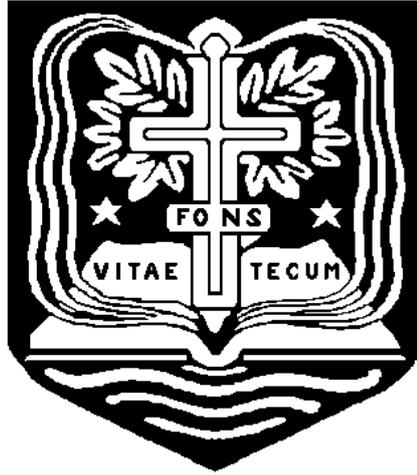


Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



Religious Education Policy

This policy will be reviewed every 4 years unless there are legislation or LA policy changes.

Reviewed by Staff: November 2015

Approved by Governors: May 2016

WELWYN ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

St Mary's Primary School is a Church of England Voluntary Aided School and as such its R.E. curriculum is required by law to be determined by the Governing Body in accordance with the Trust Deed. This states that religious instruction shall be given in accordance with the doctrines, rites and practices of the Church of England.

We realise that certain social divisions and prejudices act as obstacles to achieving that goal. We are committed to challenging any discrimination and being fair to all irrespective of their nationality, race, class, age, gender, academic status or disability. This commitment is evident in the school SEN policy and our resources and teaching strategies for Religious Education are founded on the school equality scheme. For example, texts show positive images of characters from a range of different backgrounds.

At St Mary's School the governors and staff support the views expressed in the document "Christianity in Church of England Schools" (Diocese of St Albans), which states that:

"An aided school should positively set standards of behaviour and morality which are formed by Christ's teachings and not merely accept or reflect existing social and moral standards".

At St Mary's School there are pupils from practising Christian families and also those who are from religions other than Christianity.

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the teaching of R.E. (Education Reform Act 1988). Any parent who wishes this may consult the headteacher.

In St Mary's C.E. Primary School, as a Voluntary Aided school, R.E. is not at present taught in accordance with the Hertfordshire Agreed Syllabus of Religious Education. However, the Agreed Syllabus provides useful teaching support and guidance in assessment.

Values and Aims

Religious Education has a very important role to play in promoting the general aims of St Mary's Primary School to provide a caring Christian environment and to enhance links between the school and the local community. It has a close association with St

Mary's Church and holds several services each year in the church building. The Rector and other members of the Church team regularly visit the school and take weekly assemblies.

Our R.E. curriculum reflects our caring ethos and the value which we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually.

Specifically, R.E. at St Mary's enables children of whatever ability and level of development to:

- acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and to appreciate its influence in our society
- be supported in their personal search for meaning
- be encouraged to question, reflect, to wonder and to face the mystery of life
- recognise and be sensitive to people who hold different beliefs in the community

Objectives

To enable all pupils through class themes and other work:

- to become increasingly aware of religious ideas and experiences by means of those stories and acts of worship which emphasise the Christian tradition
- to have an enquiring, reflective and respectful attitude to the Natural World which develops an understanding of the relationship between God and His creation
- to gain an understanding of other world religions, their beliefs and way of life
- to develop sensitivity towards others and to form relationships based on love, sympathy, forgiveness, respect and consideration
- to acquire a coherent knowledge of the life and the teachings of Jesus
- to understand the basic structure of The Bible and become familiar with key personalities in The Bible stories
- to explore the nature of Christian worship and the use of signs and symbols in expressing feelings and belief

Attitudes and Skills

R.E. has an important role to play in developing attitudes which are implied in the whole organisation, curriculum and ethos of the school. Many attitudes we wish the children to develop are seen in the life and teaching of Jesus and these need to be related to the children's own experience.

Children will be 'learning about religion' and 'learning from religion' through
- reflection

- investigation
- questioning
- empathy
- expressing feelings

R.E. in the Curriculum

Some teaching of R.E. will develop naturally out of topics already being studied by the class. However, most of the R.E. will be taught separately.

The revised scheme of work has been devised in accordance with the Trust Deed. It covers the central beliefs and teachings of Christianity as well as moral issues within an overall Christian ethos. It is written as a detailed medium plan for each year group.

This scheme is extended by teachers' own ideas covered within the course of normal planning.

The revised scheme of work was implemented initially in September 1996, most recently reviewed in October 2011. It will next be reviewed in 2015.

Christianity is the main foundation of R.E. and other faiths are introduced as follows:

KS1 Christianity and other faiths are introduced through festivals, stories, symbolism and artefacts.

KS2 Year 3 - Christianity and Hinduism
 Year 4 - Christianity and Sikhism
 Year 5 - Christianity and Islam
 Year 6 - Christianity and Judaism

Continuity and Progression

Our revised scheme of work aims to ensure continuity and progression through a thematic approach. The main strands will spiral through the school's R.E. programme and will seek to develop knowledge and understanding alongside appropriate skills and attitudes.

Differentiation

Teachers will assess the abilities of children in their classes and provide support and challenge for children when appropriate.

Teaching Methods

R.E. is taught by non-specialist teachers. The co-ordinator is prepared to offer ideas and guidance when required. Teaching methods will be as varied as possible in order to stimulate interest and will include class and group work, visits and visitors, poetry, story, drama, artefacts and the use of television and I.T. when appropriate. Discussion is a very important aspect of R.E. and is encouraged in order to draw out the moral and spiritual aspects. It also provides an opportunity for pupils to express their own beliefs and values.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

Assessment for RE is based on broad judgements at National Curriculum levels. AT1 and 2 are assessed using selected 'I can ...' statements from key parts of each year group's scheme of work. Attainment for these statements is summarised on the annual reports to parents. Formative assessment strategies are used to engage pupils in reflecting on their knowledge and understanding as well as their own approach to talking about and learning from religions. Examples of these strategies can be found in our Learning for Success Handbook.

Resources

Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism are each resourced with relevant books, videos and a box of artefacts. Staff also encourage visitors of other faiths to talk with the children about their beliefs and way of life. Visits to places of worship are encouraged.

Management and Co-ordination

The R.E. subject leader manages this area of the curriculum in line with our job description for subject leaders.

S Anstey

R.E. Subject Leader

Reviewed: November 2015

Review date: November 2019