E. Primary School is made up of pupils who originate from many nationalities, cultures and faith groups. As a school we aim to celebrate this diversity and offer a welcoming and inclusive environment to all our pupils.

Definition

Religious Education is the study of ways of living based on sets of beliefs and practices. It promotes an understanding of the way in which cultures develop and a knowledge, acceptance and respect for the variety of human responses to life's key experiences.

Aims

Religious Education should help pupils to develop a positive attitude to all people, respecting each other's beliefs and customs.

Objectives

We want our children to

- Acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism. Developing an understanding of the influence of beliefs, values and traditions on individuals and societies, and how religion has shaped and inspired human history and culture, influencing developments in art, music, architecture and literature.
- Develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues, with reference to the teachings of the religions listed above.
- Enhance their moral, spiritual and cultural development, helping to develop acceptance, consideration and a concern for justice, equality and truth, through the study of religious teachings and practices.
- Develop the skills of:
 - Interpretation
 - Reflection
 - Empathy
 - Evaluation
 - Analysis
 - Synthesis
 - Application
 - Expression
- upon which progress in Religious Education is dependent
- Develop and strengthen attitudes such as commitment, equality, respect, self-understanding and enquiry that are fundamental to Religious Education.

Curriculum

The school uses the new Oxfordshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2015-2020 as a basis for planning and also takes account of additional advice provided by the Diocese of Oxford. This means that our RE programme recognises that the religious tradition of Britain is 'in the main Christian whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of other principal religions', as required by the 1996 Education Act.

The school is set in a multi-cultural, multi-religious community and we value the various cultures present in the school and wish to build on the first-hand experience of pupils and their parents whenever possible. At each Key Stage there is an emphasis on Christianity, as well as Judaism in KS1, and Islam and Hinduism in KS2. Festivals and celebrations of other faiths that are represented in the school are also studied.

RE is taught in the context of the classroom by the class teacher following the Diocesan Scheme of Work. This is based on the Attainment Targets as laid out in the Oxfordshire Syllabus.

1. Learning about religion, key aspects, practices, significance and expression within community, celebrations and symbols.

2. Learning from religion, reflection and response to faith within their own lives

RE is usually delivered as a discrete subject, but with due regard being paid to current themes or topics, as links can often be made with other curriculum areas.

Equal Opportunities

All pupils, regardless of race, ability, gender or religious persuasion, will have equality of access to RE. Parents may exercise their right to withdraw their child from RE lessons under the Education Reform Act (1988) after consultation with the Headteacher.

Appropriate provision will be made to ensure that pupils with special educational needs have equal access.

Management and Support

We draw upon the expertise of the LEA, the Oxford Diocesan advisory team, and other religious organisations for additional support and advice.

RE Co-ordinator: Fiona Young

Date agreed by staff: September 2017

Date agreed by Governors: October 2017

Date for review: September 2020