

Bishop Purglove Church of England (VA) Primary School



Religious Education Policy

“Reach Higher, Think Deeper, Love Wider”

The Purpose of RE at Bishop Purglove CE Primary School

The principal aim of RE in Derbyshire schools is to enable pupils to participate in an on-going search for wisdom, through exploring questions raised by human experience and answers offered by the religions and beliefs of the people of Derbyshire and the wider community, so as to promote their personal development. (Derbyshire Agreed syllabus for RE 2014-2019).

As a Voluntary Aided Church of England school, we are also bound by the Statement of Entitlement in C of E schools which states that:

Religious education in a Church school should enable every child to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate for dignity and respect encouraging all to live well together. Such an approach is offered through a commitment to generous hospitality, being true to our underpinning faith, but with a deep respect for the integrity of other religious traditions (and worldviews) and for the religious freedom of each person.

At Bishop Purglove CE Primary School, RE is also a vital part of our mission to help children to “Reach Higher, Think Deeper, Love Wider”.

Reach Higher – RE is an academic subject where we use high quality resources with good teaching to enable children to make sense of difficult concepts and we support all children to achieve.

Think Deeper – Big questions are treasured and simplistic answers are avoided.

Love Wider – The fact that different people believe different things is highly valued. By learning, and understanding, what others believe, we can build bridges between individuals and communities.

The legal position of religious education

RE is a core subject of the National Curriculum for all pupils. Our school curriculum for religious education meets the requirements of this and the Education Act 2002, where it states that: ‘Religious Education should be provided for all registered pupils except for those withdrawn at the request of the parents. This will include school children in Reception...’ RE must ‘reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are, in main, Christian while taking into account of the teaching and practices of other principle religions represented in Great Britain.’ (Education Act 1998 & School Standards and Framework Act 1998)

The EA also allows teachers to refuse to teach religious education, but only after they have given due notice of their intention to the school governors. The religious education curriculum forms an important

part of our school's spiritual, moral and social teaching. It also promotes education for citizenship. Our school RE curriculum is based on the LA's Revised Agreed Syllabus 2014.

Parents who want to withdraw the child/ren from RE should discuss this with the headteacher and then put it in writing to the headteacher, which will be minuted at the FGB meeting

Curriculum planning in Religious Education

We plan our religious education curriculum in accordance with the Derbyshire Agreed Syllabus 2014. The Understanding Christianity resource is used for the Christianity units of the syllabus. We offer opportunities for children of all abilities to develop their skills and knowledge in each unit, and we ensure that the planned progression built into the scheme of work offers the children an increasing challenge as they move through the school.

As is set out in LA syllabus, in KS1 our children study one other major religion (Judaism) as well as Christianity and in KS2 our children study 2 other religions (Islam and Judaism) alongside Christianity. Other religions are included when relevant to a particular unit, but not studied in full.

A long-term plan sets out all the units covered in each year group. A rolling 2-year programme is used, as children are in mixed year group classes.

Children in KS1 take part in a trip to the Manchester Jewish Museum, and children in KS2 either visit the Derby Open Centre (including mosque visit), or have a visit to school from the Open Centre as part of their learning about Islam.

Recording and Assessment

Written work is recorded in the children's main writing books. Assessment for Learning, marking and feedback is ongoing and line with the school's feedback and marking policy for other subjects. Understanding Christianity Units are more formally assessed using grids which show which children have met expected progress, which are working towards it and which children are working above age related expectations. Support is provided by the RE Subject Leader and annual monitoring visits and work scrutinies take place.

Organisation

Time Allocation:

Key Stage 1: 36 hours of teaching per year eg: 50 minutes per week.

Key Stage 2: 45 hours eg: 1 hour per week.

Time may be blocked in RE days or weeks

Foundation Stage: We relate the religious education aspects of our EYFS children's work to the objectives set out in the Early Learning Goals which underpin the curriculum planning for children aged three to five.

Equal Opportunities

It is the policy of the school to make the full Religious Education curriculum available to all our pupils whenever possible. We want all children, of all beliefs and none, to fully participate in RE.

Review and implementation

December 2018

Review Date: December 2021

