

Christ Church School Religious Education Policy

This policy aims to set out how and why religious education is taught at Christ Church School. Together with the scheme of work, it aims to ensure continuity and progression in the teaching of high quality and stimulating Religious Education.

Aims of RE teaching at Christ Church

- To develop children's understanding of Christian beliefs, values and practices;
- To develop children's understanding of other world faiths;
- To give children an appreciation of religious experience;
- To give children an understanding of how religious faith can affect the way people live their lives.

Equal emphasis will be placed on *learning about religion* and *learning from religion*.

RE is an important subject at Christ Church and has a core subject status within our curriculum.

All children, of different faiths and no faith, will have equal access to the RE curriculum and be encouraged to participate fully in lessons.

Teaching and Learning

Class teachers will be responsible for teaching the RE curriculum to their classes. (As with other subjects, this may be delegated to the teacher covering PPA time, although only for one term at a time.) Clergy from Christ Church will aid the teaching of RE when appropriate. RE will be allocated a minimum of 5% teaching time in all classes over the year.

In common with all curriculum areas, a range of teaching methods will be used to engage, motivate, inform and teach. This may include using artefacts, images, drama (e.g. EYFS/KS1 Nativity), music, stories and whole class, group and individual work. ICT resources will be integrated into both the teaching and learning of RE wherever appropriate. Visitors to the school and out of school visits (including to Christ Church, other local churches and other places of worship) are an important part of the teaching and learning. Teaching and learning will also draw on the experience of children and their families and encourage children to reflect on their own ideas.

Children will be encouraged to record their learning and ideas in a range of different formats – writing, images, using ICT, photographs, diagrams and records of drama and discussions. RE displays will be used regularly to celebrate and share children's learning within the class and with the wider school community. RE displays in the Church will also share learning with the church community, on occasion.

The scheme of work sets out that each class will study three main topics each year. Two thirds of our scheme of work will be focused on learning from and about Christianity. Each year each class will study a unit focused on an aspect of the Bible, an in-depth study of a major world faith (Spring term) and one other topic as set out in our scheme of work. Whole school focus weeks on Christmas and Easter also take place each year.

There are many cross-curricular links to be made with the RE scheme of work and these will be encouraged and exploited wherever possible. Links will also be made with our Rights Respecting Schools work, assemblies and worship and the annual calendar of Christian Festivals and other celebrations. RE homework is set at least once a term.

Ongoing assessments will be made by class teachers covering the two areas of learning about religion and learning from religion, and these will be used to inform the progress reported to parents in children's annual reports. Teachers also adapt their plans according to these ongoing assessments. Children are involved in self assessment of their work wherever possible.

Teachers will be offered appropriate training for the teaching of RE, including from school staff, clergy and external organisations, including the London Diocesan Board for Schools.

Equal Opportunities and Inclusion

At Christ Church School we aim to provide a broad, balanced and enriched curriculum to all pupils, regardless of their gender, ethnic, social or religious background. All pupils will be given equal access to the RE curriculum, through effective differentiation and resourcing.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from RE curriculum. Parents are strongly encouraged to discuss any concerns with the Head teacher in the first instance.

Role of the Curriculum Leader

(agreed role of all curriculum leaders at Christ Church)

- to engender a sense of enthusiasm and interest in the subject area throughout the school;
- to be a lead practitioner and model of good practice in the teaching of the subject area, promoting high standards and including modelling lessons and team teaching where appropriate;
- to provide support and guidance for teachers (including support for NQTs) in planning, teaching and assessing the subject area, including advice on supporting G&T and SEN children and ensuring teaching meets the needs of all pupils;
- to ensure curriculum coverage, continuity and progression in their subject for all pupils;
- to have an overview of current standards in the subject area and of the strengths and areas for development in the subject area across the school;
- to organise the maintenance of existing resources and ordering of new resources for the subject area;
- to organise and advise teachers on extra-curricular activities linked to the subject area – trips, visitors, workshops, clubs;
- with the head teacher, to monitor teaching of their subject through lesson observations and provide feedback to teachers;
- to monitor planning and work samples for their subject area and give feedback to teachers and the head teacher;
- to write an annual action plan, agreed with the head teacher and in line with School Improvement Plan priorities;
- to develop, write and review the policy and scheme of work for the subject area;
- to organise and lead whole school events linked to the subject area;
- to liaise with the link governor for the subject area, where appropriate, and prepare and give subject presentations to governors when appropriate;
- to keep parents informed of developments in the subject area, through newsletters or subject presentations as appropriate;
- to liaise with other subject leaders, LA and LDBS advisors and outside agencies linked with the subject area;
- to attend (and publicise to colleagues) professional development opportunities linked to the subject area and disseminate their learning;
- to keep an up-to-date subject leader file and area on the shared network system;
- to keep up to date with developments in teaching and learning in their subject area;
- to organise and/or deliver INSET and other training linked to their subject area;

- to work alongside the SLT to monitor the impact of current practice and to contribute to the strategic planning of the development of their subject area throughout the whole school.

Monitoring

The curriculum leader for RE, as set out above, has the initial responsibility for monitoring teaching and learning in RE and will report to head teacher.

The governor with responsibility for RE will provide support to the RE curriculum leader and feedback to the Governing Body.

An RE and Worship inspection (SIAMS) takes place every five years.

Review

This policy will be reviewed at least every three years, by the RE subject leader, the head teacher and the Governing Body to ensure it is a reflection of current best practice.

The full Governing Body has the responsibility to agree the RE scheme of work and any changes to this scheme.

Katy Forsdyke
Head teacher, RE curriculum leader
May 2008

This policy was reviewed by the RE Governor, Head teacher and Governors Curriculum Committee in October 2010 and remains unchanged.

This policy was reviewed with amendments by the RE Governor, Head teacher, Governors Teaching, Learning and Standards Committee and the full Governing Body in June 2014.

This policy was reviewed by the RE Governor, Head teacher, Governors Teaching, Learning and Standards Committee and the full Governing Body in December 2016 and remains unchanged.