



KINTBURY ST. MARY'S
CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our caring ethos is based on our Christian values of hope, friendship and respect. These, together with our rich and diverse curriculum underpin our belief that everyone in our school community can develop a sense of self and understanding of their place in our world in order to achieve and flourish throughout life.

'Love thy neighbour as thyself' Luke 10:25-37

Religious Education Policy

Approved by: The Governing Body

Date: 15.7.24

Next Review date: Summer 2026

Introduction

Religious Education is central to the purpose of Kintbury St Mary's CE Primary school because, as a church school, we see that the Christian faith informs all aspects of our life together and commits us to a search for truth. RE at Kintbury, explores how individuals and communities make meaning and sense of their lives through the major world views. 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 children to explore, develop and affirm their own faith and values and have respect for the faith, beliefs and values of others. It is not the practice of this school to preach to or seek to convert children.

Aims

At this school, RE supports and strengthens the vision, ethos and 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 intellectually is reflected in the RE curriculum.

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

- Develop knowledge and understanding of Christian beliefs and practices, so that they understand the importance of the Bible, 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 beliefs and practices of some of the other principal religions in Britain.
- Understand how belief may affect 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 their spiritually, morally, culturally and socially by helping them 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.

Legal Framework

Every maintained school in England must provide a basic curriculum (RE, sex education and the National Curriculum). This includes provision for RE for all registered pupils at the school (including those in the sixth form), except for those withdrawn by their parents (see paragraph below). As a voluntary controlled school, RE is therefore taught in accordance with the Pan Berkshire Agreed Syllabus, while also reflecting the requirements of the Statement of Entitlement for Religious Education published by the Education Office of the Church of England in February 2019. The statutory section 48 (SIAMS) inspection will evaluate the way that RE contributes to the Christian character of the school and the teaching of RE will reflect this requirement.

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

RE is taught using an enquiry based approach that is challenging and robust. This approach is based on a series of big questions and follows the recommendations of the Oxford Diocesan Scheme of Work, Understanding Christianity and discovery RE which form our school RE curriculum. Learning will be organised to encourage the development of attitudes such as self-awareness, respect for all, open-mindedness, appreciation and wonder, as well as providing opportunities to engage appropriately with Fundamental British Values. All faiths are treated respectfully, and opportunities will be made to engage in age-appropriate, meaningful discussion. Where possible pupils will encounter believers and visit places of worship.

A variety of resources, styles, and techniques will be used as appropriate to enable all children to make progress in RE regardless of their starting points, ability or background.

Assessment procedures will follow those of the Agreed Syllabus and be in accordance with other assessment and feedback procedures in the school. Students will engage in a variety of activities which will also enable teachers to assess what they have learnt. Records kept will include information about pupils' experiences and judgements about their attainment and progress, as well as being used to inform planning.

RE will be given at least 5% of curriculum time. In Key Stage 1 this will amount to approximately 36 hours per year; in KS2 this rises to 45 hours per year.

Subject Leadership

The RE subject leader and SLT will monitor teaching and learning in RE in accordance with school policy. The RE subject leader will observe teaching, conduct book and planning reviews and pupil interviews when appropriate to assess the quality of teaching and learning.

The headteacher and governors will ensure that adequate monitoring takes place and that the impact of such activity is assessed.

The RE subject leader will ensure that RE resources are kept up-to-date and that staff are informed when new resources are purchased or made available electronically. Resources will include source materials (eg Bibles, visitors, artefacts) where appropriate and be treated with respect by all staff.

The Right of Withdrawal

Pupils may be withdrawn from RE or part of RE by a parent or guardian (or withdrawing themselves if they are aged 18 or over) in accordance with Schedule 19 to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998; teachers can exercise their right to withdraw from teaching the subject. However, we hope that all parents and teachers will feel comfortable with the type of religious education being taught at this school. Parents who wish to withdraw their children must provide written notification to this effect and provide suitable activities for their children. The school will keep pupils safe but will not provide any work or reading material for pupils who have been withdrawn.

Review

This policy will be reviewed regularly. Its effectiveness will be monitored by the RE Co-ordinator and will be based upon discussions with other members of staff, observation of children's work and re-evaluation of teaching plans.