



ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

CONTEXT

St. Mary's (Truro) Church of England School (voluntary controlled) is a county primary school, serving a settled community in an almost totally and mostly nominal Christian area of the south west of England. However, the pupils are not immune from developments in and influences from a wider world, through family and personal contacts, the media, and from their education. It is part of the aims of the school to offer a wide-ranging education, to prepare pupils for life not only in their own community but also in a wider world.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

(For details see Circular 1/94, the 2002 Education Act and the School Standard and Framework Act 1998)

RE is a part of the basic curriculum of the school, as set out in 2002 Education Act and the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, and must be taught to all pupils, unless they have been withdrawn from it by their parents.

- Parents have the right to withdraw their children from RE.
- As St. Mary's is a voluntary controlled primary school, RE must be taught according to the Agreed Syllabus of the Cornwall Council, published in 2014. This states that 5% of the curriculum time to be spent on RE, in addition to the act of collective worship daily:

i.e. at KS1 36 hours per year

 at KS2 45 hours per year

AIMS FOR RE

THE AIMS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ARE TO HELP PUPILS TO:

- acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and the other principal religions represented in Great Britain;
- gain experience of being members of a community and develop appropriate skills as citizens;

- 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, with reference to the teachings of the principal religions represented in Great Britain;
- enhance their spiritual, moral, cultural and social development by:
 1. developing awareness of the fundamental questions of life raised by human experiences, and of how religious teachings can relate to them
 2. responding to such questions with reference to the teachings and practices of religions, and to their own understanding and experience
 3. reflecting on their own beliefs, values and experiences in the light of their study
- 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 and beliefs.

The school fully accepts these aims as appropriate for RE for the pupils at St. Mary's school and they have been used to inform the planning, teaching and learning.

COMMON REQUIREMENTS

The syllabus sets out seven common requirements the school will clearly identify where these requirements are being met.

SPIRITUAL AND MORAL DEVELOPMENT OF PUPILS

Through the aims above, in light of the common requirements, RE contributes fully and positively to the spiritual, moral, cultural and social development of the pupils. This is promoted throughout the school – its ethos, curriculum and its worship.

APPROACHES TO RE

RE will be provided through (one, two or all of these, or in combination):

- a) normally as one lesson a week dedicated to the delivery of RE as set out in each class's timetable;
- b) as part of a wider topic focus involving the delivery of other subjects such as History, Geography, Art, Music or English, and;
- c) some occasional connections with the school's programme of assemblies and collective worship (for full details of which, please see separate policy).

The scheme of work used for medium term planning is 'Discover RE' (for other faiths) and 'Understanding Christianity'. This can be located in the staff room for all staff.

MANAGEMENT OF RE

The School Co-ordinator is Mrs A Richards whose task it is, within the overall management and curriculum policy of the school:

- to develop school policy on RE
- to work with colleagues to use the scheme of work for RE
- to ensure continuity and progression in RE through the school
- to advise on methods of teaching and learning
- to develop and maintain a resource base for RE
- to co-ordinate in-service training in RE
- to develop and maintain a development plan for RE
- to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of RE and to inform the school's self-evaluation process so that effective targets can be set to improve the impact of RE on pupil learning

METHODS IN RE

RE will use the full range of teaching and learning methods as appropriate for the age, development and abilities of the pupils, and for the purpose and content of the work, including:

- whole class teaching
- individual research and resource-based learning
- visits to building and places outside school
- the use of artefacts
- visits from outside speakers
- use of the basic skills of reading, literacy, numeracy and artwork
- use of audio-visual resources such as TV, video clips, MP3s, interactive whiteboard.
- differentiated work for pupils of different ability
- Drama and role play

RESOURCES

At present the resources available to RE are in the music room in labelled boxes. Resources are added to when required by staff. Extra resources are available online through 'Understanding Christianity'.

ASSESSMENT AND RECORDING

The school believes that it is very important to monitor the progress of its pupils in RE as in any other subject. This will be done through the use of the two Attainment Targets set out in the Agreed Syllabus.

Assessment of RE shall be done in accordance with the levels of attainment in the Agreed Syllabus 2014 Pupils at KS1 and KS2 will be assessed relative to the levels. Assessment results will be recorded to inform reporting to parents. In order to do this effectively staff will use the levels of attainment in the agreed syllabus and outcomes set in 'Discover RE' and 'Understanding Christianity'.

Assessment of RE for Reception pupils will be relative to their contribution to the Understanding the World.

REPORTING RE

At present it is a legal requirement that the Headteacher issues a written report of progress in RE for each pupil annually. This will be done along with reports for subjects of the Primary National Curriculum. The report will contain attainment in

RE, as well as a comment on the effort, presentation skills and general progress of the pupils.

Reporting in RE at reception will comment on how work in RE has contributed to a child's attainment in the Early Learning Goals.

Signed Dated
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(Chairman of Governors)

Signed Dated
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(Headteacher)

Review date: June 2018