

Appleshaw ST Peter's CE Primary School

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Vision for Religious Education at Appleshaw St Peter's

Religious Education at Appleshaw School will help pupils develop an awareness of their own and others' identities, ponder the mysteries of life and the answers given by a wide variety of religions and beliefs and develop a clear sense of what is of real value in world today. Through reflection on their own beliefs and values in the light of their learning, they will grow in respect and tolerance for themselves and others. Pupils will gain a deep knowledge and understanding of the teachings, practices and life stories expressed in a variety of ways within Christianity and other principal religions and world views.

Rationale

Section 352 of the Education Act 1996 identifies the distinctive place of religious education as part of the basic curriculum alongside the National Curriculum. Religious education is to have equal standing in relation to the core and foundation subjects within the school. It differs from the subjects of the National Curriculum only in that it is not subject to national prescription. It is a matter for the Agreed Syllabus Conferences to recommend locally prescribed procedures for the local authority (LA).

The Education Act 1996 requires that:

- religious education should be taught to all children and young people other than those in nursery classes and except for those withdrawn at the wish of their parents. Teachers' rights are safeguarded, should they wish to withdraw from the teaching of religious education
- religious education in all county and voluntary controlled schools should be taught in accordance with an Agreed Syllabus
- an Agreed Syllabus should reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, while taking account of the teachings and practices of the other principal religions in Great Britain
- an Agreed Syllabus must not be designed to convert pupils, or to urge a particular religion or religious belief on pupils¹

Aims:

- To enable pupils to understand the nature of Christian beliefs and practices and the beliefs and practices of other world faiths;
- To teach tolerance and challenge prejudice towards people of different faiths through providing opportunities to develop an understanding of the value of living in a multicultural, multi-faith and multi-lingual society;
- To help pupils reflect upon their own needs, experiences and questions and to confront what are sometimes referred to as 'ultimate questions';
- To encourage pupils to develop open minds to new and different concepts and to form their own opinions based on evidence and argument;
- To maintain close links with local churches and other religious communities;
- To learn from religions in addition to gaining knowledge and understanding about religions.

Legal Requirement:

It is a statutory requirement that schools teach religious education as prescribed by the locally agreed syllabus. In this school this means the Agreed Syllabus "Living Difference" will be taught. Living Difference confirms our commitment to an education that values religious and cultural diversity. It seeks to empower our pupils and address their responsibilities within the communities we serve. It is intended to provide the basis of effective teaching and learning in religious education and, as a result, enhance understanding and collaboration across the diversity of belief and practice within our local communities and the wider world.

Religious Education at Appleshaw is firmly rooted in the basic tenets of Christianity. Whilst the diocesan guidelines for religious education are incorporated into the schemes of work, our approach is ecumenical and

¹ Taken from Living Difference III

children of all faiths and no faith are encouraged to reflect on what might be learnt from religion in the light of their own beliefs and experiences.

Teaching and Learning:

- RE will be taught either weekly or in 'blocks of learning' at least twice per term.
- 'Understanding Christianity'² and the locally agreed syllabus 'Living Difference III' will form the basis of our planning with $\frac{2}{3}$ of curriculum time being devoted to Christianity and with due reference to the Church of England's Statement of Entitlement³. Links to Literacy and other foundation subjects will be made where appropriate.
- Christianity is taught throughout the school and other world religions at different phases; Judaism at KS1, Hinduism at Lower KS2 and Islam at Upper KS2
- A variety of resources will be used, including books, artefacts, posters, DVDs, photos and people from local faith traditions.
- There will be opportunities to respond to material in a variety of ways. This may be through: poems, stories, speaking and listening activities, recounts, reports on visits, art work, drama, discussions and displays.
- Suitable learning opportunities for all children will be provided by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child.

Responsibilities:

It is the responsibility of each class teacher to ensure that the agreed RE curriculum is delivered in their classroom. It is the responsibility of the RE co-ordinator to ensure that the RE curriculum is effectively planned, assessed and resourced.

Assessment:

Teachers will formatively assess through observations, written work and dialogue with children. They will assess the children using the agreed assessment framework for RE. Recording of children's attainment will take place at the end of each unit of work. Children's attainment in RE will be reported to parents as part of the annual written report.

Right of Withdrawal:

All parents have the right to withdraw their children from RE lessons. If parents do wish to withdraw their child from RE lessons, they must inform the school in person and confirm in writing. In order to preserve the distinctiveness of this church school community, we encourage everyone to be involved in Religious Education and Collective Worship. It is the hope of the staff and governors that, in choosing to send their child to this Church school, parents will be happy to allow their child to participate.

Equal Opportunities and Inclusion

We live in a multi-cultural, multi racial society and we encourage the respect and understanding of other religions and cultures within the community in which we live. We intend to follow Jesus' example to love and serve one another, regardless of race and culture. The school will respect faith traditions of all children attending the school.

² <http://www.understandingchristianity.org.uk/>

³ [Statement of Entitlement link](#)

Foundation Stage

We teach religious education to all children in the school, including those in the reception class. In the reception class, religious education is an integral part of the topic work covered during the year. As the reception class is part of the Foundation Stage of the National Curriculum, we relate the religious education aspects of the children's work to the objectives set out in the Early Learning Goals which underpin the curriculum planning for children aged three to five.

Policy Date: March 2017

Review: March 2020

Signed _____ (Chair of Governors)