

## Stottesdon CofE Primary School RE Policy

This policy has been adopted by the Governors in consultation with the Head teacher, RE subject leader and teaching staff. It was approved by governors on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2022 and will be reviewed by October 2025

Our school embraces The Statement of Entitlement from the Church of England:

*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. (Church of England Education Office: ‘Church of England Vision for Education: Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good 2016’*

*A high-quality sequential religious education (RE) programme is essential to meet the statutory requirement for all state funded schools, including academies and free schools, to teach a full curriculum that prepares pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in modern Britain. Central to religious education in Church schools is the study of Christianity as a living and diverse faith, focused on the teaching of Jesus and the Church. There is a clear expectation that as inclusive communities, church schools provide sequenced learning about a range of religions and worldviews fostering respect for others.*

### **Context**

- We teach according to the Shropshire Agreed Syllabus which uses the Understanding Christianity Resource.
- We recognise the variety of religious and non-religious backgrounds from which our pupils come. We welcome diversity and we intend to be sensitive to the home background of each child. However we also prioritise both:
  - That we are a church school with a strong Christian vision (see [website](#))
  - That we have quite low diversity of faith which means we also prioritise bring knowledge, experience and understanding to the children.
- We are glad to have the active support of religious and non-religious members of the community to support our teaching of RE.
- A subject specialist, with qualifications, teaches RE across the school

### **Our Vision For RE – 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
- 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
- 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

### **The Aims of RE at Stottesdon CofE Primary school**

RE at Stottesdon CofE Primary School reflects The Statement of Entitlement from The Church of England as well as being in line with the legal requirements. These are:

- To know about and understand Christianity as a diverse global living faith through the exploration of core beliefs using an approach that critically engages with biblical text.
- To gain knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews appreciating diversity, continuity and change within the religions and worldviews being studied.
- To develop an understanding of the influence of religious and non-religious worldviews, values and traditions on individuals, communities, societies and cultures, locally, nationally and globally;
- To develop positive attitudes of respect towards other people who hold views and beliefs different from their own, and towards living in a society of diverse religions and worldviews.
- To engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose raised by human existence and experience.
- To recognise the concept of religion and its continuing influence on Britain's cultural heritage and in the lives of individuals and societies in different times, cultures and places.
- To explore their own religious, spiritual and philosophical ways living, believing and thinking.

### **Time Allocation**

It is recommended that RE is taught for a minimum of 36 hours per year at Key Stage One, and 45 hours per year at Key Stage Two. The time allocated for teaching RE at Stottesdon CofE Primary School is:

- EYFS: planned within the EYFS Framework
- KS1: 1 hour per week
- KS2: 1.25 hours per week.

RE curriculum time does not include assembly or collective worship, even when the assembly provides a starting point for curricular work. Christmas and Easter production rehearsals and performances are not RE.

### **Scheme of Work**

A detailed scheme of work is available through the Shropshire Agreed Syllabus, Understanding Christianity and RE Today resources (stored in Clun)

EYFS: themes emerging from the EYFS Framework and Shropshire Agreed Syllabus/Understanding Christianity. See [Curriculum Maps for Reception](#)

KS1: Christianity, Islam, Judaism and non-religious world views

Lower KS2: Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and non-religious world views

Upper KS2: Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Humanism and non-religious world views

### **Teaching and Learning Strategies**

Our policy is to aim to ensure the use in RE of art, music, drama, thinking skills, speaking and listening activities, visits, posters, photographs, videos, ICT use, display work and other active learning strategies. Cross curricular are made where appropriate. We recognise the importance of teaching to the Agreed Syllabus in a creative, knowledge-rich, broad and balanced way.

### **Resources**

We have a wide range of resources, to support our RE teaching, that we continue to develop. Resources are stored in Clun and on the Shared Area, and should be returned after use.

Our school has invested in new books/religious artefacts/DVDs/picture packs/posters. Our staff are supported with CPD and PPA time to carefully plan and prepare the progression of learning. Within book corners there are a range of stories from different traditions, cultures and faiths. A regular audit of resources takes place by the RE subject leader in order to update our collection. We encourage school families to donate appropriate artefacts and utilise our local resource centre for RE (Bishop Mascall Centre at Ludlow).

### **Visits and Visitors**

We are able to visit places of worship in the immediate vicinity of the school, where faith leaders and other members of the community are willing to meet with children and be involved in the teaching of RE (e.g St. Mary's Church, Stottesdon; Chorley Baptist Church (Open the Book). We aim to use this valuable resource for all classes. We aim for all pupils to have the opportunity to visit a place of worship or participate in a visit of a representative to their RE class annually.

### **Links with Our 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 Church 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

### **Matching Work to Pupils' Needs**

Our whole school policy regarding pupils with special needs and differentiation, applies to RE. Teachers should be alert to the fact that some children have special and deep experience of a religion through family practice.

### **Assessment**

We report on pupils' progress and attainment in RE to parents through an interim and end of year report. There are also parents evenings where work is shared and discussed. The Shropshire Agreed Syllabus provides descriptions of progress and attainment, which the school uses as a basis for assessment at the end of each unit. This feeds in to overall key stage aims.

We engage in moderation CPD and activities with the Diocese and with local schools.

### **Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

The subject leader and the RE link governor will engage in monitoring and evaluation of this policy in practice. We maintain a 'self-evaluation' of our RE work in preparation for any scrutiny. The subject leader for RE will assess and review the subject's strengths and areas for development. This will be in line with OFSTED guidance and SIAMS.

### **Staff training and CPD**

The subject leader has access to RE CPD in line with the subject leader's identified areas for development. The RE subject leader also attends Diocese and Agreed Syllabus meetings as appropriate.

### **Withdrawal**

We note the Human Right of parents to withdraw their children from RE and have a published statement to this effect on our school website. We also recognise, on the grounds of conscience, all staff have the right not to teach RE. We aim to provide an open curriculum which can be taught to all pupils, by all staff. Teachers are asked to refer to the head teacher any questions from parents about withdrawals. Requests for full or partial withdrawal from RE should be made in writing to the head teacher and a record kept of them. Guidance on withdrawal can be found [here](#).

RE Link Governor: James Auden

RE subject leader: Esther Leverett-Williams

Headteacher: Katie Jones

Date: October 2022

Date for review: October 2025