

St Nicolas' Church of England Voluntary Aided
Combined School



RE Policy

St Nicolas' Church of England School Vision

Jesus said 'I am the vine and you are the branches'.

Our school is rooted in the Christian Faith. Nourished by God, we want to grow together drawing on His strength to live out our Christian values so that we can reach out to others in our community.

We are all unique and together with God we want to be the best that we can be. As we learn together in a supportive and nurturing school, we will thrive and be ready to face the challenges of life.

Date of Policy: Autumn 2022

Review Date: Autumn 2025

Members of staff responsible:

RE Leader

Curriculum Committee

Introduction

As a voluntary aided Church of England School the role of RE has a high profile and the same status and importance as any other subject. It draws on the rich history of the major religious traditions in Britain, giving due prominence to Christianity to reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, whilst taking account of the principal world faiths, local communities and non-religious beliefs that may form the family background of children in our school.

Aims of RE

- To teach children the foundation principles of Christianity by exploring its beliefs and practices.
- To teach other world faiths, by exploring beliefs and practices.
- To develop a positive attitude towards other people of all faiths or none.
- To enhance the teaching of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- To pursue personal quest for meaning, purpose and value
- To formulate reasoned opinion/argument and handle controversial issues and truth claims

Religious Education at St Nicolas' challenges pupils to question and explore their own and others' understanding of the world and therefore does not aim to alter in anyway the beliefs of children and their parents.

Organisation

- The school aims to teach Religious Education based on the Oxford Diocese Syllabus with the recommended allocation of 5% of classroom time across the year. This will be achieved through a flexible curriculum structure which may consist of weekly 1hr lessons or a culmination of time in one term resulting whole study days and workshops. Religious Education is separate from Collective Worship and time for Collective Worship is not part of the Religious Education provision.

Curriculum

In line with the requirements of the Diocesan syllabus and using the Understanding Christianity units, pupils study Christianity and one other religion in KS1 and Christianity and one other religion in KS2. Other religions will be referred to as appropriate within specific units. This meets the recommendation of the Church of England Education Office Statement of Entitlement for RE, published in 2016.

Planning

The religious education curriculum is based on two key aspects of learning; learning about religion and learning from religion. Teachers will use these strands when planning their lessons. When planning the Christianity units, the staff use the Understanding Christianity resources. Three members of the school have undertaken the training for this resource. They will explore these in relation to a number of themes in each key stage:

Key Stage One:

- Special places
- Special people
- Special things
- Special stories
- Our World
- All about me
- Special occasions
- Belonging

Key Stage Two:

- Worship
- Places of Worship
- Community
- Symbolism
- Sacred Texts
- Festivals

- Rites of Passage
- Pilgrimage
- Traditions
- Founders and Prophets
- Natural world
- Ethics and Moral Issues

Year group plans and unit plans are kept on the staff network and are monitored by the subject leader.

Teaching and learning

- The school has adopted the Diocese of Oxford's scheme of work.
- RE is taught using the Engage, Enquire, Evaluate and Reflect model. This aims to encourage children to reflect upon their learning and discuss whether their learning has made a difference to the way they think and act.
- Each unit has a "Big Question" which allows children to experience a range of theological, philosophical and social elements. The Big questions address the syllabus questions and topics.
- Children are encouraged to form their own opinions and to assert their own individual liberty whilst respecting the rights of others to do the same. Personal experience and opinion is valued within a maintained respectful learning environment.
- Cross curricular opportunities are made with the core academic subjects where appropriate.
- Differentiation is planned for: allowing all children to access, progress and be challenged through the curriculum.
- Teachers use the Understanding Christianity resources when teaching about Christianity.

At St Nicolas' we use the Understanding Christianity resource when teaching Christianity. Pupils will be introduced to and given opportunity to explore the big ideas of Christianity. These are eight core concepts at the heart of Christianity that together tell God's big story.

The core concepts are expressed in the Bible and lived out by Christian people each day. These big ideas reveal God's salvation plan, the big story. These concepts are revisited throughout different key stages, deepening pupils' understanding and making the links to the overall 'big story'. Pupils will encounter these concepts through key questions.

Concept	Story
God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit	In the beginning God.....
Creationcreated the heavens and the earth and everything was good. Humans are made in God's image.
Fall	Humankind spoilt creation and broke the relationship with God. Therefore, humans became in need of rescue.
People of God	In the Old Testament God tries to restore his relationship with people, choosing particular people to work with him. He spoke through the words of the prophets, but the people did not listen and were awaiting the Messiah.

Incarnation	The arrival of the Messiah, the Saviour, to rescue the people from the results of the fall and restore their relationship with God. Jesus, the Son of God, who came to live among us. Incarnation means that Jesus is God in the flesh.
Gospel	Jesus' good news for everyone. His life, ministry and teaching, showing people what it means to live in relationship with God who is their father, and loves them.
Salvation	The death and resurrection of Jesus is the ultimate rescue plan. God's people are saved because through Jesus sin is dealt with and forgiveness offered. People can now choose to follow the way back to God.
Kingdom of God	God's kingdom is the world as God intended it to be. Christians look forward to the day when God's kingdom fully comes and earth and heaven are transformed. Until that time they strive to build the kingdom in their communities, empowered by the Holy Spirit and reflecting Jesus example in the world.

The Big Freeze. (The Big Story)

Old Testament

New Testament

Creation	Fall	People	of God	Incarnation	Gospel	Salvation	Kingdom of God
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Resources

- Resources are managed by the subject leader.
- New resources are identified through discussion with class teachers and outlined in the annual RE development plan.
- Religious artefacts play a key role in enhancing learning and are to be used respectfully and with integrity.
- All teachers are expected to teach RE.

Monitoring and Assessment

- The RE Coordinator is responsible for monitoring and evaluation following the school's yearly cycle and will report to the SLT and Governors.
- Assessment in Religious Education is a requirement of the Agreed Syllabus .There are two Attainment Targets for RE.

AT1 Learning about Religions

- Beliefs and teachings
- Practises and lifestyles
- Expression and language

AT2 Learning from Religion

- Identity and experience
- Meaning and purpose
- Values and commitments

- Teachers will assess pupils work in line with whole-school policy, using the level-descriptors contained in the Agreed Syllabus.
- There is an ongoing assessment sheet for the Understanding Christianity units.

Withdrawal from Religious Education

- Parents may withdraw their children from all or any part of religious education and teachers can exercise their right to withdraw from teaching the subject. However, we hope that all parents and teachers will feel comfortable with the type of religious education being taught at this school. Parents who wish to withdraw their children are asked to provide written notification to this effect and will undertake a discussion with the Headteacher.