

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY**

**ADOPTED BY GOVERNING BODY 23 MARCH 2021**



**CONTENTS**

Contents .....	1
Preliminary Point .....	1
1 Introduction and Intent .....	2
2 The Legal Position.....	2
3 Curriculum.....	2
4 Aims of Religious Education.....	3
5 Teaching, Monitoring and Assessment.....	3
6 Time Recommendation.....	4
7 Withdrawal From Religious Education .....	4
8 Useful Websites .....	4

**PRELIMINARY POINT**

This policy covers Religious Education and not Collective Worship. We confirm that Collective Worship at All Saints

- Is (quite rightly) worship,
- Not just the school assembling together, and
- Is based on Christianity.

However this document concentrates entirely on Religious Education as a subject in lessons.



## **1 INTRODUCTION AND INTENT**

All Saints Primary School takes children from wide ranging backgrounds. At All Saints, we take pride in our inclusivity and school values; believing that ‘everyone is a learner and every experience is a learning opportunity’. We value each individual, their uniqueness and the contribution they can make to our school community.

This school is a Church of England school that is institutionally rooted in the Christian faith. Its ethos of love and care and its commitment to justice are the foundation of its aims in educating the whole school community to make its proper contribution to society. Through its actions and expectations, it attempts to develop the full human potential in each person, whether governor, parent, pupil or member of staff.

It is essential for our pupils to learn from and about religion, developing their understanding of the multi-cultural, ever-changing world around them. Through Religious Education, we strive to engage and inspire our pupils with an enquiry-based curriculum, where they are provided with opportunities to learn about world faiths, deepening their understanding and awareness of the beliefs, values and traditions of other individuals, societies, communities and cultures. It plays a significant role in the development of their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and nurtures our pupils to be respectful and open-minded towards different faiths and beliefs, whilst also developing their own sense of identity and belonging.

## **2 THE LEGAL POSITION**

A high-quality sequential religious education programme is essential to meet the statutory requirement for all state funded schools to teach a full curriculum that prepares pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in modern Britain. Central to religious education in church schools is the study of Christianity as a living and diverse faith, focused on the teaching of Jesus and the church. There is a clear expectation that, as inclusive communities, church schools provide sequenced learning about a range of religions and worldviews fostering respect for others. In voluntary aided schools such as All Saints, RE must be taught in accordance with the trust deed.

## **3 CURRICULUM**

The school, in accordance with its Trust Deed, provides religious education for all pupils registered at the school. Following advice from the Oxford Diocesan Board of Education, the Governors have decided that Religious Education in our school should be based upon Discovery RE which covers the PAN Berkshire agreed syllabus for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. Religious Education has the same status and importance as any other subject and, as such, the same high standards are applied to this as to other subjects.



## 4 AIMS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious education aims to help pupils to:

- Acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and the other principal religions represented in Great Britain;
- Develop an understanding of the influence of beliefs, values and traditions on individuals, communities, societies and cultures;
- Develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues;
- Enhance their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development;
- Develop a positive attitude towards other people, respecting their right to hold different beliefs from their own and towards living in a society of diverse religions (summarised from the Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education).

The purpose of religious education does not include any attempt to alter a child's beliefs. Indeed, in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus, our religious education programme is designed not 'to convert pupils or urge a particular religion or religious belief on pupils'. (Agreed Syllabus quoting from the DFE circular 1/94 paragraph 32)

In a church school such as All Saints:

- The pupils and their families can expect an RE curriculum that enables pupils to acquire a rich, deep knowledge and understanding of Christian belief and practice, this should include the ways in which it is unique and diverse.
- Pupils can expect that the RE curriculum will engage and challenge them through an exploration of core concepts and questions. They can expect church schools to provide meaningful and informed dialogue with a range of religions and worldviews.
- Progress in RE should be significant and attainment high enabling pupils to develop confident religious literacy.
- Parents and pupils can expect that RE will have a high profile within the curriculum and will be a priority for senior leaders.
- Religious education must be considered an academic subject. All pupils are entitled to religious education that is delivered in an objective, critical and pluralistic manner.

## 5 TEACHING, MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

In the teaching and learning of religious education a variety of resources, styles, and techniques will be used as appropriate. Students will engage in activities which will also enable teachers to assess what they have learnt. The focus will be on encouraging children to develop their questioning and thinking skills.

Records kept will include information of pupils' experiences and judgements about their levels of attainment and progress. Pupil conferences, and speaking and listening tasks will provide valuable



insight for teachers and support the RE Coordinator's monitoring of the children's attainment and enjoyment of RE.

By the end of each key stage, pupils are expected to know, understand and apply skills related to both attainment targets and learning themes embedded within Discovery RE. Assessment of RE is ongoing, to inform teachers with their planning, lesson activities and differentiation. Summative assessment is required at the end of each unit, relating back to the key question; identifying the two attainment targets. RE is monitored throughout year groups through book looks, learning walks and pupil voices.

## **6 TIME RECOMMENDATION**

Reflecting the guidance of Circular 1/94 the agreed syllabus has been based on the expectation that pupils in Key Stage 1 will receive 36 hours per year of Religious Education.

Reflecting the guidance of Circular 1/94 the agreed syllabus has been based on the expectation that pupils in Key Stage 2 will receive 45 hours per year of Religious Education.

In practice at All Saints, RE is taught weekly for an hour.

## **7 WITHDRAWAL FROM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Parents may withdraw their children from all or any part of religious education and 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.

In adopting this policy, the Governors of All Saints CE [Aided] Primary School recognise their responsibility for ensuring that all children in the care of the school are given the opportunity to learn about the Christian faith and other faiths as laid out in the agreed syllabus, but also recognise their duty of pastoral care of the school's children.

## **8 USEFUL WEBSITES**

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/210219-RE-Statement-of-Entitlement-for-Church-schools.pdf> (Diocesan Statement of Entitlement)

[www.articlesoffaith.co.uk](http://www.articlesoffaith.co.uk) (artefacts etc.)

[www.reonline.org.uk](http://www.reonline.org.uk) (teaching/learning ideas and many resources for RE; currently being up-dated)

[www.salisbury.anglican.org/school/re/dorset-re](http://www.salisbury.anglican.org/school/re/dorset-re) (exemplar planning/ideas etc.)

[www.retoday.org.uk/publications](http://www.retoday.org.uk/publications) (lots of publications and curriculum materials).