

St James Church of England Primary School



Name of Guidance Document	Religious Education
Review Date	Autumn 2018

Mission Statement:

At St James C of E Primary School we place RE at the heart of our Christian distinctiveness and we fully believe that this is central to our schools effectiveness. RE is given priority as a core subject in the curriculum and our aim is that it is an outstanding specialism of our school. As an outstanding school (SIAMS 2014) it is our expectation that the RE provided is of the highest quality, aiming for excellence in teaching and learning. A distinctive feature of St James is our commitment to the creative curriculum therefore all RE lessons are delivered in a creative, exciting and engaging way whilst ensuring its relevance is made clear for all.

In order to oversee the implementation of and monitor the RE provision in the school a Faith Group has been created.

Aims:

The RE provided enables pupils to:

- develop a strong foundation of the Christian faith through knowledge and understanding that includes Christian Beliefs and Values, The Bible, Old Testament Characters, the Life and Teachings of Jesus, Prayer and Worship, Saints, The Local Church, The Christian Community, Living out the Faith, Rites of Passage and Christian Festivals;
- apply an understanding of Christianity to make reasoned and informed responses to life issues and moral choices;
- develop some knowledge and understanding of the other main world faiths represented in the United Kingdom, applying an understanding of religion to develop respect, empathy and sensitivity towards all people;
- enhance their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development;
- develop the ability to reflect on their own beliefs, values and experiences and communicate issues of faith and truth;
- develop skills of critical analysis and evaluation and the promotion of understanding of people from different faith backgrounds and none.

Teaching:

Teachers use a range of teaching methods to cover the scheme of work, adapted to meet the needs of the class and individuals.

Drama, Art and Music are used well to deliver and enhance the teaching and learning in RE. When teaching RE an atmosphere of tolerance and respect is created so individuals have freedom to express their own beliefs in an atmosphere of trust. The school follows the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education scheme of work for the teaching of RE in its VA primary schools. The scheme comprises units of study for the teaching of Christianity at Foundation Stage, KS1 and KS2 and the study of the other main world religions beginning at KS1 and progressing in KS2. It clearly identifies opportunities for pupils to both learn about religion (Attainment Target 1) and learn from religion (Attainment Target 2). A topic cycle is in place for RE across the school. Teachers can choose to add to these units and move them around the year, where appropriate, to make good cross-curricular links.

Time Allocation:

One hour per week of lesson time is devoted to Religious Education (or at least this amount of time in half termly blocks). Religious teaching within the collective worship programme and within other curriculum areas adds to this. Class teachers can choose to block this time allocation where they see fit.

Assessment:

Teachers will be continually assessing individuals' performance. This may be through observation, discussion, listening or a collection of evidence. Teachers' annotate planning with Assessment for Learning comments and adapt the planning where appropriate. At the end of each unit teachers use the Southwark and National 'I can' statements to assess the children against the topic they have covered. Teachers' plans and children's work are monitored by the RE Subject Leader termly. Lessons are also monitored by the subject leader to ensure standards of teaching and learning are at least good across the school.

Equal Opportunities:

All children have access to Religious Education in the school regardless of race, class, gender or religious belief. Although legally parents have the option of withdrawing their children from the teaching of RE, it is expected that, by applying to a church school, parents understand the school's distinctive Christian character and recognise that RE is central to the life of the school and will therefore not feel it is necessary to withdraw their child from RE. For these reasons, it is vital that the aims of RE are properly understood by the whole school community and that the RE is inclusive and taught in such a way that it is seen as non-threatening and relevant for all pupils in our diocesan church schools.

This Religious Education (RE) guidance is based upon Religious Education in Church of England Schools: A Statement of Entitlement from the Board of Education/National Society Council. The Board has also had regard to Religious Education The Non-Statutory National Framework (Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency, 2004) and Religious Education in English Schools: Non-Statutory Guidance 2010 (Department for Children, Schools and Families).