



Religious Education (RE) Policy

Date	Author	Date for Revision
October 2022	EM	October 2024

Review

This policy will be reviewed regularly in line with our agreed evaluation process or as the need arises through changes in local or national directive.

Signed..... Chair of Governors Date

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Signed..... Headteacher Date

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RE Policy

'All things are possible for one who believes' (Mark 9:23)

"Do all the good you can, By all the means you can, In all the ways you can, In all the places you can, At all the times you can, To all the people you can, As long as ever you can." (John Wesley)

St. Georges Church School provides a caring Christian environment in which children achieve more than they think possible and where every individual is cared for and valued. Our vision is that with faith and belief we can transform lives, not only in St Georges but also beyond (in our local and international communities), creating global citizens of the future who are stewards of the Earth. In its foundation, the school is a partnership between the Church of England, the Methodist Church and the Baptist Church. The school follows the Discovery RE programme, supplemented with additional material on Christianity from both 'Understanding Christianity'. Our core Christian values underpin all that we do at St Georges. The six core values, that were chosen by our community in September 2022, are woven throughout the life of the school.

Aims

Through Religious Education we aim to:

- Develop children's knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other worldviews in order to develop religious literacy.
- Enable children to understand their roots in our community and to flourish in the wider world; asking questions and wondering about religion, as well as celebrating their own values and beliefs.
- Support children in developing their curiosity and allowing them to understand religious contributions to culture and the wider world.

How we teach RE

We base our teaching and learning in RE on the key principle that children should learn about religious traditions and from religious traditions, by reflecting on what the religious ideas and concepts mean to them. Our teaching enables children to extend their own sense of values and promotes their spiritual growth and development. We encourage children to think about their own views and values in relation to the themes and topics studied in the RE curriculum. We also aim to give the children a sense of their place in the world and to understand ideas and beliefs that build on and reach beyond their own spiritual, moral and cultural understanding.

We use Discovery RE throughout the school. Each unit of learning is based around a key question and starts from the children's own life experiences; using these as a bridge into the investigation of the religion being studied. We also use Understanding Christianity to ensure that two thirds of the teaching is based on Christianity. Again, this starts from the children's own experiences and then buildings on these with Christian understanding.

We recognise the fact that all classes in our school have children of widely differing abilities, so we provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child. We achieve this in a variety of ways, for example, by setting tasks which are open-ended and can have a variety of responses.

RE and Inclusion

At St Georges we teach Religious Education to all children, whatever their ability and individual needs. Religious education forms part of the school's curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced education to all children. Through our Religious Education teaching we provide learning opportunities that enable all pupils to make at least good progress. We strive hard to meet the needs of those pupils with special educational needs, those with disabilities, those with special gifts and talents, and those learning English as an additional language, and we take all reasonable steps to achieve this.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

Through Religious Education at St Georges, we provide opportunities for spiritual development. Children consider and respond to questions concerning the meaning and purpose of life. We help them to recognise the difference between right and wrong, through the study of moral and ethical questions, especially from a Christian perspective. We enhance their social development by helping them to build a sense of identity in a multicultural society. Children explore issues of religious faith and values and, in so doing; they develop their knowledge and understanding of the cultural context of their own lives.

Assessment

Parents receive an annual report outlining their child's progress in RE. This states if their child is working at or below the national standard, the level of effort in RE, and a written description of the child's understanding and progress.

The right of withdrawal from RE

At St Georges Church School we wish to be an inclusive community but recognise that parents, of course, have the legal right to withdraw their children from Religious Education. We would ask any parent considering this to contact the Headteacher to discuss any concerns or anxieties about the policy, provision and practice of religious education at St Georges School.