



*'Starting the journey well'*

As a Church of England community school, we **believe** we can impact God's world for good, **grow** in learning, love, wonder and faith and **seek** together to flourish in the fullest way possible

## **Religious Education Policy**

Fahmida Uddin

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## Our School Vision:

### ***'Starting the journey well'***

As a Church of England community school, we  
***believe*** we can impact God's world for good,  
***grow*** in learning, love, wonder and faith and  
***seek*** together to flourish in the fullest way possible.

## Our Core Christian Values

Throughout the academic year we focus on six Christian values: friendship, peace, hope, forgiveness, courage and thankfulness.

Underpinning our curriculum is the belief

'If we start children off on the way they should go, even when they are old, they will not turn from it.'  
Proverbs 22. V6

## Intent

As a Church of England school in the heart of a diverse community in the east end of London, although we are distinctively Christian, we acknowledge, respect and celebrate the many ways our children, parents, staff and governors approach God. Religious Education at Christ Church is a core subject and has a high profile within our curriculum. This means that we seek to develop children's skills to know what we can *learn about* religion and what we can *learn from* religion.

In line with the Church of England's RE statement of entitlement, Christianity is the majority study within our scheme of work. We explore other world faiths alongside Christianity which celebrate and draw upon our children's diverse backgrounds. Although we are distinctively a Christian school, we acknowledge and respect people of faith approach God in different ways. As a school, we take pride in providing a learning environment where everyone in our school community feels welcome and where everyone feels happy to share their own beliefs, values and ways of life even if they are a person who does not follow a faith. Our Christian values are at the core of everything we do; we foster spiritual and moral development within a caring multi-faith community. We teach our children to explore, identify and respect similarities and differences.

We aim to equip our children with an understanding of what it means to have faith and to develop an opinion on beliefs and values growing in learning and love. We want our children to leave Christ Church being religiously literate; able to find similarities with others and seek together to flourish in faith and wonder and love for one another beliefs. The knowledge and skills they develop, we hope, will remain with them and become lifelong skills they will draw on throughout their lives.

## **RE Curriculum Philosophy**

At **Christ Church C of E Primary School**, we strongly believe that our RE curriculum

- Strengthens our Christian ethos and values
- Facilitates deeper learning and embeds forever knowledge
- Motivates all children and ensures their needs are met
- Raises aspirations to ensure children flourish
- Encourages children to question their understanding of the world and their impact on it
- Fosters inquisitive, lively and happy minds
- Support physical well-being
- Support mental well- being
- Presents knowledge and learning as holistic and interdependent
- Inspires a life-long love of learning

## **RE Curriculum Aims**

Our RE curriculum aims to:

- enable children 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.
- enable children to know and understand about other major world religions and world views, their impact on society, culture and the wider world, enabling children to express ideas and insights.
- contribute to the development of children's spiritual and philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own beliefs and values.
- Support children to develop religious literacy and make connections across the curriculum

The statement of entitlement can be found on the Church of England website.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-02/RE%20Statement%20of%20Entitlement%20for%20Church%20Schools.pdf>

## **RE Teaching and Learning**

As a core subject, Religious Education is taught by the class teacher every week. Support for the planning, teaching and delivery of Religious Education for teachers is provided by the Religious Education subject leader and through the LDBS scheme of work. Regular staff training is planned throughout the year to enable staff to grow in understanding and confidence.

Within each lesson children are helped to gain confidence in asking questions, seeking answers and reflecting on their own experiences. This promotes opportunities for children to be reflective, respectful and spiritual.

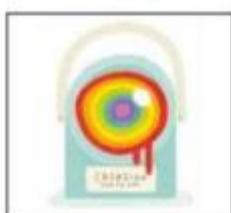
Across the school the children are given opportunities in R.E sessions to further develop their oracy skills through discussions linked to the unit of work's 'Big Question.'

Each religion has a topic box containing materials to inspire curiosity and engage children in thinking and learning. Each classroom has a dedicated display area, which supports and celebrates children's learning and encourages children to share, in written form, their responses to big questions. Religious Education is differentiated according to the age, year group and ability of the individual child. Teachers plan to ensure lessons are interactive and engaging through the use of; traditional and contemporary books; artefacts and photographs; visits to special places of worship or visiting speakers; drama, role play and music.

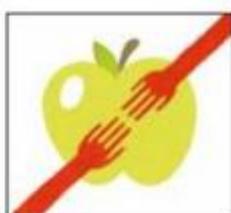
Children at Christ Church C of E primary School will develop their understanding of the big story of the Bible through study of the core Christian concepts:



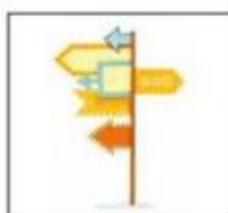
1. GOD



2. CREATION



3. FALL



4. PEOPLE OF GOD



5. INCARNATION



6. GOSPEL



7. SALVATION



8. KINGDOM OF GOD

## **EYFS**

- The children in the Nursery will have the opportunity to learn about religions, ways of life, festivals and celebrations. The teaching team focus on key faiths and festivals, engaging children through discussions and stories as part of knowledge and understanding of the world.
- Religious Education in Reception follows the LDBS curriculum. The teaching is often broken down into short sessions, but will meet the overall recommended time of 1 hour of Religious Education per week.

## **Equal Opportunities and Inclusion**

At Christ Church Primary School we aim to provide a broad, balanced and enriched curriculum for all children regardless of their gender, ethnic, social or religious background. All children of different faiths, and no faith, will have equal access to the RE curriculum and will be encouraged to participate fully in lessons. We recognise the need to cater for children with special educational needs and work is differentiated to assist in children's learning including the pre-teaching of vocabulary. Word banks and visual cues can be provided, using symbols and words. Higher achieving children should be given open-ended tasks and opportunities for further research and more challenging study. In line with the school focus on oracy, children are encouraged to develop their speaking and listening skills.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from Religious Education at school, but we strongly encourage discussions with the headteacher in the first instance, followed by confirmation of the request in writing. If a child is withdrawn from RE teaching, the school will follow relevant guidance offered by the LDBS.

### **Assessing Religious Education**

As a core subject, Religious Education is marked in line with other core subjects. Time is set aside at the beginning of each lesson for children to recap on the prior lesson and refer to knowledge documents. The quality of children's work and the presentation of their work in Religious Education is expected to be of a high standard in line with expectations in literacy. At the end of each unit of Religious Education children are assessed. This is done through professional teacher judgement based on the work in pupils' books, the comments made (and recorded) by children throughout the unit and the LDBS assessment grids.

At the end of each key stage, outcomes against which the children's progress will be evaluated are:

- Know about and understand a range of religions and worldviews.
- Express ideas and insights about the nature, significance and impact of religions and worldviews
- Gain and deploy the skill needed to engage seriously with religions and worldviews

Teacher judgements are moderated by the Religious Education subject leader and a Senior Leader. Each child will be assessed, and judgements recorded on Integris. Religious Education data is shared with members of the Teaching and Learning committee of the Governing Body on a termly basis. This information is also shared with parents at consultation evenings and in annual reports.

### **Monitoring**

The R.E co-ordinator leads the maintenance and development of the subject. They are responsible for assuring quality and standards in the subject by:

- Taking the lead in the development, evaluation and amendment of schemes of work as and when necessary
- Identifying training needs of staff through monitoring and performance management review
- Acting as a consultant to colleagues on resources, trip and visitor possibilities, curriculum changes, classroom teaching ideas
- Monitoring and evaluating pupils' work, colleagues' planning and classroom teaching through observations of lessons, learning walks, work scrutiny and discussions with children.
- A governors with responsibility for RE will meet with the RE lead and have oversight of the monitoring outcomes. They will report back to the governing body
- SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspect the school every 5 years, and this includes inspecting and reporting on the effectiveness of RE in the school.