



Windsor Park CE Middle School

Learning for Life

"Teach me good judgement and knowledge"

Psalm 119:66

Religious Education Policy

Author: C Howells
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Respect ∞ *Resilience* ∞ *Responsibility*

In this Church of England school, the Religious Education provided is in conformity with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England as laid down in the Trust Deed.

Our whole school curriculum including RE also promotes our vision statement as set out below.

“Teach me good judgement and knowledge”

Psalm 119:66

As a Church of England school and a founding partner in the Uttoxeter Learning Trust community, the teachings of Jesus are at the heart of all we do. Whilst striving for excellence, we celebrate achievement in all its forms and encourage pupils and staff to live life in all its glory and to flourish.

RE plays a major part in promoting the Christian aims, values and ethos of our school as expressed below:

Our Values:

Respect

“Clothe yourself with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience”
Colossians 3:12

Resilience

“I can do anything through Christ who strengthens me”
Philippians 4:13

Responsibility

“For God gave us a spirit not a fear, but a power and love and self-control”
2 Timothy 1:7

Thankfulness * Creativity * Peace * Service * Courage * Compassion * Truthfulness * Hope * Humility *
Wisdom * Empathy * Generosity * Forgiveness * Justice * Trust * Perseverance * Discipline * Friendship *
Aspiration

Our Mission:

1. Encourage all children irrespective of background or ability to fulfil their God-given potential and flourish. Our broad and balanced curriculum takes a holistic approach to education ensuring that spirituality, emotional intelligence, physical development, academic excellence and social skills are developed creatively across a range of school subjects.
2. Deliver a safe space for children to develop philosophical and theological thinking through Religious Education as a core subject; delivering inspirational lessons which bestow upon pupils the skills to understand Christianity as a living and diverse faith, whilst teaching a knowledge and respect of other faiths and world views.

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3. Value education in its widest sense; building on our history and Christian foundations, making the most of today in order that we can make even more of tomorrow and the days, weeks, months and years that lie ahead. This is Learning for Life: 'teach me good judgement and knowledge' Psalm 119:66
4. Foster respect for all God's children; embracing difference and diversity and teaching all to live well together in an inclusive, welcoming community, supporting each other to remove or cross barriers and live with dignity and respect.
5. Reinforce the Christian values and beliefs that will make our children good people: kind, honest, forgiving and courageous.
6. Care deeply about our pupils' and staff wellbeing and mental health, appreciating that it is the genuine quality of relationships that matter. We strive to support each other to flourish, achieving happiness and fulfilment.
7. Encourage our pupils to approach local and global communities with a deep sense of integrity, justice, responsibility and courageous advocacy; identifying and challenging injustice.
8. Collaborate primarily with St Mary the Virgin church to share the teachings of Jesus through inspirational collective worship. Develop, deliver and evaluate opportunities for pupils and adults to express spirituality through varied worship experiences.
9. Encourage and nurture exploration, creativity and compassion with unlimited and unbounded energy. At Windsor Park learning is not a spectator sport.

The school has adopted the RE syllabus produced by the Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education and the scheme 'Understanding Christianity'. In line with the Diocesan guidelines, RE is allocated 7% of curriculum time.

Within that, the balance of time allocated to Christianity is 70% and to other faiths 30%. If appropriate, the non-Christian faiths should be drawn on when studying the syllabus units to develop and deepen understanding. This will also help to keep the balance of time spent on non-Christian faiths while following all the units of the Diocesan syllabus.

Appreciating the different faiths of children attending the school and that of the community, the other faiths studied will be Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, Judaism and Buddhism as well as World Views.

Elements of the RE syllabus may be re-enforced through Collective Worship within the school, (reference being made to the Collective Worship Policy). Particular attention should be made to celebrate festivals from all the religions studied within Collective Worship.

Links with St Mary's Church are fostered and, where appropriate, there are opportunities to develop relationships with holy places of other denominations and faiths in the community.

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Responsibility for the policy

The management of RE is a distinctive role of the Governors and Headteacher.

The policy has been written in consultation with the staff of the school following Diocesan guidelines and approved by the Governing body. It is to be reviewed every 2 years by the RE co-ordinator before being presented to staff and Governors.

The RE co-ordinator is responsible for implementation/co-ordination of the policy.

Statement of aims

At Windsor Park Middle School, we believe in teaching R.E. so children are able to discover more about themselves, others and God. We encourage children's values and spiritual development to be explored and experienced throughout the whole school.

"In Church of England schools the students and their families can expect a religious education curriculum that is rich and varied, enabling learners to acquire a thorough knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith. Church schools should provide a wide range of opportunities for learners to understand and to make links between the beliefs, practices and value systems of the range of faiths and world views studied."

Church schools should use some form of enquiry approach that engages with, for example biblical text, and helps develop religious and theological literacy. Links with the Christian values of the school and spiritual, moral, social and cultural development are intrinsic to the RE curriculum and should have a significant impact on learners."

RE Statement of Entitlement: The Church of England Education Office 2016.

At Windsor Park Middle School, Religious Education & Religious Literacy should

- Nurture pupils own personal faith/commitment within a clear ethos of respect for those children of the faiths.
- Contribute to pupils' personal development including spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, with reference to the school PSHE policy and curriculum.
- Give pupils a sound knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith.
- Give pupils the opportunity to explore the nature of religious language and symbolism.
- Value pupils' own faith and introduce them to other world faiths
- Experience Christian faith and places of worship.

Our Intent statement

'Preparing for life as respectful, religiously literate citizens within today's diverse and plural society' As a Church of England school we are an inclusive community. We aim to foster a well-established and growing knowledge and understanding of beliefs, practices, spiritual insights and secular world views through reading a variety of religious texts and stories. We develop a deep respect for the integrity of other religions, traditions and views and for the religious freedom of each and every person. There are

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opportunities for pupils to understand the role of foundational texts, beliefs, rituals, and practices and how they help form identity.

Our pupils acquire a rich, deep knowledge and understanding of Christian belief and practice, and Christianity as a living world faith through an exploration of core theological concepts and questions that critically engage with biblical text.

Content and approach

The Christian element of the RE curriculum will be based on the objectives within the Lichfield Diocesan syllabus along with Understanding Christianity and the teaching activities and resources recommended. The yearly themes to be taught will follow the Diocesan agreed syllabus and the units covered within each term will follow the curriculum overview given by subject leader. Religious Education has developed into two parts at Windsor Park; 'Religious Education: Beliefs and Values' and 'Religious Literacy'. RE:BV will be taught by RE subject specialist teachers, Religious Literacy will be taught by members of the English faculty, exploring the culture and history of the religion concurrently being taught in RE:BV and reading texts which relate to the RE:BV theme.

Progression and Monitoring

RE will be monitored by the co-ordinator on a termly cycle and with reference to the school improvement plan. To monitor standards and progression throughout the school, records will be kept according to the Diocesan guidance and the school Teaching, Learning and Assessment Policy.

Special Education Needs provision

Teachers will plan activities according to the needs and abilities within the class, differentiation for the more able and the less able appropriately. The needs of children on the SEN register will be accounted for and appropriate to their PLPs, with reference to the SEN policy.

Assessment

Teachers will assess RE with reference to the assessment and the feedback policies. Parents will be informed on their child's progress at regular parent evenings and a written report given at the end of the year as part of the child's annual written report. Pupils are informed termly of their progress towards their target, this is recorded in their books. The children's work will be assessed against a scale, focussing on key skills to be taught within each unit. These are: exploring the text, discovering the impact, making a connection and diving deeper.

Resources

Appropriate resources will be ordered and collated by the co-ordinator, building on the bank of resources already held by the department.

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