

Intent

At St Mary's Primary School, we hold at the centre of what we do words of Jesus from John's Gospel, with children 'Learning to Love Life in all its Fullness' (John 10:10). We aim to help each pupil fulfil their potential and flourish in all aspects of their personhood including physically, academically, socially, morally and spiritually. We aim that pupils have self-confidence and are able to make excellent progress in all subjects, including Religious Education, whatever their background or circumstance. We aim for our pupils to discover more about themselves, others and God, encouraging children's values and spiritual development to be explored and experienced, rooted in Christian narrative. Our school vision, taken from Isaiah (40:31) encourages all of our children to persevere in the tough times and use their faith to flourish in an inclusive, supportive Christian community. We aim for a safe space for our children to develop their understanding of people, cultures, faiths and relationships, essential as preparation for living in our richly diverse world.

Implementation

High-Quality Teaching

Teachers should be highly skilled and knowledgeable in the teaching of Religious Education. They should understand Christianity and a wide range of other world religions and worldviews. We use a structured and progressive R.E. curriculum based upon the National Curriculum (2014) and the Worcestershire Agreed Syllabus, as well as considering the changing context of our community and its needs. Teachers should also employ a range of cross-curricular strategies to enable all children to access religious texts and scriptures and form and discuss their opinions.

School Approach to Religious Education

In-line with all church schools, this school has duty to provide accurate knowledge and understanding of religions and world views.

Aims

- To enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living faith which influences the lives of people worldwide and as the religion which has most shaped British culture and heritage.
- To enable pupils to know and understand about other major world religions and views and their impact on society
- To contribute to the development of pupils' spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own beliefs and values. (Statement of Entitlement, Church of England Education office, June 2016)

A wide range of imaginative teaching methods and pupil groupings ensure effective RE sessions. We appreciate the positive impact that local faith communities can have on pupils' experience in RE. Therefore, this school encourages visits to places of worship and welcomes visitors from different faith communities. We recognise it is vitally important that teachers demonstrate respectful attitudes towards all faiths, modelling the attitudes and responses we would expect from our pupils. We aim to incorporate at least one visit to a place of worship per year group (or visitor to school) in addition to regular visits to St Mary's Church.

Organisation and Time Allocation

In accordance with the structure of Worcestershire Agreed Syllabus we have agreed that, as a minimum:

- In the Foundation Stage pupils will encounter Christianity and other faiths, as part of their growing sense of self, their own community and their place within it. They will be introduced to a range of faith traditions. See EYFS docs for more info (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/64e6002a20ae890014f26cbc/DfE_Development_Matters_Report_Sep2023.pdf)
- At Key Stage 1 pupils study Christianity, Judaism or Islam.
- At Key Stage 2 pupils study Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Islam and also consider non-religious worldviews including Humanism.

R.E. should take place weekly for one hour (or equivalent), noting that Collective Worship should be additional.

Impact

As identified in the Statement of Entitlement, teaching and learning in R.E. in this school will provide:

- A challenging and robust curriculum based on an accurate theological framework
- An assessment process which has rigour and demonstrates progression based on knowledge and understanding of core religious concepts
- A curriculum that draws on the richness and diversity of religious experience worldwide
- A pedagogy that instils respect for different views and interpretations; and, in which real dialogue and theological enquiry takes place
- The opportunity for pupils to deepen their understanding of the religion and world views as lived by believers.
 - R.E. that makes a positive contribution to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development.

Furthermore, our R.E. curriculum should contribute to overall school improvement, raising standards in literacy and positively impacting pupils' academic and personal development. This impact should be evident in attainment data, pupils' work, and the experiences and feedback of pupils, parents, and staff.

Instilling a life-long love for learning in an inclusive, supportive Christian community. Giving everyone the strength to enable them to flourish.

