



ST GILBERT'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

The nature of RE

RE promotes the spiritual, moral, social, cultural and intellectual development of our pupils and helps them to gain a greater understanding of themselves and a more sympathetic awareness of the needs and beliefs of others. This enables pupils to be better equipped to cope with the responsibilities and experiences of adult life promoting integration into modern society.

Legal requirements

RE is unique in the school curriculum in that it is neither a core subject nor a foundation subject but the 1988 Education Act states that 'Religious Education has equal standing in relation to core subjects of the National Curriculum in that it is compulsory for all registered pupils'.

The statutory requirements are to be found in the Education Act (1944) and the Education Reform Act (1988)

1. RE is part of the basic curriculum but not of the National Curriculum. It must be taught according to locally agreed syllabus prepared by a specially convened standing conference.
2. RE must not be denominational but teaching about denominational differences is permitted.
3. RE must be provided for all registered pupils. (In the Foundation Stage this will be planned for through PSED). Parents have the right to withdraw their children from RE lessons.
4. The Educational Reform Act (1988) states that 'RE must reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of other principal religions represented in the country.'

The county agreed syllabus meets the above requirements.

Our school ethos

Our ethos reflects the Christian values that we have chosen to promote as a school:

Trust
Friendship
Forgiveness
Compassion
Service
Thankfulness

These values encompass the Christian principles of self-respect, respect for others, love, compassion and forgiveness. Each individual pupil is important.

St Gilbert's Primary School is a Church of England voluntary controlled school. The school adopts the Locally Agreed Syllabus for Lincolnshire and follows the Discovery RE programme, supplemented with additional material on Christianity from the Lincolnshire Diocese and elsewhere.

Aims and objectives

The school's starting points are the two Attainment Targets in the county agreed syllabus:

1. To develop knowledge and understanding of religion (learning about religion)
2. To explore and respond to human experience (learning from religion)

By following Discovery RE we intend that RE will:

- Adopt an enquiry-based approach as recommended by Ofsted, beginning with the children's own life experience before moving into learning about and from religion.
- Provoke challenging questions about the meaning and purpose of life, beliefs, the self, and issues of right and wrong, commitment and belonging. It develops pupils' knowledge and understanding of Christianity, other principal religions, and religious traditions that examine these questions, fostering personal reflection and spiritual development.
- Encourage pupils to explore their own beliefs (religious or non-religious), in the light of what they learn, as they examine issues of religious belief and faith and how these impact on personal, institutional and social ethics: and to express their responses.
- Enable all pupils to build their sense of identity and belonging, which helps them flourish within their communities and as citizens in a diverse society.
- Teach pupils to develop respect for others, including people with different faiths and beliefs, and helps to challenge prejudice.
- Prompt pupils to consider their responsibilities to themselves and to others, and to explore how they might contribute to their communities and to wider society. It encourages empathy, generosity and compassion. Develop a sense of awe, wonder and mystery.
- Nurture children's own spiritual development.

Entitlement

All pupils are entitled to Religious Education as laid down in the Lincolnshire Agreed Syllabus 2012.

Parents have the right to withdraw children from RE activities. However, by choosing a Church school, Governors expect parents to commit themselves to full participation in the Christian life of the school. We will provide supervision for any child withdrawn.

Implementation

RE is based on the Lincolnshire Agreed Syllabus and follows the Discovery RE programme.

During the Foundation Stage children are encouraged to reflect upon and discuss their own experiences and begin to relate these to themes in stories and religious teachings. These stories and teachings are taken from Christianity, Islam and Judaism. In Key Stage 1, RE work focusses on Christianity, Islam and Judaism, in Key Stage 2 on Christianity, Hinduism, Judaism and Sikhism. References will be made to other religions but they will not be the focus.

Cross-curricular links: Because of the broad nature of RE it will form natural links with a range of other curriculum areas e.g. English, drama, music, art, history, geography and PSHE. RE work will reinforce cross-curricular elements e.g. skills such as observing, questioning, discussing, evaluating and reflection; gender issues, citizenship and multi-cultural education.

RE will be taught through a range of teaching and learning styles including visitors, books, artefacts, visits, drama, DVDs and internet based activities.

As appropriate children will be encouraged to think about people and countries less fortunate than themselves, and about how we can help care for the Earth's resources.

The teaching will involve links with the community including regular visits to All Saints' Church and attendance at All Saints' services at key times during the Church year.

Discovery RE brings together learning about and from religion, questioning and spiritual development in a comprehensive scheme of learning. Each enquiry starts from the children's own life experiences using these as a bridge into the investigation of the religion being studied. Children have the opportunity to express their own thoughts and beliefs and empathise with believers of that religion or belief position.

Each class has an RE display celebrating children's work as well as a dedicated area displaying a prayer book with contributions from the children alongside the school prayer.

Through Discovery RE, many enquiries suggest creative learning activities that allow children to work to their full potential. Each enquiry also has level exemplars for the full range likely for that age group, allowing children to evidence levels from L1 to L5.

Equal opportunities

All children have equal entitlement and equal access to a range of materials to support their learning in RE. Materials have been carefully chosen so that issues relating to race, gender, religious beliefs and social background are handled sensitively.

Staff development

The opportunity will be given for staff and Governors to develop their subject knowledge through attending INSET training days, courses and cluster meetings.

Assessment

Assessment is ongoing and teachers are keen to ensure children are making progress with their learning throughout their RE. Evidence is gathered mainly through observation, oral discussion, written tasks and drawing.

The Foundation Stage children are assessed through the Early Years Foundation Stage profile.