

Combe St Nicholas C of E VA Primary School

Name of Policy	RE Policy	
Approved by GB - Date	3 rd October 2023	
Next Review Date	2 nd October 2025	
Committee Responsible	Full Governing Body	

This policy should be taken as part of the overall strategy of the school and operated within the context of our vision, aims and values as a Church of England School.

"That they may have life, life in all its fullness"

John: Chapter 10 Verse 10

Religious Education

As a Church of England Voluntary Aided School, the provision of RE is taught in accordance with the Trust Deed. The Governors, in consultation with the Head-teacher, have developed a Religious Education Curriculum based on the Trust Deed, The Church of England Statement of Entitlement, 'Understanding Christianity' and the locally agreed syllabus: 'Awareness, Mystery and Value'.

We recognise the status of RE in the curriculum as a core subject and an entitlement to all the children. We value the role that the taught RE Curriculum makes in developing the children's knowledge and spiritual and moral development and the role it has in achieving our Vision.

Rationale

- To develop children's sense of their own identity, worth and a sense of belonging to help them to flourish within their communities and as citizens in a diverse society.
- To enable pupils to investigate and reflect on some of the most fundamental questions asked by people, such as the purpose of life, beliefs, the self, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human. It develops pupils' knowledge and understanding and gives opportunities for personal reflection and spiritual development.
- To develop a sense of 'awe and wonder' of the world around us.
- To enable pupils to understand the origins and nature of Christianity and to give an understanding of Christianity as a living faith rooted in the person and ministry of Jesus Christ.
- To create an awareness and understanding of other religious beliefs and customs, reflecting on what it means to have a faith or no faith.
- To enable children to access and engage with religious text and theological ideas.
- To develop an understanding of the ways in which religious belief, or high moral calling, may lead individuals and groups to challenge injustice.
- To encourage pupils to explore their own beliefs, religious or non-religious, in the light of what they learn, as they examine moral issues and how these impact on personal, institutional and social ethics.
- To develop a respect for others, including people of other nationalities with different beliefs and values and to challenge prejudice.
- To enable pupils to develop an understanding of the impact that Christianity has on Britain's cultural heritage and the lives of people worldwide.
- To develop empathy, generosity and compassion towards others locally and in the global community in line with Christian Values.

Role of the Coordinator

- To ensure proper provision and resourcing for the organisation and delivery of a well-planned, agreed programme for R.E.
- Role of the Headteacher and Governors
- To ensure that teachers are suitably trained in the subject and that there are regular opportunities for CPD
- To ensure that the pupils make progress in achieving the learning objectives of the RE agreed curriculum.

Resources:

Many good resources are available in the school to support the teaching of this subject:

- Artefacts for world religions
- Reference books, Bibles and Bible stories and CDs
- Internet and Twinkl
- Good links with local churches enabling frequent visits
- Understanding Christianity Resources
- Discovery RE resources – which includes assessment materials
- Somerset, Awareness, Mystery and Value online resources

Special Needs:

Children with special needs will be encouraged to participate fully in the programme for R.E. Activities will be suitably differentiated and opportunities will exist for small group activities where appropriate.

Assessment and Record Keeping:

In line with our Assessment Policy, assessments are carried out at the end of each unit of work as outlined in the plans distributed to teaching staff.

Teachers also assess work through regular marking and discussion with pupils.

There is an expectation that the children will achieve as well or better than they do in other comparable subjects.

Planning:

RE plays an important part of the broad and balanced curriculum to which all the children are entitled. High quality learning experiences are designed by careful planning through the 'Understanding Christianity and 'Awareness, Mystery and Value' units.

The teaching of RE follows the Liturgical year: God, Creation, Fall, People of God, Incarnation, Gospel, Salvation and Kingdom of God. Each of these aspects is studied from the point of view of Christianity for all children. In addition, these

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Aspects are studied from the point of view of other religions: Judaism, for KS1, Hinduism for years 3 and 4 and Islam for years 5 and 6. The children are also encouraged to make links with peoples of other faiths and people of no faith, treating all beliefs and views as valid and deserving of respect.

The ratio of Christianity to other religions is 2/3 Christianity 1/3 other faiths.

Teachers aim to plan inspiring lessons which help to develop a wide range of higher level skills such as enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection.

The children in KS2 are taught in year groups to ensure that they receive their full entitlement to RE provision. To enable this to happen, RE is timetabled across the school and teachers are deployed appropriately.

In order to make RE a lively active subject, we employ a variety of teaching methods including

- Art, music, discussion, drama, use of artefacts, pictures, stories and the use of reflection
- Whole school approaches and aims for R.E as part of a Values led curriculum
- Sharing of practical experiences and building up of teaching and learning materials in the school
- Making use of the local environment, the church, religious groups and visitors etc.
- Pursuit of topical issues arising at the appropriate level and in the most suitable form for the pupils
- Development of attitudes; the exploration of experiences; the exploration of religions.
- Vertically grouped focus days
- Involvement in local RE activities and celebration days.

The Right of Withdrawal

We are an inclusive school, but recognise that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from RE on the grounds of conscience. However, the right of withdrawal does not extend to other areas of the curriculum when, as may happen, spontaneous questions on religious matters are raised by pupils or there are issues related to religion that arise in other subjects.

We would ask any parent considering withdrawing a child from RE to contact the Headteacher.

Evaluation:

The school policy for R.E. will constantly be under review by Governors, Clergy, Head-teacher, RE Coordinator and Ethos Group representatives - which includes parents.