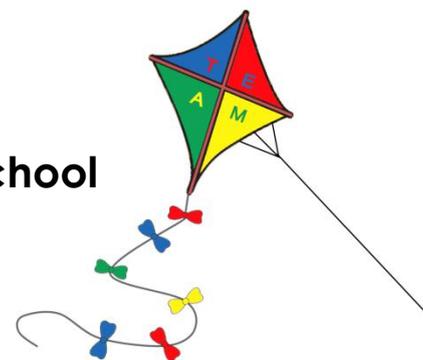


# Twyford St Mary's C of E Primary School

## Religious Education Policy



### Policy Statement

Religious Education is unique in the school curriculum in that it is neither a core subject nor a foundation subject. However, at Twyford St. Mary's, R.E. is an integral part of school life. We are a Voluntary Controlled Primary School with a Christian foundation and, as such, Christianity is at the forefront of our religious education. The 1988 Education Act states that 'Religious Education has equal standing in relation to core subjects of the National Curriculum in that it is compulsory for all registered pupils'.

### Rationale

At Twyford St Mary's C of E Primary School, we believe that Religious Education should be taught within an enriched and creative curriculum. Religious Education enables children to investigate and reflect on some of the most fundamental questions in life, for example, the meaning of life and the existence of a divine spirit. We want children to reflect on what it means to have a faith and to develop their own spiritual knowledge and understanding. We help the children learn from religions and other worldviews.

### Aims

- To provide a set of constant values in a changing world.
- To develop children's key religious education knowledge and skills.
- To develop an awareness of spirituality, awe and wonder.
- To have respect for other peoples' views and to celebrate the diversity in their own community and beyond.
- To foster an attitude of fair minded and empathetic enquiry towards the whole range of religious and non-religious convictions.
- To raise awareness of experiences and concepts common to most religions.
- To develop investigative and research skills in order to enable them to make reasoned judgements about religious issues.
- To develop an understanding of what it means to be committed to a religious tradition.
- To be able to reflect on their own experiences and to develop a personal response to the fundamental questions of life and concepts explored.
- To empower children to be courageous advocates for themselves and others.

## Teaching and Learning

Twyford St Mary's C of E Primary School is a Voluntary Controlled School therefore we deliver RE in accordance with Hampshire Agreed Syllabus 'Living Difference III', which will revert to the updated version of 'Living Difference IV' from September 2022. We use the Understanding Christianity resource to enrich our exploration of theological concepts, Christianity in particular.

We base our teaching and learning style on the principle that outstanding teaching in R.E. allows children to reflect on both what the religious concepts mean to them and also what they could mean to others. In an R.E. lesson at Twyford St. Mary's, visitors will see a wide range of challenging, enjoyable and stimulating experiences that are accessible to all. We have regular visitors, trips and artefacts to enrich learning.

Through R.E., we explore the meaning, purpose and value, through gaining knowledge and understanding of key concepts which relate to their own lives, the beliefs and practices of Christianity and other major religious traditions or worldviews. Additionally, we support children's Social, Spiritual, Moral and Cultural development through participation and co-operation with others, for example, meeting people who are believers and encounter the practices and customs, art, music and literature that underlie what they do.

## Withdrawal

Parents have the right under the 1994, 1988 and 1993 Education Acts, to withdraw their children from part of or all collective worship and religious education and the school will make provision where this is requested by a parent/carer.

## Guidelines for Teachers

- Religious Education activities should be planned in line with the School's Curriculum, R.E. Policy, Living Difference syllabus and Understanding Christianity resource.
- The Religious Education curriculum should be accessible to all children.
- Religious Education should build on their own experience to develop all children's religious thinking and provide increasing challenge as they progress through the school, as outlined in the intent document.
- Children should be encouraged to participate to the best of their ability and where appropriate, Special Education Needs (SEN) provision may be used to assist individuals or groups to develop their religious education skills.
- Children will explore the concepts of *belonging*, *special*, *community* and *love* in KS1 and then return to look at these in more depth in KS2.
- Lessons will follow a cyclical method of learning, as recommended by both Living Difference and Understanding Christianity.

- RE should be taught through active learning principles, such as visits and visitors and the handling of artefacts, with cross curricular links being developed wherever possible, for example, death ceremonies linked to an Ancient Egyptian topic.
- Activities will allow children both to learn about religious traditions and to reflect on what the ideas and concepts mean to them.
- Activities may be differentiated by task and by outcome allowing for a variety of responses.
- Children should be given opportunities to learn in a variety of different ways to keep it exciting and enjoyable.
- Resources and displays should reflect a variety of cultures and societies.
- The religious education subject leader will support class teachers in the planning and delivery of religious education schemes of work.
- Resources stored centrally in the subject leader's classroom and are clearly labelled and arranged to provide easy access for all.
- Each child in KS1 and KS2 will have their own R.E. book to record their learning. This book will stay with them for each phase (Y1-2, Y3-4, Y5-6) in order to demonstrate progress. Year R children will record their learning in a shared, whole class book which will be updated by the class teacher.
- Assessments will be made based on age related expectation objectives from Living Difference. Children will be assessed by their class teacher termly, and attainment will be shared with parents in the child's annual report.
- Teachers should be aware of specific religious exemptions when teaching RE. The Headteacher will inform staff of any pupils that are to be withdrawn from RE lessons.

Approved by Governing Body - Autumn 2021

Date of next review - Autumn 2024