



A Caring community • Courageously learning • Inspired to live life to the full

Religious Education Policy

Rational:

RE is about how individuals and communities make meaning and sense of their lives through different religions of the world. RE enables children to know about, understand and respond to the important and ultimate questions of life. In our school RE will be taught in a way that inspires children to explore, develop and affirm their own faith and values and have respect for and tolerance of the faith, non-faith, beliefs and values of others. The principles of the Christian faith lie at the heart of the life of the school and we are committed to encourage children to ask questions and make informed decisions.

Aims:

1. Children will develop an understanding and knowledge of Christian beliefs and practices so that they:
 - Understand the importance of the Bible to Christians
 - Understand the role of the Church
 - Recognise that for Christians their faith provides a key to interpret life and its meaning
 - Understand how Christian belief may impact on relationships, values and life styles
 - Understand how Christian beliefs can be expressed in a variety of ways – art, symbolism, dance, music, celebration
2. Children will develop an awareness of the beliefs and practices of other faiths, primarily the seven major world religions, so that they:
 - Understand the importance of sacred texts and the role of religious festivals
 - Understand the role of a worshipping faith community
 - Recognise that for people of faith their faith provides a key to interpret life and its meaning
 - Recognise how beliefs can impact on relationships, values and lifestyles
 - Understand how beliefs can be expressed in a variety of ways – art, symbolism, dance, music, celebration
3. To assist children in their own search for meaning and purpose in life and to enable them to develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally by:
 - Helping them to reflect on their personal feelings and relationships
 - Providing opportunities for questioning
 - Helping them to develop a sense of awe, wonder and mystery.
 - Encouraging children to consider their own beliefs, values and commitments and to respect the beliefs, values and commitments of others
 - Exploring the Christian concepts of love, forgiveness and sacrifice
 - Developing skills of reflection, empathy, communication, analysis and evaluation
 - Developing attitudes of respect, sensitivity, open-mindedness and self-esteem.

Guidelines:

Agreed syllabus: All R.E. taught at our school will be in accordance with the South Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus "2022-27 which has the full endorsement of the Diocese of Bristol. In addition to this we also use units of work from the Understanding Christianity scheme. All of the children in EYFS and KS1 are taught RE using both of these schemes. The agreed Syllabus has introduced units on Humanism and Secular world views which we have integrated into our RE lessons.

Special Considerations: We recognise that our children come from diverse faith backgrounds, including families of no particular faith. The physical location of our school means that we are a considerable distance from other faith communities and places of worship. To increase our children's awareness of the multi-faith nature of British society we encourage visits from members of different faith communities.

Links with Christ Church: Members of our local church community lead regular acts of collective worship in school. The children take part in church services at least once a short term during the year and each class uses the church and members of the church community as a resource.



A Caring community • Courageously learning • Inspired to live life to the full

Several times a year we work closely with the Church to do experiential activities including Experience Harvest, and Experience Easter and they are also closely involved with our Wonder Week. Our Bible club is also run by the Children's Ministry Coordinator from Christ Church, Downend, who comes in to run Bible club every Monday, along with one of our Foundation Governors. They are both highly involved in volunteering at the school, along with our other Foundation Governors, and play a key role in strengthening the Church/School Partnership.

Together with Christ Church we are committed to providing the opportunity for more specifically Christian teaching and learning for children whose parents request it. The precise arrangements may vary from year to year but may include a lunch time or after school club facilitated by Christ Church. Details will be sent to parents at the beginning of the school year.

Time allocation: The recommended time allocation for Religious Education for our children at KS1 is 36 hours per year. This works out to approximately one hour per week. This is in addition to, though not necessarily disassociated with, the daily act of worship.

We aim to provide occasional special Awe and Wonder Days, RE Days and opportunities to explore a prayer space to ensure that at some point during each child's time at CCI they get the opportunity to spend more time considering faith and values. This may take the form of a class, year group or whole school event.

ICT

Children will be encouraged to use ICT including access to suitable websites and software for personal research.

Foundation Governor Responsibilities

Our Foundation Governors, with the help of the teacher responsible for leading R.E, will monitor the effectiveness of RE teaching in school, the RE policy and scheme of work and report back to the full Governing Body.

R.E Subject Leader

The teacher responsible for R.E will ensure staff are supported and that appropriate resources are available as well as to monitor what the children are learning.

Parents/carers legal rights

Parents/carers have the legal right to withdraw their children from Religious Education on the grounds of conscience. We strongly encourage parents/carers to speak to the Head teacher if they have any concerns about the policy, provision or practice for Religious Education at our school. If this happens suitable arrangements will be put in place.

Teaching and Learning styles

A range of appropriate styles will be used to support every child's learning in RE including art, music, dance and drama, using times of quiet reflection, exploring artefacts, photographs, visiting the local church and talking with members of local faith communities in our school. We will use story, video/DVD and food to support our learning when appropriate.

Scheme of work

The planned work will take account of learning about Christianity, other faiths and secular world views in order to provide the children with a wide knowledge of RE

Assessment, Recording and Reporting:

We believe that assessment in Religious Education does not involve assessing the level of spirituality of children. We do, however, assess children's knowledge, understanding and skills and record their maturity of response to spiritual issues. We also believe that we should be careful when making judgements about children's values and their sense of right and wrong. We do not expect that everything that is taught and learned is going to be assessed.

We record termly those children who appear to be over or underachieving in this subject area.

Reviewed and amended by: Katherine Jenkins, Gareth Jones and Ethos Committee

Reviewed: T2 2023



A Caring community • Courageously learning • Inspired to live life to the full

Next Review date: T2 2026