



Marhamchurch CofE Primary School RE Policy



In our school, our Christian vision shapes all we do.

Mission Statement: Together, we can achieve and succeed with God by our side.

'Religious education in a Church school should enable every child to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate for dignity and respect encouraging all to live life well together.' RE Statement of Entitlement from the Church of England Education Office Feb 2019

Introduction

Marhamchurch CofE Primary School is part of a larger Multi Academy Trust (Celtic Cross Education). As part of this larger group of schools a number of policies apply to more than one school.

There is one CD lead for the Celtic Cross Education, attending the Christian Distinctiveness committee (CDC) meeting held termly. The CD lead works closely with the coordinator of the school, all clergy and visiting professionals as well as reporting back to the CD committee by the form of a written report.

Policy Statement

Religious Education (RE) has a high profile within the curriculum at Marhamchurch School and makes a significant contribution to preparing pupils for their future lives. Learning activities provide fully for the needs of all learners. We aim for children to be inspired by the subject and to develop a wide range of skills such as enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation, and reflection. Christianity is taught as a living and diverse faith, focused on the teachings of Jesus and the Church, alongside a range of religions and worldviews. Religious Education encourages pupils to learn from different religions, beliefs, values and traditions while creating a safe space for them to explore their own beliefs and questions of meaning.

The importance of Religious Education in the curriculum

Religious Education provokes challenging questions about the meaning and purpose of life, beliefs about God, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human. Through this and in the general ethos of the school, we seek to promote our mission statement ('[Together, we can achieve and succeed with God by our side.](#)') and school Christian values ([respect, compassion, friendship, forgiveness, thankfulness and creativity](#)).

Legal Requirements

Marhamchurch CofE Primary School is part of the Celtic Cross Multi-Academy Trust. The School Monitoring Council (SMC), in consultation with the Head of School, have

decided, following advice from the diocese, to adopt and adapt the Cornwall Locally Agreed Syllabus and supplement this with material from a range of sources.

Religious Education 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.

Section 48 of the 2005 Education Act requires the inspection of religious education in schools which have a religious character. This is the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS).

Managing the right to withdraw

Parents have a right by law to withdraw their children from the Religious Education curriculum. In this event, we will undertake responsibility for their supervision with regard to health and safety. Information on these arrangements will be discussed with the Head of School. There will always be opportunity for parents to discuss the contents of the RE curriculum should they have concerns.

Aims of RE

- To enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living faith that influences the lives of people worldwide and as the religion that has most shaped British culture and heritage.
- To enable pupils to know about and understand other major world religions and world views, their impact on society, culture and the wider world, and to appreciate the diversity, continuity and change within those religions and world views.
- To engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose.
- To contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own beliefs and values.

Key Attitudes in RE

RE has a number of key attitudes it seeks to promote. These include self-esteem (so that every child feels valued and significant), respect (including being sensitive to the beliefs, feelings and values of others), open-mindedness (being willing to learn and gain new understanding) and appreciation and wonder (developing children's imagination and curiosity).

Teaching and Learning

In line with the Church of England RE Statement of Entitlement [2019] at Marhamchurch School we aim to provide:

- A curriculum that enables pupils to acquire a rich, deep knowledge and understanding of Christian belief and practice
- A curriculum that draws on the richness and diversity of religious experience worldwide
- The opportunity for pupils to deepen their understanding of the religion and world views as lived by believers

- A pedagogy that instils respect for different views and interpretations; and, in which real dialogue and theological enquiry takes place
- Engaging and varied learning activities that provide for the needs of all learners, supported by high quality resources
- The opportunity for pupils to develop a wide range of skills including enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection
- RE that makes a positive contribution to SMSC development and also to pupils' understanding of British values
- An assessment process which has rigour and demonstrates progression based on knowledge and understanding of core religious concepts

Implementation

- Religious education may be taught in a 'whole class' setting but with flexibility to allow for discussion, questioning and reflection in small groups and individually
- Visits to local churches (St Marwenne Church) and other places of worship are encouraged
- Religious education is an exciting curriculum subject so we employ a variety of teaching methods, which include:
 - Teacher presentations
 - Using role play, drama and story telling
 - Questions and answer sessions, discussions and debates
 - Individual and group research
 - Use of IT, film, podcasts, radio and websites in helping children's awareness of religions and beliefs.
 - Receiving visitors from faith communities (especially our Priest in Charge) on a regular basis. Other visitors, for example Daya, to work with classes on Hinduism, Buddhism and/or Sikhism.
 - Using music, dance, art and design.
 - Using dressing up and cooking.
 - Children experiencing times of quiet reflection to develop their own thoughts and ideas.
 - Using story, pictures and photographs.
 - Using artefacts to help children develop their understanding of religious beliefs and forms of expression.
 - Discussing religious and philosophical questions giving reasons for their own beliefs and those of others.

Curriculum balance and time

RE is delivered as a discrete subject and accounts for between 6% to 10% of curriculum time. Of this curriculum time, in accordance with the structure of the Cornwall Agreed Syllabus, we have agreed 65% will be focused on Christianity.

Monitoring, Evaluation, Assessment, Recording, Reporting

- SMC have responsibility for monitoring how the RE in the school reflects its Christian vision.
- The Head of School has overall responsibility for monitoring and evaluation.

- The RE subject leader will assist the Head of School by monitoring pupils work, pupil evaluations, pupils attitudes, long-term plans and medium-term plans.
- RE books will demonstrate continuity and progression.
- The subject leader will manage resources
- The subject leader will endeavour to keep up to date with information, initiatives and developments in religious education and disseminate this as appropriate
- The subject leader will be aware of staff development needs and encourage continuing professional development
- The subject leader will facilitate the sharing of good practice
- The subject leader will be responsible for drawing up an action plan for religious education. Generally, this will be an annual plan that is evaluated termly and should be informed by this policy.

Conclusion

In essence, we are aiming to help our children develop respect and sensitivity for all people, to understand more about the importance of religion in today's world and to educate children within the context of Christian belief and values.

Summer Term 2021

For Review Summer 2024

Signed by Head of School.....

Date.....

Signed by Chair of SMC.....

Date.....