

Our Vision:

At St Michael's we strive to develop and inspire courageous, respectful and resilient learners encouraging them to serve with kindness and tolerance guided by our Christian values so that they can flourish, living 'life in all its fullness' (John 10:10).

At St Michael's we aim for children to develop a 'rich knowledge' of RE and to have a strong knowledge of world faiths. We aim to develop the children's ability to connect ideas, concepts and practices in order to facilitate understanding. We seek to enable them to build a 'big picture' utilising both local and global awareness.

This Policy is intended for: -

- *Practitioners within the Foundation Stage/wider school*
- *The school Governors*
- *Parents*
- *Children's services advisors and inspectors*
- *Inspection teams*
- *Copies are provided to school staff and Governors.*

Copies are available in school or on the school website. This is to ensure accessibility to parents, Children's Services, Ofsted, SIAMS and other interested agencies.

The context of RE at St Michael's First School is that of a rural school, serving children in the age range 3 to 9 years.

- We teach according to the Lichfield Diocese Agreed Syllabus and use the Understanding Christianity Resource.
- We recognise the different religious and non-religious backgrounds from which our pupils come.
- We welcome diversity and intend to be sensitive to the home background of each child.
- We are glad to have the active support of religious members of our local community to support our teaching of RE.
- We recognise the inter-relationship between pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, and the leading role which the RE curriculum plays in some of these areas.
- Our school vision and its associated values of SERVICE- RESPECT - PERSEVERANCE - KINDNESS - JOYFULNESS -COURAGE are the foundations of our work here at St Michael's.

The Aims of RE at St Michael's First School

RE at St Michael's will be provided in line with the legal requirements. These are that:

- the basic curriculum will include provision for religious education for all pupils on the school roll;
- the content of RE shall reflect the fact that religious traditions in the United Kingdom are in the main Christian, while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religious traditions and worldviews represented in United Kingdom;
- the RE which is provided shall be in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus for Lichfield Diocese.

Within the framework of the law and the Agreed Syllabus, the aims in RE at St Michael's School are for pupils to:

- acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity
- develop knowledge and understanding of the other principal religions represented in the United Kingdom;
- develop an understanding of the influence of religious and non-religious worldviews, values and traditions on individuals, communities, societies and cultures, to promote understanding of these locally, nationally and globally;
- engage and challenge them through an exploration of core concepts and questions.
- opportunities for them to understand the role of foundational texts, beliefs, rituals, and practices and how they help form identity in a range of religions and worldviews.
- develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues, with reference to the teachings and diversity within the religious and non-religious worldviews represented in the United Kingdom;
- develop positive attitudes of respect towards other people who hold views and beliefs different from their own, and towards living in a society of diverse religions and worldviews
- develop an understanding of the teachings and diversity within the religious and non-religious worldviews represented in the United Kingdom;
- develop an understanding of the influence of religious and non-religious worldviews, values and traditions on individuals, communities, societies and cultures, locally, nationally and globally;
- develop a wide range of skills including enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection.
- introduce pupils to a range of relevant disciplines including theology,

philosophy and the human & social sciences balanced RE curriculum, which enquires into religions and worldviews through theology, philosophy and the human & social sciences.

- reflect on their own beliefs, values and experiences in the light of their study;

The RE curriculum is intrinsic to the outworking of our school's Christian vision in enabling all pupils to flourish, living 'life in all its fullness' (John 10:10).

To enhance their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development by:

- developing awareness of how religious teachings and other beliefs can relate to the questions and experience they have through life;
- responding to experiences with reference to the teachings and practices of religions and worldviews, relating them to their own understanding and experience;
- reflecting on their own beliefs, values and experiences in the light of their study and our school values of SERVICE- RESPECT - PERSEVERANCE - KINDNESS - JOYFULNESS -COURAGE
- develop positive attitudes of respect towards other people who hold views and beliefs different from their own,
- equip learners towards living in a society of diverse religions and worldviews.
- allow Children to make connections with our school values
- They should have opportunities to engage in meaningful and informed dialogue with those of all religions and worldviews.

Time Allocation.

It is recommended that a minimum of 36 hours in Reception/KS1 and 45 hours in KS2 per school year should be devoted to religious education. In practical terms this is 6 hours for Reception/KS1 and 7.5 hours for KS2 per half-term. RE is taught in blocked units and, is timetabled to take place weekly in each year group.

Christianity should be the majority religion studied in each year group and should be at least 50% of curriculum time.

Scheme of Work

A detailed scheme of work is available for teachers and other interested people alongside this policy. Children progress through ordered and sequential learning developing both knowledge and skills in our RE curriculum.

Our curriculum has been written in light of the following documents: Lichfield Agreed Syllabus, Understanding Christianity and EYFS themes emerging from the EYFS Framework.

Our children study a range of religions and World views :

EYFS Christianity, Islam, as well as being introduced to other religions and World views.

KS1 Christianity, Islam and Sikhism as well as alternative World views.

Lower KS2 Christianity, Islam and Sikhism as well as alternative World views.

Teaching and Learning Strategies

Our policy is to aim to ensure the use in RE of art, drama, thinking skills, speaking and listening activities, visits, posters, photographs, videos, ICT use, display work and other active learning strategies. Cross curricular work is encouraged, in line with whole school policy on teaching and learning. We recognise the importance of teaching RE in a creative, knowledge-rich and providing memorable learning experiences for the children. Religious Education is taught by each year group's class teacher.

Resources

We have a wide range of resources, to support our RE teaching, that we continue to develop and assess future development of these.

Resources are stored in the central store so they are accessible to all and should be returned after use.

Our school has invested in a diverse range of books, religious artefacts, picture packs/posters and Godly play figures. There are resources for each of the faiths we look at in school and texts for teachers and children to support the teaching of these. A regular audit of resources takes place by the RE subject leader in order to update our collection.

Visits and visitors

We are able to visit places of worship both in the immediate vicinity of the school and in the wider areas, or have visits where faith leaders and other members of the community are willing to meet with children and be involved in the teaching of RE. We aim to use this valuable resource for all classes. All pupils have the opportunity to visit a place of worship or have a visitor from a one of our faiths studied to support their learning in RE.

Children will have the opportunity to make the following visits during their time at St Michael's.

School.

Reception: Visit to our Parish church St Michael's and All Angels Church

Year 1: Mosque visit / visitor

Year 2: Gurdwara visit /visitor

Year 3: Mosque visit /visitor

Year 4: Gurdwara visit / visitor

All children will have the opportunity to regularly visit our parish church at different points throughout each school year.

The RE subject leader supports class teachers to organise educational visits and visitors.

Matching Work to Pupils' Needs

Our whole school policy regarding pupils with special needs and differentiation, applies to RE. Learning activities must provide fully for the needs of all pupils.

Assessment

We report on pupils' progress and attainment in RE to parents, as required by law. The Lichfield Diocese Agreed Syllabus provides descriptions of progress and attainment, which the school uses for assessment at the end of each unit of work. This allows us to track children's attainment in RE.

Assessment is used to inform planning and to support each pupils' development. Assessment is formally captured to monitor each child's progress within RE and to ensure any gaps in learning are identified and closed. Children will respond to the 'Big Question' at the start and end of the unit of learning to capture how their response and knowledge has deepened over time.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

Religious Education is monitored through the use of book trawls, pupil voice and observations across the year. Attainment in each unit is also assessed across the school. Regular evaluation of these allows for future developments and review of our RE provision.

Self-Evaluation

The subject leader for RE will assess and review the subject's strengths and areas for development.

Staff training and CPD

All staff have access to RE CPD in line with the subject leader's identified areas for development. This is either 'in house' or from an external provider. The RE subject leader also attends local network meetings. All teaching staff and governors understanding of the distinctive role and purpose of RE within our church school.

Transition

We ensure that transition across key stages through sharing religions and topics that pupils have covered, pupils progress and achievement are also shared.

Withdrawal

We note the Human Right of parents to withdraw their children from RE and of teachers to withdraw from teaching the subject. We aim to provide an open curriculum which can be taught to all pupils, by all staff.

Teachers are asked to refer to the head teacher any questions from parents about withdrawals.

Requests for full or partial withdrawal from RE should be made in writing to the head teacher and a record kept of them.

RE Link Governor: Rev. Greg Yerbury
Named RE subject leader: Sarah Fear
Headteacher: Zoe Cahalan
Date: 25.4.24
Date for review: 25.4.27