

# THOMAS WHITEHEAD VA C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL



## Policy for Religious Education

<b>Policy: Religious Education</b>	<b>Issue Date: December 2016</b>	<b>Page: 1 of 5</b>
<b>Review Date: December 2018</b>	<b>Related Policies and Guidance:</b> SMSC Values Education Collective Worship Marking Policy	
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*This is a Church of England School and in common with all church schools, aims to provide the best possible education for each of its pupils within the context of a caring, Christian community.*

*As a Values school, we are committed to reflecting the essence of Christian Values within this policy.*

## **Aims**

Our primary aim at Thomas Whitehead C of E Primary School is to create a caring Christian community in which Christian values and beliefs permeate the whole of school life. By nurturing each child as he or she develops physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually within the context of this caring community, we hope to equip them for life in the real world. We aim to nourish those of the faith, to encourage those of other faiths and to challenge those who have no faith. Links with the church and community are vital, providing an ethos which results in a meaningful and unifying sense of purpose.

As a Church aided school, the R.E. curriculum is required by law to be determined by the Governors in accordance with the Trust Deed. This states that religious instruction shall be given in accordance with the doctrines, rites and practices of the Church of England. Although times and society have changed since the formulation of the Trust Deed and the founding of the school, we believe that as an aided school, we should be emphasising the importance and uniqueness of Christianity among other religions, traditions and beliefs. We recognise that R.E. involves specific learning and the development of particular skills and attitudes. We aim to develop the children's knowledge and understanding of Christianity while also teaching respect for and tolerance of other religious beliefs and practices.

Children learn to reflect on what it means to have a faith and to develop their own spiritual knowledge and understanding. We help them learn *from* religion as well as *about* religion.

As a Church of England school our aims reflect the spiritual development of our pupils as focussed on the Christian faith. The areas are as follows:-

To enhance the children's spiritual, moral, cultural and social development by:

- Developing an awareness of the fundamental questions of life raised by human experiences
- Acquiring a knowledge and understanding of the origins, content and development of the Christian religion; and an awareness of its uniqueness among other religions, traditions and beliefs
- Understanding the values, attitudes and lifestyles that a Christian faith demands; and its effect on relationships and responsibilities in the family, among friends in the school and the wider community
- Developing an understanding of the Christian faith, whilst gaining some knowledge of, and tolerance for the beliefs and religious practices of others
- Reflecting on their own beliefs, values and experiences
- Developing a positive attitude towards other people, respecting their right to hold different beliefs from their own, and towards living in a society of diverse religions

## **Teaching and Learning**

At Thomas Whitehead School a Framework for RE is planned for each class group to ensure progression and development in religious experience and understanding throughout the key stages taught within the school. As a Church aided school we are bound by our Trust Deed, but in line with Diocesan guidelines, our RE curriculum is based on the Understanding Christianity units of work and the LA Agreed Syllabus. Our RE framework (Reviewed Autumn 2016) reflects the fact that we are a Church of England School and 2/3 of the coverage is distinctively Christian. We acknowledge that religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian and recognise the contribution other denominations make within our school and community. We take account of the teaching and practices of other major religions.

In line with the National Society for R.E. the time allocation for R.E. teaching is:

Key Stage 1: 36 hours per year

Key Stage 2: 45 hours per year

This translates into 50 to 60 minutes of R.E. every week and does not include Collective Worship time.

Collective Worship may be used to support R.E. but it is in addition to curriculum time.

At Thomas Whitehead we believe that children learn best in a secure, supportive environment in which they feel safe to express their views freely. We aim to ensure that the teaching of R.E. seeks not only to impart knowledge but to develop understanding of religious experiences, feelings and attitudes. We aim to provide opportunities in RE for children to build on their own, first hand experiences through a range of strategies including direct teaching, The Bible, stories, the use of artefacts, visits to places of worship, godly play and a range of media and information sources.

Our R.E. curriculum helps children to develop skills of:-

- **investigation;** the use of first hand and other resources to understand religious people, objects, symbols, places, events and stories
- **questioning;** developing curiosity about life, relationships and the natural world
- **empathy;** developing the power of imagination to identify feelings such as wonder, forgiveness, sorrow, joy, and to try to see the world through the eyes of others
- **reflection;** the ability to consider the thoughts, feelings, experiences, attitudes and beliefs of oneself and others
- **relating;** linking significant features of religions, making associations between them, to understand what makes religions distinct and/or similar
- **expression;** the ability to identify and explain feelings and aspects of religions

### **Assessment, Recording and Reporting**

As with other curriculum areas, this is an on-going part of teaching and learning. Within R.E. we are

developing and embedding procedures which have recently been put in place. Children are assessed termly according to the levels of attainment for R.E. in the Bedfordshire Agreed Syllabus. These are at this stage generic with a view to developing them further linked to specific units of study from Understanding Christianity. We are also planning to develop children's self-assessment in R.E. based on assessment without levels to support children in understanding the next steps in their learning.

R.E. books are marked in accordance with the school marking policy. To promote deeper thinking, questions linked to the learning are posed when work is marked. The children's verbal or written responses provide an indication of their understanding. Guidance is given in order to move children on in their learning.

The school reports annually to parents/carers on pupils' progress and attainment in R.E.

### **Leadership, Monitoring and Evaluation**

RE has a high profile within our school and this is reflected in the joint responsibility shared by the Acting Headteacher and Assistant Headteacher. The governor responsible for supporting and monitoring the work of the school in relation to R.E. is Fr. Diego Galanzino, Parish Priest for Houghton Regis.

The role of the R.E. subject leaders is to

- Remain aware of current good practise in R.E. and disseminate to staff
- Observe teaching of the agreed curriculum throughout the school
- Monitor, record and assess the teaching and learning of R.E. across the school
- Support colleagues with planning and teaching the R.E. curriculum as necessary
- Review school policy and practice
- Keep governors informed about school policies and practice
- Organise and be involved in INSET for colleagues
- Preparing the necessary documentation for talking to inspectors during inspection
- Organise, audit and purchase resources for delivering R.E.

**Equal Opportunities**

The school promotes equal opportunities for all pupils regardless of gender or ability in RE as in all areas of the taught curriculum.

**Right of Withdrawal**

Under the 1944 and 1988 Acts, parents have a right to withdraw their children from Religious Education or parts of Religious Education. Parents who wish to do so are encouraged to discuss this with the Head Teacher first.

**Implementation and Review**

This policy will be monitored by the Headteacher, R.E. Co-ordinators and The named RE governor and governing body in discussion with all teaching staff. It will be reviewed in December 2018.

**This policy to be reviewed every two years**

**This policy was written in December 2016**

This policy was reviewed by staff in December 2016

This policy was ratified by governors in \_\_\_\_\_

This policy is due for review in December 2018.

**Signed:.....Headteacher**

**Signed..... on behalf of the Governing Body**

**Date:.....**