



St Thomas à Becket CEVA Primary School

At St Thomas à Becket CEVA Primary School with wisdom and inspiration, rooted in our Christian Values, we nurture all to flourish.

Our Core Values are: Friendship, Respect, Truth, Forgiveness and Perseverance

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Non Statutory	
Policy agreed	November 2019
Next review date	September 2022
Approved by	Head Teacher and Foundation governors

In our school our Christian vision shapes all we do:

At St Thomas à Becket CEVA Primary School with wisdom and inspiration, rooted in our Christian Values, we nurture all to flourish.

‘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

Policy Statement

Religious Education (RE) has a very high profile within the St Thomas à Becket CE Primary 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 a Voluntary Aided School, at St Thomas à Becket CE Primary School our governing body determines our RE curriculum, which is in accordance with the school's trust deed and is discussed with the diocese. The school teaches religious education according to the Wiltshire agreed syllabus, with additional teaching on Christianity.

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 be able to withdraw their children from all or part of Religious Education lessons. In this event, we will undertake responsibility for their supervision with regard to health and safety. If parents wish to withdraw their child from RE lessons they should discuss the matter with the head teacher. There will always be opportunity for parents to discuss the contents of the RE curriculum should they have concerns.

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 St Thomas à Becket CE Primary 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 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

- RE has a four year coverage programme which can be found on the Teacher's server and on the school's website
- 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, as are visits to the school by religious leaders
- A variety of teaching approaches are encouraged:
 - 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.

Curriculum balance and 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. Christianity should be the majority religion studied and should be at least 50% of the RE curriculum time.

RE may be taught as a block and there may be points in the year (such as Christmas and Easter) when the whole school will teach RE at the same time to facilitate cross-class teaching.

Throughout the year there will be RE themed Days, for the whole school, where World Faiths are celebrated to further develop pupils' understanding.

Resources

Resource	Location
Understanding Christianity Folder	Heads' Office
Discovery RE Folder	Heads' Office
Assessment Materials	Teacher Drive: RE Leader- Assessment Also Salisbury diocese website (link in subject leader folder)
CPD	Teacher drive: RE Leader folder Information from RE courses in RE Leaders folder
Artefacts	Some, in Collective Worship table in Kestrel classroom Many resources available to borrow from WSLR

Recording of RE

As effective practitioners using a range of teaching strategies different forms of recording will be used;

- Each pupil will have an individually named RE folder divided into Christian Themes and World Faiths which stays with them throughout the school
- Each class will have a group 'Floor Book' to record, for example, photos of drama, discussions, food. This serves as a useful tool for children to reflect on previous learning throughout the year
- The Floor book will also be used to record Spiritual Reflections. (Thus the floor book will be used both ends)
- Each pupil has an individual reflection journal in which they can record personal thoughts and reflections

Monitoring, Evaluation, Assessment and 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
- Teachers will keep assessment records for pupils for each RE module studied
- Teachers will record a final assessment for each pupil at the end of each academic year on SIMS
- Teachers will report back to parents in the end of year written report for each pupil

Also see:

Collective Worship Policy
Feedback and Marking Policy