

St Chad's Patchway CE VC Primary School

“Learning to love, loving to learn.”

RE Policy

Vision

At ST Chad's CE VC Primary School we are constantly striving for excellence in all that we do by setting high expectations and working together as a community to provide a happy, secure and stimulating environment where children are motivated to learn, are valued as individuals and enriched by an experience that enables them to thrive in tomorrow's world. Our vision and aims are based on Christian values that are central to the school.

Rationale

St Chad's CE VC Primary School is a caring, Christian community. In recognising both the distinctive Christian character of our school and the legal requirements for teaching RE, we aim to give our children knowledge of Christianity and the other major world religions in order to encourage understanding, appreciation and respect for the beliefs of others. As well as learning about religions, our children will also develop their ability to respond and reflect on what it means to have a faith and to develop their own spiritual knowledge and understanding. We help the children learn from religions as well as about religions.

Aims:

The aims of religious education are to help children:

- acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other principal religions represented in the United Kingdom,
- develop an understanding of the influence of beliefs, values and traditions on individuals, community, societies and cultures,
- develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues, with reference to the principal religions represented in the United Kingdom,
- enhance their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development by:
 - a) developing awareness of fundamental questions of life raised by human experience and how religious teaching can relate to them,
 - b) responding to such questions with reference to the teachings and practices of religions and to their own understanding and experience,
 - c) reflecting on their own beliefs, values and experiences in the light of their study,
 - d) develop a positive attitude towards other people, respecting their right to hold different beliefs from their own and towards living in a society of diverse religions.

Guidance

Our scheme of work and rolling programme for the teaching of RE is in accordance with the South Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus and the school's Spiritual Development Policy.

- RE differs from collective worship, in that it is classroom based and is bound by the agreed curriculum, whereas collective worship should be Christian in a Church of England school
- Places of worship will be used as a resource for RE and church services attended. Guest speakers will be invited into school.
- 'Pupils' attainment in RE will be assessed, recorded and reported to parents.
- Parents have the right to withdraw their children from RE. Notification of this is given in the school prospectus and confirmation is required in writing. On receipt of this, teachers will ensure that any such children occupy this time in private study.
- An RE governor will be nominated who will be responsible for liaising with the subject leader for RE at regular intervals to ensure that RE is being delivered in an appropriate manner and that all legal requirements are being met. Regular feedback will be given at Governors' meetings.
- Children will develop language skills through talking about their work, studying sacred texts and stories, and extracting information from varied sources.

- Children will work with others, listening to each other's ideas, and treat others with respect.
- Children will have opportunities to consider their own experiences, attitudes and values, and those of other people.
- Children will identify puzzling questions and suggest answers.
- Children will develop their understanding of why certain things are held to be right or wrong.
- Children will relate to moral and religious issues.

Assessment

RE assessments should be ongoing but must be recorded twice a year.

Assessment should:

- be recorded and reported within the framework established for the whole school,
- be part of teaching and learning,
- not be an added extra bolted on to the end of planning,
- make use of a variety of methods,
- be as creative as possible,
- be purposeful and specific,
- be a positive experience for pupils,
- focus on the evaluation of what pupils can do,
- give each pupil the opportunity to succeed, and to respond in the style most appropriate,
- involve pupils directly in their learning.

Evidence of achievement

- should derive from a range of activities, including written, oral, practical and artistic, and may include individual tasks, paired and group work and whole class activities,
- should be gleaned from appropriate responses to tasks built in to the planning of each unit of work,
- should be gathered with reference to both attainment targets.

The legal position Of RE

Our school curriculum for religious education meets the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act (ERA). The ERA stipulates that religious education is compulsory for all children, including those in the reception class who are less than five years old. The ERA allows parents to withdraw their child from religious education classes if they so wish, although this should only be done once the parents have given written notice to the school governors. The ERA also allows teachers to refuse to teach religious education, but only after they have given due notice of their intention to the school governors. The religious education curriculum forms an important part of our school's spiritual, moral and social teaching. It also promotes education for citizenship. Our school RE curriculum is based on South Gloucestershire's Agreed Syllabus and it meets all the requirements set out in that document. The ERA states that the RE syllabus should reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, and that it should, at the same time, take account of the teachings and practices of other major religions.

Foundation Stage

We teach religious education to all children in the school, including those in the Early Years Foundation Stage.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage religious education is an integral part of the topic work covered during the year. We relate the religious education aspects of the children's work to the objectives set out in the Early Learning Goals which underpin the curriculum planning for children aged three to five.