



## **St. John's Walworth CE Primary School**

# **Religious Education Policy**



## September 2019

### Vision Statement

Our vision is to develop well rounded, confident and responsible individuals who aspire to achieve their full potential. We are committed to providing a warm, safe and supportive learning environment, based on clear spiritual principles, which permeate all aspects of life.

### Mission Statement

The Christian nature of St John's Walworth Church of England Primary School is central to our philosophy and informs every aspect of the life of the school.

We are committed to providing a warm and welcoming environment where our pupils can receive an excellent Christian education.

Our core Christian values of *care, hope, faith, respect and responsibility* focus us, as an inclusive community, to be the best version of ourselves. Our values permeate all areas of school life through learning, religious education, prayer, worship and action.

We value the unique strengths and gifts of the children entrusted to us and strive to provide an excellent education so that, through our teaching, the children may realise their full potential.

In partnership with our families, governors and parish, and inspired by our faith, we support the children of St John's. We encourage the children to shine, to have pride in their achievements, to show concern for others and contribute to society as responsible citizens.

### Our Aims

To be achieved through the commitment of all in our community to the ethos of St John's Walworth CE Primary School.

- Enable every child to meet their potential intellectually, morally, spiritually and physically in a caring Christian environment.
- Inspire our children to become life-long learners who are equipped to apply their learning in a diverse and rapidly changing world.
- To appreciate that we are all uniquely created and loved by God.
- To deepen each child's understanding of the Christian Faith.
- To nurture in the children an understanding of Christian values and how these help shape our lives and the lives of others.
- To understand the importance of forgiveness and reconciliation.
- To work in partnership with parents and parish to create a Christian atmosphere, enriched through prayer.

- To provide an excellent education for children to learn and achieve their potential.
- To respect and care for one another in a happy, welcoming and nurturing community.
- To ensure children respect and care for others, develop an understanding of the world and contribute to society as responsible citizens.

***The requirements of the Board of Governors of the school are that Religious Education in the school should:***

1. Be predominantly Christian in accordance with the trust deeds relating to the school;
2. Show an informed and respectful attitude to other religions world views in their search for God and meaning;
3. Give a theological informed and thoughtful account of Christianity as a living and diverse faith;
4. Be given the same priority as the core subjects in the curriculum and must aim to be an outstanding specialism of the school;
5. Be of the highest quality, aiming for excellence in teaching and learning.
6. Be progressive, innovative, creative, exciting and engaging and its relevance made clear to all;
7. Have sufficient dedicated curriculum time, meeting explicitly RE objectives, however organised, should be committed to the delivery of RE. This should aim to be close to 10%;

St John's Church of England Primary School belongs to a multi-cultural, multi-racial community and is part of the parish of Walworth. It offers a Christian education and has the Anglican faith, worship and its traditions at its centre.

Our school recognises every child's right to grow as an individual and has high expectations of children's academic achievement and ability to work and play together. In light of this, a faith group has been set up so that children can make their own contributions to the school's distinctive Christian vision. They have been thinking about what makes our Church of England School so special and they are pivotal in supporting our Christian Ethos and Vision.

**Basis of R.E. syllabus**

**The New Religious Education syllabus or units of work should satisfy:**

The Law as set out in the Education Reform Act, 1988; which states that:

1. Religious Education should be taught to all pupils. Although parents have the right, under the terms of this act, (and also the 1993 and 1994 Education Acts) to withdraw their children, the Governors would expect all parents who have specifically chosen a Church of England Primary

- School to allow their children to take part in the Religious Education programme.
2. Religious Education should promote the moral, physical, mental, cultural and spiritual development of pupils.

**To broaden this, for the purpose of the Religious Education Policy, we aim to enable the children to:**

Learn about and understand Christianity as a living faith that influences the lives of people worldwide and as the religion that has most shaped British culture and heritage;

Develop knowledge and understanding of Christian beliefs, values and practices and appreciate the significance of the Christian faith for individuals, cultures and societies in Britain and worldwide;

Be introduced to the richness and diversity of religious beliefs and practices in other religions so that they can learn about and from them;

Develop a strong foundation of the Christian faith through knowledge and understanding. This should be through beginning to grow an understanding of the Christian theological concepts that underpin Christian Beliefs;

To apply an understanding of Christianity to make reasoned and informed responses to life issues and moral choices;

Understand the place of religion in human life and the important ways in which it influences individuals, communities and societies;

Develop skills, which will enable pupils to explore and respond to religious questions and truth claims;

Understand that religious beliefs and values affect and influence attitudes, behaviour and actions;

Recognise the rights of others to hold beliefs different from their own, such as the acceptance of people belonging to LGBT groups;

**Resources**

The Southwark Diocesan Board has recently updated and produced units of work for teaching RE in its primary schools. We will use these units of work as our main focus of our teaching of RE at St John's Walworth Primary School and adapt it where necessary. However, we also use a variety of other resources to help support the teaching of RE throughout the school.

### **Teachers will be encouraged to support their teaching by using:**

- The curriculum map for the New Southwark Diocesan Syllabus for RE will be used to plan termly and weekly lessons in all classes;
- Other resources for teachers will be situated in the resource room – porta cabin;
- Religious artefact on Christianity and other religions; It is intended to gradually build up an extensive selection of these for use with the pupils.
- Visits to various places of worship;
- Visitors from different faith groups;
- Southwark Cathedral Education department;

Pupils will be taught to treat religious artefacts with the respect they deserve when they are handling them; realising that to mishandle an artefact i.e. a copy of the Koran may cause grave offence to others.

### **Assessment**

Assessment will be built into RE to inform teaching and learning; for the Foundation Stage the Early Learning Goals will be used and for Key Stage 1 and 2, the 4 point scale devised by the school for our core subjects, will be used.

Most units of work will be assessed informally after they are taught. However, there will be a half termly assessment of AT 1 and AT 2 in all the classes regularly.

Pupils progress in RE will be recorded half termly, discussed at pupil progress meetings every term and reports will be sent home to parents at the end of the year.

### **Differentiation**

In line with our SEN policy, differentiation by task will involve pupils working on the same unit of work but being given tasks which may require different levels of support and resources. Differentiation by outcome involves pupils being involved in the same basic task; the work they produce indicates their level of achievement.

- Appropriate provision will be made so that all children have equality of access to the R.E. curriculum.
- Take part in a daily act of collective worship.
- The teaching of religion will also be conveyed through:

Mass

Music

Stories

PSHE

Thought for the week

British Values

Assemblies (whole school, year groups and class)

Art

Myth

Symbol

Citizenship

British Values

Artefacts

Dance

Visitations

Drama.

Opportunities will be provided for pupils to reflect on their own experiences and views of others around the world:

Visits to relevant places of worship;  
Visitors – resource persons coming into school.

### **Developing Staff Expertise**

To demonstrate the subject's comparable status with other core curriculum areas in both staffing and resourcing, it is a priority at our school to build staff expertise in RE specifically but not exclusively, working towards:

- \* All staff teaching RE has access to appropriate professional development;
- \* All teaching staff and governors will have an understanding of the distinctive role and purpose of RE within our school:
- \* A governor will be responsible for monitoring standards in RE, effectively;
- \* At least one member of staff will have specialist RE training or qualification;

### **Scripture**

In the Scripture passages the children meet Jesus as a man of prayer and one who teaches his disciples to pray. They are introduced to the heritage of the Psalms and the use of Scripture in prayer.

### **Prayer**

Prayer will be part of the celebration of every topic.

Children may choose a prayer as a way of remembering.

Prayers will be said in the morning, lunch times, and at the end of the day.

### **Prayer Corner/Space**

Throughout the school the prayer corner/space builds upon the children's natural spontaneous expressions of joy, wonder, awe, concern, thanks, sorrow, sadness, anger, fear and disappointment evoked through their growing awareness of themselves, others and their world. The school's prayers are displayed in this space which is also a place for reflection.

### **Reflection space**

We currently have a reflection space in our pastoral development room. New reflection spaces will be set up and designed by the children, coordinated by the new Junior Faith Group across 2019/20.

This is developed by having a "focus of reverence" – a special experience of awareness; learning to be still and quiet.

Informal words of prayer arise out of the above, in the children's own simple, everyday language.

## **Prayers**

### **Morning Prayer**

O my God, You love us  
You're with us night and day.  
We want to love you always.  
In all we do and say.  
We'll try to please you Father  
Bless me through the day.                      Amen

### **Grace before Meals**

Bless us, O God as we sit together.  
Bless the food we eat today.  
Bless the hands that made the food.  
Bless the dinner ladies and helpers, for being therefore us and taking care of us,  
Bless us, O God.                      Amen

### **Home Time Prayer**

God our Father, I come to say  
Thank you for your love today.  
Thank you for our families,  
And all the friends you give to us.  
Guard us through the dark of night,  
And in the morning send your light.                      Amen

Review Date:  
July 2020