

Padbury Church of England Religious Education Policy

OUR VISION

Aspire, Achieve and Grow Together.

‘Our purpose is to foster a Love of Learning within a nurturing Christian community in a way that enables every child to be the best they can be and to flourish in an ever-changing world.’

Through a positive caring environment, we provide the opportunity for every child to reach their full potential and to be the best that they can be. We are a Church of England School and we embrace Christian values which support our vision to ensure that all children are ready for their next steps in their journey through life.

INTRODUCTION

Religious Education provides children with the opportunity to explore the beliefs, values and attitudes that guide us in life. Our RE explores how individuals and communities make meaning and sense of their lives through the major religions of the world and it enables children to know about, understand and respond to the important and ultimate questions of life. RE is taught in such a way that it inspires pupils to explore, develop and affirm their own faith and values and have respect for the faith, beliefs and values of others. However, it is not the practice of this school to preach or seek to convert children.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Religious Education forms part of the statutory Basic Curriculum, along with the National Curriculum. Parents have a legal right to withdraw their child from RE lessons, but we would ask parents to discuss this with the head teacher.

The Religious Education in our school is governed by the Buckinghamshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education alongside the Oxford Diocese Scheme of work for RE.

AIMS FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

At our school, RE supports and strengthens the vision, ethos and associated values which are at the heart of what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. The importance placed on the development of the whole child spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and academically is reflected in the curriculum for RE.

Specifically, RE aims to enable all pupils of all abilities and stages of development to:

- Develop knowledge and understanding of key Christian beliefs and practices so that they understand the importance of the Bible for Christians, the role of the church and recognise that, for Christians, their faith provides a way of interpreting life and its meaning;
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the diversity of the Christian religion and in the ways it is practised by believers all over the world;
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the beliefs and practices of some of the other major religions;
- Understand how belief may impact on culture, relationships, values and lifestyle;
- Understand how belief can be expressed in a variety of ways including art, dance, music, ritual celebration and in different cultural settings;
- Develop spiritually, morally, culturally and socially by helping children to reflect upon personal feelings, responses and relationships;
- Explore ways in which religious values and teaching have an impact on actions and decisions for people of faith;
- Be supported in their own search for meaning and purpose in life;
- Develop a sense of awe, wonder and mystery;
- Explore concepts of love, forgiveness and sacrifice;
- Develop skills of reflection, empathy, communication, analysis, investigation, interpretation, evaluation and synthesis;
- Develop attitudes of respect, sensitivity, open-mindedness and self-esteem.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Religious Education is taught within the classroom environment using the Bucks Agreed Syllabus and the Diocese of Oxford Scheme of Work for RE. We have a two-year rolling programme to cover all the units in each Key Stage.

Religious Education is taught in mixed aged class groups, where all children are treated as individual learners. Much of the Religious Education is taught through class discussions/or group/individual discussions. Some recording in a written or pictorial form will sometimes take place at an appropriate level for the child's development.

- The scheme of work for RE will maintain a balance between the two attainment targets Learning about Religions and Learning from Religions;
- There will be clear learning outcomes for all units of work, based on the appropriate expectations/levels as set out in the RE syllabus (Oxford Diocese Scheme of Work for RE);
- The scheme of work will ensure that there is continuity and progression for pupils and opportunities for assessment in both attainment targets;
- A range of teaching and learning activities will ensure that pupils learn effectively and with interest;
- Pupil progress and attainment in RE will be tracked and recorded half-termly;
- Progress in RE will form part of pupils' annual report to parents;
- A range of visitors will be invited to support the teaching of RE and, where possible, there will be planned visits to local places of worship.

- In this school, the faiths taught in RE at KS1 are Christianity and Judaism and at KS2 Christianity, Judaism, Islam and Hinduism;
- RE is given at least 5% of curriculum time, weekly, across all year groups;
- The RE curriculum is reviewed regularly by staff and governors as part of our curriculum review cycle.

SUBJECT LEADERSHIP

- The RE subject leader will support and monitor the subject;
- The RE subject leader will ensure that his/her subject knowledge and expertise are kept up-to-date by means of regular training;
- The RE subject leader will ensure that staff receive good training in the teaching and assessment of RE;
- The RE subject leader will regularly monitor the quality of RE teaching across the school;
- The RE subject leader will liaise with the governors who hold responsibility for RE and they will report regularly to the governing body on progress and attainment in RE.

The RE subject leader and head teacher will ensure that the principles set out in the Statement of Entitlement for RE are implemented.