St. John the Evangelist C of E (Aided) Primary School

Religious Education Policy

Our School’s Vision Statement

***“Following Jesus’ example, we seek to grow good people who are ready to make a difference to the world around them.”***

We believe that

**“The only thing that matters is faith expressing itself through love.”**

Galatians 5:6

Revised January 2025

Next review September 2025

**Our Curriculum Intent for Religion and Worldviews**

We ignite a passion and curiosity for learning by providing a rich and engaging RE curriculum to inspire all learners to be the best that they can be. Pupils experience a balanced RE curriculum which explores religions and worldviews through theology, philosophy and the human and the social sciences.

At St John’s ourRE curriculum is deeply rooted in core Christian concepts, providing a strong foundation for learning. These concepts are introduced in the early years and built upon each year, as we retrieve children’s prior knowledge and continue to develop their understanding. Alongside these Christian teachings, we also explore world faiths and perspectives from those of no faith, fostering an inclusive and respectful learning environment.

Through this approach, we ensure that students are continually growing in their faith and knowledge, while deepening their appreciation of diverse religious beliefs and secular viewpoints. By progressively exploring these concepts, we help students form a strong spiritual and moral framework, which they can apply in both their academic learning and daily lives. The aim is to ensure that each child’s understanding of *faith, love and hope* evolves over time, preparing them to engage thoughtfully and empathetically with the world around them.

Encountering religion and belief includes enquiry into and investigation of the nature of religion, its key beliefs and teachings, practices, their impacts on the lives of believers and communities, and the varying ways in which these are expressed. It also includes the skills of interpretation, analysis and explanation. Pupils learn to communicate their knowledge and understanding using specialist vocabulary. It also includes identifying and developing an understanding of ultimate questions and ethical issues.

When responding to their learning encounters religious education is concerned with developing pupils’ reflection on and response to their own experiences and their learning about religion. It develops pupils’ skills in applying, interpreting and evaluating what they learn about religion, and the ability to consider and relate their learning to questions of: identity and belonging; meaning, purpose and truth; values and commitments. As pupils communicate their responses to learning their religious literacy is developed and enhanced in an age appropriate way.

**A Vision Statement for Religious Education**

At St. John’s, our RE curriculum has been designed with the intention of enabling every child to flourish. The curriculum expresses and strengthens our vision, ethos and values which are at the heart of what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. As a school we recognise that a good quality R.E. curriculum has the potential to have the most powerful and lasting effect on a child’s heart and mind.

In our school where pupils and staff come from different faiths and none, religious education (RE) is a highly valued subject which combines academic skills with the development of character and spirit. The school’s RE curriculum is rich and varied. It studies a range of world religions and worldviews. At the heart of RE in this school is the teaching of Christianity as a living and diverse faith, rooted in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

As with all curriculum subjects, our school’s Christian vision drives all of our learning. We take time to celebrate those in our own community and those in the world at large, who have ‘expressed their faith through love’.

**Aims**

The aims of Religious Education **in this school** are:

* To know about and understand Christianity as a diverse global living faith through the exploration of core concepts using an approach that critically engages with biblical text. (God’s Big Story)
* To gain knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews appreciating diversity, continuity and change within the religions and worldviews being studied.
* To engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose raised by human existence and experience.
* To recognise the concept of religion and its continuing influence on Britain’s cultural heritage and in the lives of individuals and societies in different times, cultures and places.
* To explore their own religious, spiritual and philosophical ways living, believing and thinking.

*National Society RE Statement of Entitlement 2019*

**Legal Framework**

As a **voluntary aided school**, we are free by law to provide RE in accordance with our trust deed.

Our school RE curriculum is based on the Questful resource which is Chester Diocese’s offer for RE. The resource which fulfils all legal requirements and embodies the RE Statement of Entitlement from the Church of England Education Office 2019.

Parents have a legal right in accordance with the Education act 1996 to withdraw their children from religious education lessons, but as RE is central to the life and identity of St. John’s, we would ask parents to discuss with the head teacher any reasons they might have for doing this.

**Teaching & Learning**

* Our school RE curriculum is based on Questful which is Chester Diocese’s offer for RE. Other resources such as ‘Understanding Christianity’ (God’s Big Story) and RE:Quest are used to support teaching and learning. There are clear learning outcomes for all units of work, based on the appropriate expectations as set out in the RE syllabus.
* RE will be given *at least* 5% of curriculum time.
* With the exception of EYFS, the school scheme of work is organised as a two-year rolling programme and ensures that there is continuity and progression for pupils and opportunities for assessment.
* A range of teaching and learning activities inspires pupils learning.
* Progress in RE is part of pupils’ annual report to parents.
* Inclusion and differentiation for children with SEND, EAL and the more able are considered in our planning and teaching as they are in all areas of the curriculum.
* RE will be taught as a discrete subject. At times, we may plan RE days or weeks to study a theme in more depth.
* A range of visitors is invited to support the teaching of RE, and whenever possible, there will be planned visits to places of worship
* Of the RE taught, 75% is Christianity and 25% covers other world faiths. Pupils are encouraged to recognise similarities between faiths and use this knowledge to develop their own personal ‘worldview’.
* Wherever possible, links are made between Religious Education and other curriculum subjects.

**Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development/ British Values**

* Religious Education is a key opportunity for children to develop morally, spiritually, socially and culturally. In RE lessons children are invited to reflect on their personal responses to issues, consider other people’s worldviews and appreciate that for some people belief in a spiritual dimension is important.
* We encourage children to consider the answers offered by faith groups to questions of meaning and purpose and problems within society and their own experience.
* Religious education also introduces pupils to the significance of belonging to a community, the diversity of communities in the wider community, faith rules and their application to moral and ethical issues and cultural influences on religious practice. This includes work on British values.

**Leadership & Management**

The teaching, assessing and resourcing of Religious Education is managed by the RE subject leader, in close collaboration with Senior Management who together will ensure that the principles set out in the National Society’s Statement of Entitlement for RE are implemented.

The RE subject leader will support and regularly monitor the subject across the school and will receive an adequate budget yearly to do this. Relevant and regular CPD will ensure that her subject knowledge and expertise are kept up to date. The RE subject leader will ensure that staff receive adequate training whenever necessary in the teaching and assessment of RE. Regular reports to the curriculum governors and to the governing body will ensure everyone is informed on progress and attainment in RE.

**SIAMS & RE**

Our SIAMS inspection was carried out in January 2019. The overall judgement was GOOD. The targets for improvement were identified as:

* *Develop pupils’ knowledge and understanding of other world faiths in order to prepare them more effectively for life in a diverse society.*
* *Enable pupils to have a more active role in the planning and leading of collective worship in order to further promote their spiritual development.*
* *Improve pupils’ understanding of Christianity as a worldwide faith in order to broaden their perspective on global issues.*

Please refer to the school’s RE action plan to see how these issues are being addressed.

**Review**

This policy will be reviewed annually. Its effectiveness will be monitored by the RE Subject Leader and the SLT and will be based upon discussions with other members of staff, observation of teaching and monitoring of children’s work. Re-evaluation of teaching plans will also from part of any review. The outcome of the review will influence the future school development plan.