

RE Policy



‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ Luke 10:27

Updated January 2024

CRC Links

Article 2 (Non-discrimination): All children have these rights, no matter who they are, where they live, what their parents do, what language they speak, what their religion is, whether they are a boy or girl, what their culture is, whether they have a disability, whether they are rich or poor. No child should be treated unfairly on any basis.

Article 3 (Best interests of the child): All adults should do what is best for the children. When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children.

Article 12(Respect for the views of the child): Children have the right to give their opinion, and for adults to listen and take it seriously.

Article 15 (Freedom of association): Children have the right to choose their own friends and join or set up groups, as long as it isn't harmful to others.

Article 19 (Respect for the views of the child): Children have the right to be protected from being hurt and mistreated, in body or mind.

Article 29 (Goals of education): Children's education should help them use and develop their talents and abilities. It should also help them learn to live peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people.

Article 30 (Children of minorities/indigenous groups): Children have the right to practice their own culture, language and religion - or any they choose. Minority and indigenous groups need special protection of this right.

St Bridget's Church of England Primary School
Mission Statement:

Love Your Neighbour as Yourself.

Our school will provide opportunities for enjoyment and achievement in a safe environment where all pupils and staff will feel emotionally and physically secure. We aspire to be a community of "global citizens" which seeks to cherish the earth and support all people locally, nationally and globally through raising awareness, campaigning and simple acts of kindness.

INTRODUCTION

Religious Education is central to the vision and mission of our school. As a school with a Christian Foundation we recognise that Christian faith informs all aspects of our life together. Alongside this, we encourage an understanding and respect of people of all faiths and none. Religious Education also underpins our Rights Respecting ethos and curriculum.

Religious Education at St Bridget's explores how individuals and communities make meaning and sense of their lives through the major religions of the world. It enables pupils to know about, understand and respond to the important and ultimate questions of life. Religious Education is taught in such a way that it inspires pupils to explore and develop their own faith and values and have respect for the faith, beliefs and values of others. Values Education permeates the curriculum at our school.

It is not the practice of this school to preach to or seek to convert children.

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Wirral Agreed Syllabus
- Religious Education Long Term Plan and current action plan, St Bridget's Church of England school.
- Religious Education Statement of Entitlement for Church Schools

RATIONALE

Religious Education provokes challenging questions about the ultimate meaning and purpose of life, beliefs about God, the self and the nature of reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human. It develops pupils' knowledge and understanding of Christianity, other principal religions, other religious traditions and other worldviews that offer answers to questions such as these.

It offers opportunities for personal reflection and spiritual development. It enhances pupils' awareness and understanding of religions and beliefs, teachings, practices and forms of expression, as well as of the influence of religion on individuals, families, communities and cultures.

Religious Education encourages pupils to learn from different religions, beliefs, values and traditions while exploring their own beliefs and questions of meaning. It challenges pupils to reflect on, consider, analyse, interpret and evaluate issues of truth, belief, faith and ethics and to communicate their responses.

Religious Education encourages pupils to develop their sense of identity and belonging. It enables them to flourish individually within their communities and as citizens in a pluralistic society and global community.

Religious Education has an important role in preparing pupils for adult life, employment and lifelong learning. It enables pupils to develop respect for and sensitivity to others, in particular those whose faiths and beliefs are different from their own. It promotes discernment and enables pupils to combat prejudice. (Wirral Agreed Syllabus 2019)

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

As a Voluntary Controlled Church of England school, the Wirral Agreed Syllabus for RE is our statutory document. Parents have a legal right to withdraw their children from religious education lessons, but as RE is central to the life and identity of St Bridget's C of E Primary School. We ask parents to discuss with the headteacher any reasons they might have for withdrawal from Religious Education.

VISION

St Bridget's C of E Primary School's Vision Statement

Inspiring, nurturing and educating our children to serve God by reaching their full potential, serving our local community and by looking after our environment as global citizens of today and tomorrow.

Vision for the teaching of Religious Education (Chris Quigley)

That all children would have:

- The opportunity to develop an outstanding level of religious understanding and knowledge.
- A wide knowledge and deep understanding across a wide range of religions and beliefs.
- The chance to engage deeply with a range of ultimate questions.
- The ability to ask significant and highly reflective questions about religion and demonstrate an excellent understanding of issues related to the nature, truth and value of religion.
- An understanding of how the beliefs, values, practices and ways of life within any religion cohere together.
- The opportunity to explore and question the big questions of life and how they as individuals fit in to the world and make a positive difference.
- The ability to link the study of religion and belief to personal reflections on meaning and purpose.
- Exceptional independence; the ability to think for themselves and take the initiative in, for example, asking questions, carrying out investigations, evaluating ideas and working constructively with others.
- Significant levels of originality, imagination or creativity, which are shown in their responses to their learning in Religious Education.
- The chance to consider and celebrate who they are, what spiritual gifts they have and how they might use them to make a positive difference in the world.

AIMS

At this school RE supports and strengthens the vision, ethos and values which are at the heart of all we do in every aspect of school life. Through Religious Education we aim to develop the whole child spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually and this is reflected in the Religious Education curriculum.

Specifically, Religious Education aims to enable pupils of all abilities and stages of development to:

- Develop knowledge and understanding of Christian beliefs and practices so that they understand the importance of the Bible, the role of the church and recognise that for Christians their faith provides a way of interpreting life and its meaning.
- Understand that the Christian faith affirms that we are all precious and loved by God.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the beliefs and practices of some of the other principal world religions, recognising that for many people their faith provides a way of interpreting life and its meaning.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of Non-Religious World Views (NRWV).
- Understand how belief may impact on culture, relationships, values and lifestyle.
- Understand how belief can be expressed in a variety of ways including art, symbols, dance, music, ritual celebration and in different cultural settings.
- Develop spiritually, morally, culturally and socially by helping them to reflect upon personal feelings, responses and relationships.
- Explore ways in which faith and non-faith values and teaching have an impact on actions and decisions for people and the world.
- Be supported in their own search for meaning and purpose in life and be able to make informed choices about faith, spirituality and their place in the world.
- Develop a sense of awe, wonder and mystery.
- Explore concepts of love, forgiveness, respect, inclusion, equity, justice, reconciliation, kindness, compassion and generosity.
- Develop skills of reflection, empathy, communication and reasoning.
- Develop attitudes of respect, sensitivity, open-mindedness and self-esteem.
- Develop as responsible citizens of changing local, national and world communities with diverse religions and beliefs.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

- There will be clear learning outcomes (Chris Quigley Milestones) for all units of work, based on the appropriate expectations/levels as set out in the RE syllabus.
- The scheme of work and the Chris Quigley Milestones will ensure that there is continuity and progression for pupils and opportunities for assessment of these milestones.
- A range of teaching and learning activities will ensure that pupils learn effectively and with interest.
- Pupil progress and attainment in RE will be tracked and recorded using DOL, children's work, class discussions and written reflections.
- Progress in RE will form part of pupils' annual report to parents.
- RE is taught as a discrete subject as well as part of a cross curricular approach where appropriate.
- A range of visitors will be invited to support the teaching of RE and, where possible, there will be planned visits to places of worship.

HOW RELIGIOUS EDUCATION LOOKS AT ST BRIDGETS

By following the Wirral Agreed Syllabus, we will offer a broad and balanced Religious Education curriculum which allows our children to learn about major world faiths and develop greater understanding of Christian concepts. Religious Education lessons use many approaches including:

- Some written activities (noting that RE is not to be used to make judgements on children's writing skills).
- The Creative Arts including music, art, drama and role play.
- Reflections on our Collective Worship including school church services.
- Reading the Bible and using scripture.
- Focussing on key individuals of faiths and the impact they have had on the world.
- Ongoing reflection and questions, for example, 'what does this mean to you?'

HOW RE WORK IS RECORDED AT ST BRIDGETS

- Children in EYFS and Year 1 have a floor book.
- Children from Years 2-6 have their own RE books.
- EYFS children's work is shared as part of their learning journey.

SUBJECT LEADERSHIP

- The Religious Education subject leader will support and monitor the subject
- The Religious Education subject leader will ensure that their subject knowledge and expertise are kept up to date by means of regular training and taking into consideration the staff's CPD needs.
- The Religious Education subject leader will regularly monitor the quality of RE teaching across the school.
- The Religious Education subject leader will liaise with the governor who holds responsibility for RE and they will report regularly to the governing body on progress and attainment in RE.
- The Religious Education subject leader and head teacher will ensure that the principles set out in the National Society's Statement of Entitlement for RE are implemented.

REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed as and when necessary.

The Headteacher and staff will review this policy in the Spring Term 2025 in accordance with the development priorities stated in the School's Development Plan. Any suggested amendments will be presented to the governing body for discussion.