



Yatton Church of England Junior School Policy for Religious Education (RE)

Last Updated: Sept 2021

This Policy has been written to reflect our Christian vision: We want to provide a happy, considerate, secure and supportive environment that promotes respect for self and others, valuing friendships and a life-long love of learning – **life in all its fullness**. John 10:10. All policies are reviewed by Foundation Governors alongside senior leadership, staff and other stakeholders as appropriate.

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 life well together. RE Statement of Entitlement from the Church of England Education Office Feb 2019

In short, we say to the children: **We want to ... 'Grow, Celebrate and Make a Difference'**

Policy Statement

Religious Education (RE) has a very high profile within the Yatton Church of England Junior School curriculum and makes a significant contribution to preparing pupils for life in modern Britain. Learning activities provide fully for the needs of all learners. Pupils will be inspired by the subject and develop a wide range of skills such as enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection, to deepen their understanding of the impact of religion on the world. Christianity is taught as a living and diverse faith, focused on the teachings of Jesus and the Church, alongside a range of religions and worldviews. Religious Education encourages pupils to learn from different religions, beliefs, values and traditions while creating a safe space for them to explore their own beliefs and questions of meaning.

Legal Requirements

As an academy, Yatton Church of England Junior School is independent of the local authority and not required to follow the national curriculum or the local RE syllabus. However, our curriculum must reflect: 'that religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, whilst taking account of the teachings and practices of the other principle religious traditions present in Great Britain.' [Education Reform Act 1988]. At Yatton Church of England Junior School we choose to teach religious education according to the North Somerset agreed syllabus, 'Awareness, Mystery, Value' drawn up by the standing Advisory Council for Religious Education [SACRE]. To supplement this, to enhance the quality of provision in the teaching and learning of the Christian faith, we use the Church of England 'Understanding Christianity' resources in all year groups, as recommended by the Diocese.

Section 48 of the 2005 Education Act requires the inspection of religious education in schools which have a religious character. This is the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS)

Managing the right to withdraw

Parents have a right by law to withdraw their children from the Religious Education curriculum. In this event, we will undertake responsibility for their supervision with regard to health and safety. Information on these arrangements are clear on our website. There will always be opportunity for parents to discuss the contents of the RE curriculum should they have concerns. We would ask any parent considering



withdrawing their child from RE to contact the Head Teacher to discuss any concerns about the policy, provision and practice of religious education at our school.

Aims of RE

- To enable pupils 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.
- To enable pupils to know about and understand other major world religions and world views, their impact on society, culture and the wider world, and to appreciate the diversity, continuity and change within those religions and world views
- To engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose
- To contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own beliefs and values.

Teaching and Learning

In line with the Church of England RE Statement of Entitlement [2019], at Yatton Church of England Junior School we aim to provide:

- A curriculum that enables pupils to acquire a rich, deep knowledge and understanding of Christian belief and practice
- A curriculum that draws on the richness and diversity of religious experience worldwide
- The opportunity for pupils to deepen their understanding of the religion and world views as lived by believers
- A pedagogy that instils respect for different views and interpretations; and, in which real dialogue and theological enquiry takes place
- Engaging and varied learning activities that provide for the needs of all learners, supported by high quality resources
- The opportunity for pupils to develop a wide range of skills including enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection
- RE that makes a positive contribution to SMSC [Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural] development and also to pupils' understanding of British values
- An assessment process which has rigour and demonstrates progression based on knowledge and understanding of core religious concepts

Implementation

- Religious education may be taught in a 'whole class' setting but with flexibility to allow for discussion, questioning and reflection in small groups and individually
- Visits to local churches and other places of worship are encouraged
- A variety of teaching approaches are encouraged; for example:
 - Teacher presentations, role play, drama and story telling
 - Questions and answer sessions, discussions and debates



- Individual and group research
- Photographs, pictures and maps
- IT, film, podcasts, radio, websites, to research and communicate ideas.
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Curriculum balance and time

Reflecting Yatton Church of England Junior School's academy funding agreement, Christianity should be the majority religion studied and should be at least 50% of curriculum time. Sufficient dedicated curriculum time, meeting explicitly RE objectives, should be given to RE. This should aim to be close to 10% but no less than 5% in key stages 1 and 2

Resources

A wide range and variety of resources and materials to support the teaching of RE are available for staff to access. Most of the resources are boxed up to link with the teaching units of the locally agreed syllabus, 'Awareness, Mystery, Value'. Resources relating to the 'Understanding Christianity' units are accessed via the Shared Drive for all year groups.

Monitoring, Evaluation, Assessment, Recording, Reporting

- Governors have responsibility for monitoring how the RE in the school reflects its Christian vision
- The headteacher has overall responsibility for monitoring and evaluation.
- The RE subject leader will assist the headteacher by monitoring long term and medium term plans.
- The RE subject leader will assist the headteacher by monitoring RE through work scrutinies
- The subject leader will keep a file of examples of work to demonstrate continuity and progression.
- The subject leader will manage resources.
- The subject leader will endeavour to keep up to date with information, initiatives and developments in religious education and disseminate this as appropriate.
- The subject leader will be aware of staff development needs and encourage continuing professional development.
- The subject leader will facilitate the sharing of good practice.
- The subject leader will be responsible for drawing up an action plan for religious education. Generally this will be an annual plan and should be informed by this policy.
- The subject leader will liaise with the Diocesan adviser with responsibility for Religious Education

Date of last review: September 2021

Headteacher signed:

Date: September 2021

Chair of Governors signed:

Date: September 2021

Next review: September 2023