

Religious Education Policy

Approved by Curriculum and Standards Committee: **March 2022**

Review Date: **March 2024**

Proverb 22:6 "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it".

Section 78 (1) of the 2002 Education Act states that all pupils should follow a balanced and broadly based curriculum which 'promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, social, mental and physical development of pupils and of society, and prepares pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life'. Learning about and from religions and beliefs, through the distinct knowledge, understanding and skills contained in RE within a broad-based curriculum, is essential to achieving these aims. Exploring the concepts of religion and belief and their roles in the spiritual, moral and cultural lives of people in a diverse society helps individuals develop moral awareness and social understanding.

[Religious Education in English Schools: Non-Statutory Guidance 2010](#)

Kennet Valley is a Church of England Voluntary Aided School therefore the provision of RE must be in accordance with the Trust Deed of the School. The Governors in consultation with the Head teacher have decided, following advice from the diocese, to adopt the Wiltshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2011 and supplement this with material from the Diocese. These supplements include 'Understanding Christianity' and 'Discovery RE'

Aims in Religious Education

At Kennet Valley C of E VA Primary School we strive to ensure that our Religious Education will;

- ❖ Show each child that they are treated as uniquely gifted in body, mind and spirit
- ❖ Allow them to grow and learn and that these become a way of life for everybody involved in the school
- ❖ Start from the pupil's own perspective and create space in learning opportunities for development in spirituality, beliefs, ideas and attitudes
 - ❖ Allow all children to develop a sense of awe and wonder and mystery about the world around them, while developing their understanding of spirituality.
- ❖ Encourage children to ask challenging questions about the meaning and purpose of life, beliefs, the self, issues of right and wrong, and what it means to be human. This will help to develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of Christianity, other principal religions, and religious traditions that examine these questions, fostering philosophy (year6), personal reflection and spiritual development.
- ❖ Enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living world faith, by exploring core theological concepts
- ❖ Enable pupils to develop knowledge and skills in making sense of biblical texts and understanding their impact in the lives of Christians.
- ❖ Encourage pupils to explore their own beliefs (whether they are 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. This also builds resilience to anti-democratic or extremist narratives.
- ❖ Enable pupils to build their sense of identity and belonging, which helps them flourish within their communities and as citizens in a diverse society. To develop pupils' abilities to connect, critically reflect

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upon, evaluate and apply their learning to their own growing understanding of religion and belief (particularly Christianity), of themselves, the world and human experience.

- ❖ Teach pupils to develop respect for others, including people with different faiths and beliefs, and help 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.

Skills to be developed in Religious Education

Our teaching must stimulate curiosity and develop children's sense of exploration and discovery. We aim to help children to understand that questions in RE will seldom simply be answered by facts. In RE we aim to develop a classroom where inquiry is the norm – children are encouraged to look for alternative possibilities and to be open-minded and flexible in their thinking. We aim to teach children to think for themselves, become flexible learners and draw their own conclusions.

These skills are cumulative across the key stages and include:

- Investigation- searching for answers
- Interpretation- interpreting actions, events, symbols and artefacts
- Analysis and Evaluation- development of arguments based on research and personal belief. Seeking reasons, explanations and alternatives
- Synthesis - linking ideas together to make a bigger picture
- Application - applying learning to own beliefs, ideas experiences and those of others
- Communication – sharing/communicating own thoughts, beliefs, ideas and showing an ability through communication to empathise, accept criticism and develop as a well-rounded, balanced person

We aim to encourage and develop the key attitudes detailed in the Agreed Syllabus including:

- Self-awareness
- Respect for all
- Open-mindedness
- Appreciation and wonder

We also recognise that RE will make the following contributions to the wider curriculum:

- Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- Personal development and well-being
- Community

RE has an important part to play as part of a broad, balanced and coherent curriculum to which all pupils are entitled. High quality learning experiences in RE are designed and provided by careful planning based on Discovery RE and Understanding Christianity. Teachers adapt and supplement the schemes of work as appropriate for their class. In order to make religious education a lively, active subject we employ a variety of teaching methods including art, music, discussion, the development of thinking skills, drama, the use of artefacts, pictures, stories, and the use of periods of stillness and reflection.

Where possible we want our pupils to have opportunities to encounter local faith communities through visits to local places of worship or visits from members of local faith communities.

Religious Education at Kennet Valley School is delivered in the following way.
We use as a basis for our planning on Understanding Christianity and Discovery RE.
These include

- At KS 1 pupils study Christianity as the primary focus and Judaism as our secondary focus
- At KS 2 pupils study Christianity as the primary focus, Judaism as the secondary focus and Islam as the tertiary focus. Children also learn about aspects of Hinduism and Buddhism

Assessment and Monitoring of RE

Assessment

At the end of each unit of work, teachers will assess the children based on their work and contributions during class activities. On occasions, where relevant, an assessment task may be given. This task could include children completing a 'Double Page Spread' about the unit that they have covered.

Attainment of the children will be recorded on the year group RE tracking sheet where progress throughout each year can be monitored. Children will be judged to be working towards, working at or working beyond the expected standard. Teachers may also use a floor book to record the children's learning and evidence their discussions and progress. Parents receive an annual report of their child's progress in RE.

The children are encouraged to develop skills to enable them to self-assess their progress in RE and to understand how to improve their RE work. RE has a key focus on the School Development Plan and plays a major role in the Self Evaluation Process.

Each pupil will complete tasks during their learning that will form part of the assessment work done in RE. In accordance with the new syllabus assessment will form an integral part of the normal teaching and learning routine linked to learning intentions.

Monitoring

The RE subject leader and Senior Leadership Team will monitor RE within the school through analysis of this assessment data, through lesson observations, through work sampling and through pupil interviews. This information will feed into the Church school self-evaluation process.

Reporting to parents

On an annual basis, the school reports to parents on attainment and progress in RE based on teacher judgement.

The Right of Withdrawal from RE

At Kennet Valley School we wish to be an inclusive community but recognise that parents, of course, have the legal right to withdraw their children from religious education on the grounds of conscience. However, the right of withdrawal does not extend to other areas of the curriculum when, as may happen on occasion, spontaneous questions on religious matters are raised by pupils or there are issues related to religion that arise in other subjects such as history or citizenship. We would ask any parent considering this to contact the head teacher to discuss any concerns or anxieties about the policy, provision and practice of religious education at Kennet Valley C of E VA Primary School.

The right of withdrawal of any child, requested by a parent, will be respected, on receipt of a letter addressed to the Headteacher.

Subject Leader - Mrs Emma Russell