

# Religious Education Policy

## Belonging, Believing, Building a future

It is our mission for everyone to experience the joy of God's love in their lives as part of St Peter's family through trust and friendships. We aim for everyone to be nurtured and to grow in peace, hope and understanding of God, themselves and one another in order to achieve and live fulfilled lives.

*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit"*  
(Romans 15:13)

### Introduction

At St Peter's School, RE plays an important role in expressing the Christian vision of the school. RE reflects the ethos and values that are held and promotes understanding of people of all faiths and none. RE has the same high status as any other subject and contributes to the overall development of our children from all backgrounds and traditions.

### The Legal Position

Every maintained school in England must provide a basic curriculum (RE, sex and relationship education and the National Curriculum). This includes provision for RE for all registered children at the school, except for those withdrawn by their parents. The school, in accordance with its Trust Deed, provides religious education for all children registered at the school. Following advice from the Oxford Diocesan Board of Education, the governors decided that religious education in our school should be based upon the Oxfordshire Locally Agreed Syllabus while also reflecting the requirements of the Statement of Entitlement for Religious Education published by the Education Office of the Church of England in February 2019. The statutory section 48 (SIAMS) inspection will evaluate RE and the way that it expresses the Christian vision of the school and look for evidence of progress and attainment. 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.

### Purpose and Aims of RE

The purpose of RE is to teach children about the religious and non-religious world-views that they will encounter in modern Britain and enable them to engage in meaningful and considered dialogue with those of all faiths and none. This is religious literacy.

Therefore, the aims of RE in our school are:

- To know about and understand Christianity as a diverse global living faith through the exploration of core beliefs using an approach that critically engages with biblical text.
- 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.

### **Curriculum and Time Allocation**

The RE curriculum at St Peter's, has been approved by the governors. Christianity is taught in every year group, with key concepts revisited on a spiral curriculum. At least 50% of the time is devoted to Christianity. Other religions are covered according to the syllabus; i.e. Judaism in KS1, Hinduism and Islam in KS2.

The Oxford Diocesan Scheme of Work and Understanding Christianity are used for the teaching of RE.

RE is taught in dedicated lessons with cross-curricular links made as appropriate. The time dedicated to RE is separate from the time given to Collective Worship.

### **Teaching, Learning and Assessment**

RE is taught using an enquiry-based approach that is challenging and robust, as recommended by the Diocesan Scheme of Work and Understanding Christianity. It is recommended in the National Statement of Entitlement. Learning is organised to encourage the development of attitudes such as self-awareness, respect for all, open-mindedness, appreciation and wonder, as well as providing opportunities to engage appropriately with Fundamental British Values. All faiths are treated respectfully, and opportunities will be made to engage in age-appropriate, meaningful discussion. Where possible children will encounter believers and visit places of worship.

In accordance with the school's SEN and Equal Opportunities policies and 'Valuing all God's Children', a variety of resources, styles, and techniques are used as appropriate to enable all children to make progress in RE regardless of their starting points, ability or background.

Assessment procedures will be robust and in line with the assessment procedures and marking and feedback policy of the school, meeting the requirements of the syllabus or scheme that has been adopted. Children will engage in a variety of activities which will also enable teachers to assess what they have learnt. Records kept will include information about children's experiences and judgements about their attainment and progress, as well as being used to inform planning.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The Headteacher at St Peter's is the RE subject leader and will monitor teaching and learning in RE in accordance with school policy. The RE subject leader will observe teaching, conduct book and planning reviews and pupil interviews when appropriate to assess the quality of teaching and learning. The headteacher and governors will ensure that adequate monitoring takes place and that the impact of such activity is assessed.

## **Resources**

The RE subject leader will ensure that RE resources are kept up-to-date and that staff are informed when new resources are purchased or made available electronically. Resources will include source materials (e.g. Bibles, visitors, artefacts) where appropriate and be treated with respect by all staff.

## **The Right of Withdrawal**

Children may be withdrawn from RE or part of RE by a parent in accordance with Schedule 19 to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998; 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 and provide suitable activities for their children. The school will keep children safe but will not provide any work or reading material for children who have been withdrawn.