



Christian Distinctiveness Policy

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Our Vision

'Learning in God's Love'

Stand firm in the faith, be courageous, be strong (1 Corinthians 16:13)

Our vision is that everyone at St Paul's CofE Primary School and Nursery knows that they are loved and valued by God. We help everyone to grow in courage and compassion. Children are encouraged to reach their full potential and flourish as they learn together as a community.

Introduction

At St Paul's CofE Primary School and Nursery, families can expect a high-quality Religious Education curriculum that is rich, engaging and purposeful. It is designed to give children a strong understanding of faith, belief and the world around them.

Religious Education is a core subject and is taught weekly in every class. As a Church school, Christianity is at the heart of this learning. Alongside this, children develop an understanding of a range of other religions and worldviews, helping them to make sense of the diverse world in which they are growing up.

Through this, children learn to respect and value the beliefs of others, while also developing a deeper understanding of their own ideas and perspectives. We want every child to leave St Paul's knowing they are valued, wonderful and unique, because God made them that way.

Aims and Objectives

In line with the Church of England Statement of Entitlement, our aim is for all children to develop a secure understanding of Christianity as a diverse, global living faith, engaging meaningfully with biblical texts and the ideas within them.

Children also develop knowledge and understanding of a range of other religions and worldviews, recognising both similarities and differences, as well as how beliefs and practices can change over time.

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A key part of RE at St Paul's is creating space for children to explore big questions about meaning, purpose and human experience. Through this, they begin to understand the role religion plays in culture, society and history, while also reflecting on their own beliefs, values and identity.

Curriculum for Religious Education

Religious Education has a high profile within our curriculum and is prioritised by leaders to ensure that its teaching, learning and resourcing are in line with other subjects.

RE is central to our vision of helping every child to belong and flourish. It plays a key role in developing children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding, while also supporting British values.

Teaching is balanced, thoughtful and inclusive. Children are encouraged to explore different perspectives through an approach that draws on theology, philosophy and the human sciences. This enables them to develop strong religious literacy — the ability to talk about religion and belief in a balanced, informed and respectful way.

Children gain a rich understanding of Christian belief and practice, including both its uniqueness and diversity. Alongside this, they learn how beliefs, texts, rituals and traditions shape identity within a range of religions and worldviews.

Teaching is carefully planned to ensure that all children can succeed. A range of approaches are used to meet different needs, and all contributions are valued, recognising that children bring their own experiences and perspectives to their learning.

Curriculum Balance and Time

As a Church school, Christianity is the main focus of Religious Education and makes up at least half of the curriculum time. RE is given sufficient dedicated time within the curriculum, aiming for around 10% and never less than 5%.

It is important to be clear that Religious Education is distinct from collective worship and is taught as its own subject.

Teaching and Learning

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RE at St Paul's is active, reflective and rooted in discussion. Lessons provide a safe space where children can explore ideas, ask questions and develop their thinking with confidence.

Children engage in learning through a range of approaches, including discussion of big questions, reading and exploring texts, interpreting information from different sources and working collaboratively with others. They also learn through experiences such as drama, music, artefacts, visits, visitors and outdoor learning, alongside regular opportunities for reflection.

Teaching actively challenges stereotypes and misconceptions, ensuring that religions and worldviews are presented accurately, sensitively and with respect. All views are listened to and valued.

Where possible, teachers make clear links between religious ideas and children's own lives, helping them to consider what they can learn from different beliefs and how these ideas may influence their own thinking.

Cross-curricular Links

Religious Education supports the development of wider skills, including language, empathy and the ability to express thoughts and beliefs clearly.

It also contributes significantly to children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and links naturally with a range of subjects, including English, art, drama, history, geography, computing, music and PSHE.

Health and Safety

Health and safety is carefully considered within RE, particularly when children are handling artefacts, tasting food or visiting places of worship. In all cases, staff follow the school's health and safety procedures.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

Assessment in Religious Education is closely linked to the curriculum and focuses on children's understanding, skills and ability to reflect, rather than simply recalling facts.

Teachers identify appropriate opportunities for assessment within units of work, including opportunities for children to reflect on their own learning. Assessment supports effective tracking of progress, helping to identify both individual next steps and wider priorities across the school.

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Clear information about progress is shared with parents.

Role of the RE Subject Leader

The RE subject leader plays a key role in ensuring the quality and consistency of provision across the school. This includes ensuring that all children receive their entitlement to Religious Education and that provision reflects the Church of England Statement of Entitlement.

The subject leader monitors teaching, learning and outcomes, supports staff through professional development and ensures that expectations for curriculum content and standards are clear.

They also work closely with senior leaders and governors, manage resources effectively and ensure that appropriate safeguarding procedures are in place for any visitors contributing to RE.

Legal Requirements

Religious Education must be provided for all registered children in full-time education, including those in Reception, but not those in Nursery.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from RE and are not required to give a reason. However, as a Church school with a clear Christian ethos, we hope that all children will take part fully in RE. Any parent considering this is encouraged to speak with the Headteacher before making a final decision.

Written by: SLT

Approved by: HT

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