



Stottesdon C. of E. Primary School

The Shropshire Gateway Educational Trust



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

This policy is embedded in our School aims and values (see website)

Principles, Educational Aims and Learning Objectives - What we believe

We believe that good religious education teaching should

- Accept that the beliefs of all faith traditions should be respected
- Make an important contribution to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development through the content taught and the approaches used
- Be taught in a way that is interesting, challenging and relevant to pupils
- Provide opportunities for pupils to reflect on or explore their own beliefs
- Help develop empathy and sensitivity towards others
- Ensure that through the exploration of religious belief and practice pupils should mature in relation to their own pattern of belief, values and behaviour
- Provide a major contribution towards the spiritual development of pupils
- Help pupils learn from religion - not just learn about it
- Provide opportunities for developing a sense of awe, wonder, joy and thankfulness - so reaching beyond the mundane and ordinary
- Will provide children with the opportunities to find out what others believe (Christianity and other faiths) but will not actively set out to make them believe

Such principles will in turn provide the basis for pupils to

- Encounter a range of religious traditions
- Show understanding and sensitivity when talking or mixing with others
- Develop some understanding of the Anglican tradition
- Reflect upon and evaluate religious and moral issues
- Have the confidence to express their own beliefs, whether they be religious or not

Meeting Legal Demands - What We Have To Do

RE in Stottesdon School is taught in accordance with the requirements of Shropshire Agreed Syllabus. Throughout the school this is taught as a 2 year rolling programme. This requires us to provide opportunities for pupils to:

- develop an awareness that many people believe human life depends upon an ultimate being or a sustaining creative power often referred to as God
- develop an awareness, understanding and appreciation of the broad religious, spiritual and ethical heritage of their immediate and global communities
- reflect upon the experiences and the mysteries of life and to recognise the significance of awe and wonder in religious belief
- build an appreciation of the following faiths: Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism and Sikhism

We also recognise and fully comply with:

✝ The Conscience Clause.

We recognise that all parents have the right to withdraw their children from religious education. A statement to this effect is included on the school website.

We also recognise that on grounds of conscience all staff have the right not to teach religious education. If this were the case specialist teaching arrangement would be made.

✝ Reporting to Parents.

We report to parents about children's work in Religious Education on a biannual basis. Books are always available at parent, pupil, teacher consultations each term.

Policy to Practice - How We Do It

Organisation

- Lessons should be on average 1 hour a week at KS1 and at KS2. This is achieved through a combination of dedicated lessons and cross curricular approaches with other subjects e.g. PSHE, Art, Literacy, Themed Days etc.
- Our collective worship, where possible, links to units of work in R.E. This is achieved through use of our Values for Life Programme. Once a week members of the local church community help staff lead 'Open the Book' assemblies - presenting Bible stories in a fun and interactive way. (See collective worship policy and planning).
- Progression and continuity is catered for within the R.E. syllabus and by our long term curriculum map (see planning guidelines) which combines the key elements of the Agreed Syllabus (Religious Questions 1 - 14) and the Understanding Christianity resource. RE progression statements for Attainment targets 1, 2 and 3 are used by staff to guide planning and to ensure progression. (See Appendix).

Teaching and Learning

- Opportunities are regularly given for discussion, sharing of experiences, thoughts and reflection about both religious and moral issues. These are presented and prompted in numerous ways including- looking at current world and local events on the news, a photo, object, painting, video clip or a secular or sacred text/ story
- Activities are creative and practical and are designed to allow children to explore different aspects of the syllabus. Activities include drama, freeze framing, interviewing each other in role, creating artefacts as well as looking at faith, values and ideas through art, music, dance and other collaborative work.
- Where possible, and in line with the agreed syllabus, we aim to give children direct experience through liaison with our local Church, trips and visits to and from other faiths, real artefacts etc.
- All school activities aim to promote and foster our school values (see website) and our Christian Values (Courage, Trust, Creativity, Justice, Forgiveness, Peace, Thanks, Compassion, Hope, Friendship, Humility and Truth)
- Children are given opportunities and a safe environment in order to show and explore their own sense of curiosity
- We actively encourage contributions to school life e.g. celebration, assemblies, church services and children's participation in cultural activities and traditions

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

- As detailed in the school's assessment policy, R.E. assessment and monitoring are based upon: observation, record of pupils work, annotation on planning/learning objectives and adaption of subsequent work, self and peer assessment activities and teacher knowledge of standards and expectations when planning using the AT1, AT2 and AT3 steps for



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progression (see Appendix)

- As detailed in the School's monitoring and evaluation policy, the school has an audit timetable which uses a variety of methods to monitor and evaluate:
 - the quality of teaching and learning
 - standards
 - delivery

This guides our CPD and SDP planning.

Resources

- Resources are stored in Clun and are labelled according to the religion or theme
- The Understanding Christianity resources are used for this aspect of the curriculum.
- Local resources and links include:-
 - St. Mary's Church, Stottesdon
 - Chorley Baptist Church

Contacts for visits to other faiths are provided by the LA advisor and have included an annual visit to a different place of worship (Gurdwara, Hindu Temple, Mosque, Synagogue, Cathedral).

Links with the Church

- Pupils visit the Church to support the agreed syllabus or collective worship as appropriate
- We celebrate the main Christian events as a whole school in St Mary's each term - Harvest, Christmas, Easter, Ash Wednesday
- We provide opportunities at least twice a year, for pupils to help prepare and take part in Sunday services at our local church eg Mothering Sunday and Christingle
- Reverend Daborn visits at least fortnightly to lead acts of collective worship
- Members of our local Church of England and Baptist communities help lead a weekly interactive 'Open the Book' assemblies
- Church members are welcome and are invited to School activities and our Foundation Governors are active members of our Governing Body

Equality of Opportunity

- The agreed syllabus is broad and balanced. Coverage through this and our assemblies, aims for coverage of a variety of religions and beliefs.
- All activities should be inclusive of all children regardless of their belief, gender, race or ability.
- We aim to promote positive images of all faiths and traditions and a respect of peoples' views and opinions.
- We aim to prevent linking race with religion e.g. Christianity is 'white'.

The Scheme of Work

Copies can be found in the R.E. resource area and on the Shropshire Learning Gateway. Our long term curriculum map guides progression and coverage.