



Church of England (VA)
Primary School

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

Every child is a treasure – small in size, growing in God's love.



**The Diocese
of St Albans**

Policy for Religious Education

Effective from:	September 2023
Review Date:	September 2025
Author:	Lianne Holmes

At ASM school we believe all of God's children should feel safe at all times. Every child is a treasure – small in size, growing in God's love. In our school, our Christian values will support us to keep our children safe and to allow them to grow up surrounded by God's love. This policy, along with the others in school, will help us to do this.

Aston St Mary's Primary School Policy

Subject RE

Effective Date: September 2023

Author: Lianne Holmes

Next Review Date: September 2025

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Introduction

Every child is a treasure – small in size, growing in God's love.

At Aston St Marys School, Religious Education and our Christian 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. We enable each child to explore their spirituality and their own value – like the treasures that God sees them as. We also instil in them the idea that although they are small, they have a big voice and are able to live out God's love and really impact the world around them.

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 wherever 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. Ipads, laptops 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 and Understanding

AIMS (taken from Understanding Christianity):

- To enable pupils to **know about** and **understand** Christianity as a living world faith, by exploring core theological concepts.
- To enable pupils to **develop knowledge and skills** in making sense of biblical texts and understanding their impact in the lives of Christians.
- To develop pupils' abilities to **connect, critically reflect upon, evaluate and apply their learning** to their own growing understanding of religion and belief (particularly Christianity), of themselves, the world and human experience.

These aims are also in place when using Discovery RE to explore and teach about other religions.

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

During each unit of work there are expected outcomes focused on three areas 'Making sense', 'Understanding impact' and 'Making connections'. Children are assessed against whether they have met these outcomes and are therefore working at an age related expectation.

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.