

Religious Education Policy



This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment

Committee responsible:	Full Governing Body
Member of staff responsible:	Lenia Greenaway
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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

RESPECT – RESOLVE – ASPIRATION - WELLBEING

Religious Education in our Church Schools

“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 well together.

‘Such an approach is offered through a commitment to generous hospitality, being true to our underpinning faith, but with a deep respect for the integrity of other religious traditions...and for the religious freedom of each person’.

Religious Education in Church of England Schools A Statement of Entitlement,
The Church of England Education Office 2019.

Vision Summary

As a church school our ethos is rooted in our Christian faith and we seek to encourage an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith in the lives of our children. We believe that our children have unlimited potential and we strive to play our part in the promises of God for their future:

“For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11

St Peter’s Infant School is a Voluntary Aided Church of England School. This means that the teaching of RE is given significant importance and is seen at the heart of Christian distinctiveness of Church of England Schools and central to school effectiveness. RE should contribute to the outworking of the Church school’s Christian vision. As such, RE must be given the priority that it deserves as a core subject in the curriculum and must aim to be an excellent specialism of the school.

The Governors have adopted the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education’s syllabus which is taught in each year group.

In order to allow the children to have the opportunity to explore deeper questions about life and learn about Christianity alongside a wide range of other faiths and cultures it is placed in the core part of our Teaching, Learning and Assessment model.

Further to this we allocate 10% of curriculum time (a full morning) to the subject.

The RE lead (who is also the Headteacher) and class teachers have read and pay regard to The Church Of England Education Office – Religious Education in Church of England Schools – A Statement of Entitlement. This document is used when evaluating, timetabling the amount of time spent teaching RE and planning RE in school.

Aims

- To provide Christian teaching for children so that they can develop religious understanding and beliefs that are relevant for their whole life, and which build upon the distinctive Christian ethos of the school.
- To promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, and social development of children so that through the development of their own sense of identity, worth, personal values and beliefs, they can be responsible members of the wider community and have a positive effect on the ethos of the school.

- To help children to learn about, understand, respect and value other people's beliefs and cultures.
- To develop the ability to reflect on and communicate issues of truth, belief and faith.

Objectives

- To introduce children to aspects of the stories of the Bible, especially the story of Jesus and his continuing influence in the world.
- To provide opportunities for children to hear about significant people who have influenced Christian practice and worship.
- To introduce children to a variety of literature from all key faiths, and especially Christian, and to encourage aesthetic and creative experiences which will help their understanding of religious ideas.
- To encourage a reflective attitude to life and to enable children to experience feelings of awe and wonder, joy and mystery.
- To explore the religious life of the local community, especially St Peter's Church and to understand the meaning and impact of Christian living in a local sense.
- To understand the importance of different religious festivals.
- To lay foundations of knowledge and understanding about other faiths.

Teaching Approaches

RE is to be taught by all teachers throughout the school and its provision will be specifically provided for by each teacher in their planning. The curriculum will comprise of 2/3 Christianity and 1/3 principal world faiths. In KS1 children will be taught about Judaism and the Islamic faith. In EYFS the curriculum will be more thematic. Units from the Diocese of Southwark's scheme of work will be used to deliver the curriculum for RE (see Curriculum map).

We will use a variety of teaching styles, for example, whole class, groupings, or individual approaches, appropriate to the task. Activities will involve a range of different tasks including drama, dance, art, D.T., R.S.E./P.S.H.E., computing, music, etc. We also include a whole school approach during Collective Worship times. Whatever the style planned we shall be flexible in our approach to allow for changes when thus ensuring that the children's learning takes place in an atmosphere of enthusiasm, engagement and motivation to learn.

In addition to planned R.E. activities we are also aware of the need to take opportunities as they present themselves, of personal, local, national and world events and will respond appropriately, e.g. by reflecting at prayer-time or by talking through things that have happened by providing discussion time.

Religious Education (RE) will be taught through:

- The agreed Year Group's curriculum map for RE which is based on the Southwark Diocesan Syllabus for Religious Education; ensuring that the allocated core time is dedicated weekly on the timetable.
- Collective Worship.
- Visits from clergy and other caring agencies.
- Visits to different faith centres.

- Church services and visits.
- All aspects of school life including cross curricular learning and relationships between staff and children.

Religious Education and its mapping in the Curriculum

Subject specific planning

Each year group will have a programme of study consisting of areas of RE which are best taught through specific subject teaching.

Other areas of the curriculum

Some aspects of RE can be taught through other subject areas. RE is an integral part of the school curriculum and school life, so children will see it as relevant to the rest of life and learning, allowing them to flourish as they develop skills of enquiry, critical analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection.

Examples include:

English

- Writing/retelling a Christian story, or reflecting on the moral implications of a religious story.
- Writing a prayer and presenting it in best handwriting for a class prayer book or reading in Church.
- Performing a Bible reading in Church, promoting speaking skills.

History

- Thinking about why we have Remembrance Day and reflecting upon the mistakes people may have made through history.
- Looking at how significant people were influenced by God and the teachings of Jesus.
- Examining how practises have been changed due to the determination of specific religious figures.

Geography

- Support for disadvantaged people and communities for example, Comic Relief, our sponsorship of a child in Kibera and Southwark Diocesan Projects in Africa. (For example, the annual Lent Call.)
- Looking at the geographical areas for some communities and examining how this disadvantages the people living in these areas and thereby looking at how we can support them in different ways to have fulfilling lives.

P.S.H.E./R.S.E.

- Respecting similarities and differences and the uniqueness of individuals.
- Comparing our feelings with those of others; developing empathy; understanding the importance of respecting other people's views and what others feel is important to them.

Computing

- Using the internet for research, for example, a visual tour of a mosque or synagogue; or researching a specific saint.

Music

- For reflection, hymns and compositions in Collective Worship or performances.

The Programme of Study

The RE Curriculum will centre on the two Attainment Targets (ATs):

- *AT1: The Knowledge and Understanding of Religion (learning about religion)*
Christianity features centrally as the faith that has most shaped our culture and moral values and it is to the major tenets and principles of Christianity that we, as a Christian Church school will most closely adhere. Every faith, however, provides a way of life embraces a set of values and beliefs and has its own form of expression. Children will be made aware of other living faiths and in particular of Judaism and the Islamic Faith.
- *AT2: Reflection on Experience, Beliefs and Values (learning from religion)*
By reflecting on their own experiences and those of others, children will begin to develop their own sense of identity and worth, beliefs and values, with specific reference to their attitudes to others and to the world around them. Children will be encouraged to develop a reflective attitude to life and to elicit a response to the feelings of awe, wonder, mystery, and joy.

The RE Programme will be built into the whole school curriculum.

Specific areas will be selected from the syllabus content to form the basis of topics for the school's RE programme. It will then be decided if the elements are best taught within a cross curricular framework, or as individual units indicated within the SDBE RE framework. For example, the life of our school saint, Saint Peter, will be explored during a whole school 'Pause Day', where a day is dedicated to reflect on the life and work of our school's patron saint.

The programme is checked for balance across and within the ATs and the programme of study, and mapped for continuity and progression within the Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1, so children know more and remember more.

Resources

Resources are reviewed regularly. The subject leader will ensure that there are appropriate resources to execute the scheme of work effectively. New resources will be purchased as necessary and to update and give new ideas, as funds permit.

Planning

Teachers will draw up detailed medium term plans with clear learning objectives and success criteria linked to the specific Attainment Target.

Progression and Differentiation

We aim to provide for progression in both content and skills so pupils build upon prior learning – linking their learning by knowing more and remembering more. The progression in the content is reflected in our curriculum mapping of areas to be covered over the time the children are in school.

Many of the skills necessary for RE are technical skills similar to those used in many areas of the curriculum e.g. drawing, reading, which we aim to develop and build on continuously. In addition we hope to develop children's skills in thought, reflection and discussion e.g. taking account of others' viewpoints. This is often best done through the teacher's own professional judgement at the particular time using his/her understanding of the situation and the children.

The work may be differentiated by task or by outcome according to the teacher's judgement at the time. It may also be by different types of questions after a story or during discussion aimed at drawing out a child in a particular way, so that all children feel they can participate.

Assessment

Assessment is an integral part of RE and will be built into planning, both medium and short term. Assessment of progress in the Early Years Foundation Stage is made against the Early Years Goal, particularly the section relating to 'Understanding the World' as well as against the Diocesan Scheme of work. Assessment opportunities will be planned to fit in with particular learning objectives over Key Stage 1 as laid out in the 'I can' statements in the Diocesan Scheme of Work.

Assessment in RE, as in other subjects is both formative and summative. As the two attainment targets, Learning about Religion and Learning from Religion are closely related, assessment needs to take place in relation to both attainment targets. Children's levels in both attainment targets are tracked, termly, by the RE subject leader and feedback given by staff. It is recognised that this tracking will not always show children's progress to be moving in a continuous linear direction as different topics will appeal to individuals. However, the tracking gives an idea of the children's overall progress and final attainment, and also highlights those with an exceptional insight into the spiritual side of life.

We recognise that not all aspects of Religious Education can be assessed, for example, pupils may express personal views and ideas that, although integral to teaching and learning would not be appropriate for formal assessment.

Monitoring

RE is monitored by the RE Subject Leader, and the RE governor also makes regular monitoring visits. Children's progress, book scrutinies, the teaching of RE, the impact of Collective Worship and the effectiveness of St Peter's as a Distinctive Church School are all areas which are monitored.

The school also moderates RE pupil work with other local church schools to ensure good practice and consistency of standards across the schools.

Feedback from the school's Faith group (as well as other pupil voice opportunities) is also useful to assess the engagement and effectiveness of learning. The group meet regularly to discuss how to develop and/or improve RE and Collective Worship, and can make practical suggestions about how faith can be demonstrated in the school.

Equal Opportunities (See Equality Policy)

It is our policy to offer equal opportunities to every child. As teachers we need to help all children develop their religious knowledge and skills irrespective of gender, race, class, religion etc. We also recognise that parents have a right to withdraw their children from Religious Education.

Inclusion

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Religious Education and Collective Worship as identified in the Education Act 1944 and in subsequent legislation. St Peter's is a Church of England Infant School where Christian Values and principles underpin the whole curriculum. In order to preserve the distinctiveness of this church school community, we encourage everyone to be involved in Religious Education and Collective Worship. Parents who have concerns about this should discuss them with the Chair of Governors and the Headteacher before their children are admitted to the school.

Additional needs

As teachers we should try to be aware of any specific differences which may limit a child's development in their Religious Education and to provide support where necessary. This may range from supporting those who may need help with recording or sequencing, to providing extension activities to extend more able children. We recognise that from time to time children may have additional needs arising from particular personal circumstances, when they may need additional support.

Children working at higher levels

Teachers also recognise that some children show particular insight during RE lessons and when contributing to acts of worship. These children are identified through our assessment procedures and through observation. Work and questioning will be differentiated to meet their needs, a comment will be included in their yearly report and assessment sheets, identifying these children and will be transferred to their next teacher so appropriate work can be planned, moving forward.

Links with the Church and Community

As a church school we enjoy very strong links with the local church, St Peter's, which is one of four local churches in The Oxted Team Ministry (Tandridge, Crowhurst, Hurst Green and Oxted). We enjoy regular contact and visits from the Vicar, Reverend Ashton and a number of the children at the school attend churches in the parish.

We are proud and privileged to have these links with the Church and wider community which we believe strengthen and put our Religious Education teaching into context. We are constantly striving to deepen these links, and the Faith Group meet regularly to explore the development of stronger liaison.

The following are examples of specific links we have with St Peter's Church and the community:

- At Harvest time the whole school takes part in a special service either at St Peter's Church or in Strawson's field which is led by our Rector.
- At Christmas and Easter time the whole school takes part in a special Church service at St Peter's Church which is open to parents, Governors, and members of the community to attend.
- St Peter's Day is celebrated with a service in the Church in June which is led by children of the school. Members of the Church community help with additional activities which the children participate in after the service.
- St Peter's Church, Tandridge Village, and St Peter's School hold events through the year.
- The vicar visits the school weekly to lead Collective Worship, join Faith Group meetings and attend governor meetings.
- We make use of the Church and local community to enhance our cross-curricular approach to the children's work; for example, the children will study the Church and its building. On occasion, members of the community will support the children with their studies.
- The school involves itself in charity appeals, e.g. The Royal British Legion, Macmillan, which involves a variety of fund raising activities.
- As a school we support parents who raise funds and resources for children and communities in Cape Verde. We believe this greatly benefits our children giving them a real-life focus to caring and responsibility in the global community – linked to Courageous Advocacy.

The promotion of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development in RE:



SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT	MORAL DEVELOPMENT	SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
<p>Through our teaching of Religious education, we give our pupils opportunities to explore the values and beliefs of others and allow them to develop a respect for these. Through these experiences, children are filled with a sense of awe and wonder in their learning, about themselves and others around them. We help children to enhance their own spiritual development through reflection of values, beliefs and experiences and encourage them to develop their own beliefs and to express their feelings and emotions in their learning.</p>	<p>Moral development in Religious Education allows children the ability to recognise the difference between right and wrong. Children are given the opportunity to explore different ethical issues and moral values, including those in Bible stories and stories of other faiths, and to apply their own understanding to these. Children will learn to empathise and to understand the consequences of their own and others' actions.</p>	<p>The experiences we give to our children through the teaching of Religious Education will develop their sense of identity and belonging. This will prepare children for life in an increasingly diverse society. Children will be given opportunities to explore different communities and to understand the rights and responsibilities of different members with for example, visits to a Mosque and Synagogue.</p>	<p>Religious Education allows pupils to have an awareness and understanding of a range of beliefs and practices in the community and the wider world. At St Peter's School, we encourage children to have an understanding and appreciation of a range of cultures that have helped shape their own culture, heritage, and development. Children will develop a respect for cultural diversity and be encouraged to both understand and celebrate diversity.</p>



Curriculum Map for the Southwark Diocesan Syllabus for Religious Education 2024-2025

St Peter's C of E Infant School, Tandridge

	Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2		Spring Term 1	Spring Term 2		Summer Term 1	Summer Term 2
Foundation.	Who made the wonderful world? Beliefs, teaching and sources/values and commitments.	Why is Christmas special for Christians? Beliefs, teaching and sources/meaning, purpose and truth.		Who cares for this special world and why? Practices and ways of life/values and commitments.	What is so special about Easter? Forms of expression /meaning, purpose and truth.		Why do Christians believe Jesus is special? Beliefs, teaching and sources/meaning, purpose and truth.	How did Jesus 'Rescue' people? Forms of expression/identity and belonging.
Year 1	What responsibility has God given people about taking care of Creation? Beliefs, teaching and sources/values and commitments.	What is the story of Noah really about? Beliefs, teaching and sources/meaning, purpose and truth.	Nativity characters: Which character are you? Why are you important? Beliefs, teaching and sources/meaning, purpose and truth.	What is it like to live as a Jew? Forms of expression/identity and belonging.	Why are saints important to Christianity? Practices and ways of life/meaning, purpose, and truth.	Why is Easter the most important festival for Christians? Beliefs, teaching and sources/meaning, purpose and truth.	What does it mean to be a Muslim? Practices and ways of life/ values and commitments.	Why is it good to listen to and remember the stories Jesus told? Beliefs, teaching and sources/values and commitments.
Year 2	Harvest (2-3 weeks) What are God's rules for living? Beliefs, teaching and sources/values and commitments. (2 weeks) Why did Jesus teach The Lord's Prayer as the way to pray? Beliefs, teaching and sources/values and commitments. (6 weeks)		Where is the light of Christmas? Practices and ways of life/ values and commitments.	Why are they having a Jewish party? Practices and ways of life/ values and commitments.	The school's own Saints Day. St Peter. Practices and ways of life/meaning, purpose, and truth.	How do Easter symbols help us to understand the true meaning of Easter? Forms of expression/identity and belonging.	How and Why Do Muslims Uphold Their Faith By Giving Commitment To Allah? Practices and ways of life/ values and commitments.	Why do Christians make and keep promises before God? Forms of expression/values and commitments.
Trips	St Peter's Church		St Peter's Church	Weybridge Synagogue		St Peter's Church		St Peter's Church