

St Agnes CE Primary School

Religious Education Policy

Approved by:	The Headteacher	Date: September 2017
Last reviewed on:	2016	
Next review due by:	2020	

Religious Education Policy

I have come in order that you might have life - life in all its fullness.

John 10:10

Every child has the right to think and believe what they choose and also to practise their religion,

Article 14; UNCRC

Our RE education helps support our mission: **‘Love To Learn, Learn to do Well, Live Well Together’**. We instill a love of learning in all our pupils through a broad, balanced and enriching education. We ensure our pupils are ready to overcome any challenge through resilience, independence and team work. Our strong spiritual and moral foundation, as a Church of England school, ensures our pupils will become caring, respectful well-rounded global citizens.

Principal aim

The principal aim of RE is to engage pupils in systematic enquiry into significant human questions which religion and worldviews address, so that they can develop the understanding and skills needed to appreciate and appraise varied responses to these questions, as well as develop responses of their own.

Aims And Objectives

Religious Education in our school will contribute to the school’s aims, to the aims stated in the Manchester Agreed Syllabus “Education in Religion” and it will relate to the school’s diverse community.

In particular:-

- to provide opportunities to develop the knowledge, skills and understanding to prepare children for the responsibilities and experiences of adult life
- to promote the ability to question, **listen to others** and discuss rationally
- to help pupils develop spiritually, morally and socially and to value the cultures and traditions of the religions studied
- to act responsibly, **recognising faith in action** and to show consideration for the needs of others
- to welcome and encourage pupils, parents, Governors and members of the community to participate in the life of the School
- to contribute to children and young people’s education in schools by provoking challenging

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questions about meaning and purpose in life, beliefs about God, ultimate reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human

Further Guidance

- Manchester Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education
- School and Year Group Curriculum Plans
- Manchester “Unpacking the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education”
- Teachers’ Planning Files

Equal Opportunities

Refer to the School Policy.

Resources

The school uses Manchester’s Agreed Syllabus and its main guidance. This is supplemented by appropriate resources and artefacts. The funding for the purchase of resources follows the formal indicated in the Action Plan for R.E. and in the School’s Improvement Plan.

Assessment and Recording

Refer to the School Policy.

Particular Features

- Religious **Nurture** is the responsibility of the faith communities. Religious **Education** is the responsibility of the school
- Under the Education Reform Act, parents have the right to withdraw children from Religious Education
- A teacher has the right of withdrawal from teaching Religious Education
- Strong links with St Agnes’ Church and other faith providers
- Festivals are celebrated and provide an opportunity to emphasise similarities and differences between religions

Leadership

The school leader for R.E. will provide advice for individual teachers about the implementation of the policy and guidelines and the use of artefacts and resources. In-service training is provided in accordance with the School Improvement Plan. The priority given to the development of R.E. will be reviewed and will differ from year to year.

Teaching Methods and Approaches

R.E. is taught in a variety of ways, e.g. subject specific and cross-curricular units of work. Class teachers use a variety of both group and whole class teaching. There is a 'hands on' and multi-sensory approach, incorporating a range of learning opportunities including, visual, auditory and kinaesthetic. (VAK) It is also enriched by special days, educational trips, visitors and guest speakers.

Links with Other Subjects

There are clear links at the school between R.E. and other areas of the curriculum, but most naturally with PHSE and citizenship, Literacy and the expressive arts (music, dance, drama and art).

Refer to R.E. Guidelines and to Teachers' Planning Files.

Guidelines for the teaching of Religious Education

The approach of Manchester's Agreed Syllabus for R.E. is educational, not one of religious nurture and it supports the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all pupils. It also upholds the Equal Opportunities Policy of the Manchester City Council.

The R.E Curriculum

Early Years

In the Early Years there is no legal requirement for subject specific R.E. However, the recommended main theme 'Myself' and subsequent blocked units: 'Beginnings' and 'The Family' lend themselves to the EYFS framework.

The teacher uses these as a framework, breaking them down on a half-termly and weekly basis so that children are presented with an integrated early years curriculum which provides a series of experiences upon which they can enhance their spiritual and moral development and develop positive attitudes towards other people.

Key Stage 1 and 2

Curriculum Time—The Programme of Study for each Key Stage assume that 5% of curriculum time, as stipulated by the Agreed Syllabus Conferences, is allocated to the subject.

Refer to Agreed Syllabus for further details.

Time for celebrating major festivals has been deducted from the programme across the Key Stages.

Use of Resources

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher in consultation with the Governor to see that R.E. is adequately resourced at St Agnes' CE Primary School. There is a resource collection, suitable for children across the age range, available in the RE section. Other resources including pictures, artefacts, DVDs and CDs relevant to specific units either kept in the classroom of the appropriate year group or the RE coordinator's area.

Planning for Continuity and Progression

R.E. at St Agnes' CE Primary is constructed to promote both a progressive understanding of religions and a more sophisticated level of reflection and response at each Key Stage.

Long Term Planning

See the Manchester Agreed Syllabus 'Education in Religion'.

Medium Term Overview

This provides an overview of the areas covered by each year group. (Refer to Scheme of Work and Manchester's Agree Syllabus).

Short Term Planning

Teachers should be clear about the learning objective/s for the lesson, the time allocation, and the planned teaching and class group activities, including appropriate differentiation. Assessment tasks, if appropriate, should be highlighted. There should also be evidence of evaluation e.g. comments on:

- pupil response
- classroom/teacher management

Classroom Organisation

R.E should be developed in a variety of ways e.g. subject specific and linked units of work. A range of organisational strategies will be planned for, including whole class activities and occasions where groups of children work together or individually. Continuity and progression will be planned for through appropriate pupil learning experiences.

Opportunities for Learning

The aims of Religious Education are promoted through three inter-related areas of learning experience.

1. Knowledge and Understanding of:
 - a) Specific Religions
 - b) Religious Languages and Symbolism
 - c) Influence of Religion

2. Evaluation of Religious and Moral Issues
The process of responding to religion and learning from religion, as opposed to merely learning about religion.

3. Reflecting and Responding
 - a) Awareness of Mystery
 - b) The Search for Meaning
 - c) Values and Commitments

This area of learning focuses more obviously, but not exclusively on the effective area of religion (for details of these please see Scheme of Work and teacher's planning files).

Differentiation

Work will be planned at times for differing abilities and different faith groups as identified and where necessitated.

Attainment

We use the End of Key Stage Statements of Attainment which set out the knowledge, understanding and skills expected of most pupils at the end of each Key Stage.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting of Achievement in Religious Education

Assessment will focus on the learning objectives which mark progress through the key stages and the end of key stage statements which describe the types and ranges of performance which pupils characteristically demonstrate at the end of a key stage. A range of Assessment for Learning strategies will be incorporated into the medium/short term plans. Each child's progress through the R.E. syllabus is evaluated and reported to parents through the annual report in the Summer Term.

Marking of Work

Children receive feedback as their work progresses. Marking will be constructive and assist in the evaluation and assessment of the learning experience provided. The school's Feedback and Marking Policy will be referred to regarding this.

Presentation of work – refer to School's Guidelines.

Home / School Links

Parents are:-

- informed about the R.E. provision in School
- encouraged to take their children to visit places of worship and to bring religious objects into school
- encouraged to discuss any concerns with a class teacher
- confident that faith backgrounds of all children will be valued and supported
- informed of their right to withdraw their child from religious education