

Aston St Mary's



Church of England (VA)

Primary School

**ASTON ST MARY'S
CHURCH OF ENGLAND
(VOLUNTARY AIDED) PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Christian values supporting **A**chievement, **R**espect and an **E**nriched education



The Diocese of St Albans

Policy for Religious Education (RE)

Effective from:	September 2020
Review Date:	September 2022
Author:	Lianne Holmes



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Subject RE

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Next Review Date: September 2022

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Introduction

At Aston St Marys School, Religious Education and our Values Education underpin everything that we do. We believe that children should be taught to become religiously literate, meaning that they gain an excellent knowledge and understanding of Christianity and the other principle religions found in Great Britain and the World. We want our pupils to not only know about and understand the importance of religion, faith and spiritual practises, but also be able to clearly articulate their own thoughts and beliefs as a result. Being able to reflect on what they have learned and think about the impacts that these morals and teachings have on their own lives and the lives of those around them. We use an enquiry-based approach to teaching RE that allows pupils to dig deep into Christianity and other religions. This will help them to appreciate the way that religious beliefs shape life and our behaviour, develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues and enhance their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Content/Scheme of Work

As a Church of England Voluntary Aided School, the teaching of Christianity is important and is reflected in the fact that 60% of all RE teaching time is dedicated to Christianity. We teach using 'Understanding Christianity', a rich resource that unpacks core concepts in Christianity:

- God
- Creation
- The fall
- People of God
- Incarnation
- Gospel
- Salvation
- Kingdom of God

Alongside this we use 'Discovery RE', a high-quality Enquiry based resource that allows pupils to dig deep into other religions. These are:

- Islam
- Judaism
- Sikhism
- Hinduism
- Buddhism

Religious Education is taught for one hour a week and it is a legal requirement to teach it. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from the subject if they wish and should request permission from the Headteacher (see withdrawal appendix.)

Enrichment opportunities

We teach Religious Education mainly through practical activities with the children, as we strive to inspire them through first hand experiences. We try where ever possible to arrange trips and invite visitors into school to enable the children to gain a better insight into the religion being taught. Enrichment opportunities are taken wherever possible. Examples of these are days dedicated to; exploring Christianity through art, homelessness, Christmas around the world, Islam enrichment day, Holy Trinity day and many more.

We value the religious background of all members of our school community and hope that this encourages people to share their own experiences with others freely. All religions, cultures and communities are treated with respect and sensitivity.

ICT

We try to incorporate ICT as much as possible in Religious Education either as a teaching tool or hands on with the children as a learning tool. DVDs, CD-ROMs and the interactive whiteboard are just some of the resources used in Religious Education by all teachers to enhance the teaching of Religious Education.

Knowledge, Skills, Understanding, and Attitude

Attainment target 1 and Attainment target 2 are both taught in Religious Education to enable the children to have a good knowledge, and understanding of the topics and to develop the skills learnt from Religious Education. The main attitudes we hope the children will acquire from Religious Education are awe, wonder and respect for other religions and cultures. Pupils should be able to articulate key concepts of religion and have an in depth knowledge and understanding of Christianity.

Every Child Matters

Additional support and resources are used as appropriate; we are inclusive in our teaching of Religious Education by modeling and teaching the children to have respect for other cultures, faiths, beliefs, way of dress and practice.

Health and Safety

A risk assessment is carried out for every Religious Education trip the children are taken on. If visitors come into school a risk assessment is carried out and the visitor has to be CRB checked.

Assessment and Records

The children are assessed informally in both AT1 and AT2 at the end of each topic and at the end of the year as appropriate. Assessment is used to inform future learning in Religious Education. Pupils are assessed against Age Related Expectations (ARE) in RE.

Resources

The Religious Education resources are kept in a central store. There is a box related to every religion taught in the school including: Christianity, Sikhism, Judaism, Buddhism, Islam, and Hinduism. We also use Discovery RE and Understanding Christianity paper and online resources to support the teaching of RE. In addition to these resources can be borrowed from the diocese and teaching centre.

Covid-19

During any school closures, due to national or local lockdowns, or isolation of individual pupils or 'bubbles' of pupils, RE lessons will continue to be taught on remote learning platforms. This continues to highlight the importance of RE and how it is prioritised in the curriculum.

Further Documents

RE Curriculum provision map.