



# Bishopstone C.E. Primary School

Bishopstone Church of England School, Bishopstone, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN6 8PW

## Aims

- To understand the nature of religious beliefs and practices
- To develop children's knowledge about Christianity.
- To develop a reverence for life, appreciating its wonders and mysteries.
- To become acquainted with customs, art, music and literature inherent in belief.
- To develop an understanding of other world faiths.
- To develop an understanding of what it means to be committed to a religious faith.
- To grow in awareness of themselves and their own beliefs.
- To develop a positive self – image, leading to self-confidence and responsible behaviour.
- To take personal responsibility for their own actions.
- To have a caring and friendly attitude towards others.
- To learn how to respect the views of others, even when they are very different from their own.
- To build meaningful relationships with each other, with adults and for some children, with God.

Our school aims tie directly into the Swindon Agreed Syllabus aims:

- Know about and understand a range of religions and worldviews
- Express ideas and insights about the nature, significance and impact of religions and worldviews,
- Gain and deploy the skills needed to engage seriously with religions and worldviews,

## Scheme of work

Bishopstone Primary School provides Religious Education for all pupils registered at the school. It is taught in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus 'Swindon Agreed Syllabus for R.E 2016-2021'. A new scheme of work was introduced from Easter 2017. We supplement the scheme with extracts from the bespoke curriculum designed for school by Dimensions alongside the additional resources from 'Understanding Christianity'. Religious Education has the same status and importance as all other subjects.

As the scheme states:

*'RE explores big questions about life, to find out what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live, so that pupils can make sense of religion, reflecting on their own ideas and ways of living.'*

## Teaching time

We allocate a minimum of one hour each week for the teaching of Religious Education from Years R to 6. The nature of our small school status allows us to utilise cross curriculum time on top of this – such as circle time, History/English as appropriate.

## Skills

Important skills we wish to secure which underpin the ability to think, reason and articulate ideas. These skills are, of course, applicable to the whole curriculum, but are vital in giving children access to good Religious Education. These skills are cumulative and include:

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September 2017



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- *Investigation* e.g. search for answers; ask appropriate questions, explore concepts; suggest and find solutions.
- *Interpretation* e.g. ability to interpret works, actions, events, symbols and artefacts; make sense of their experiences; see implications of actions, words and events; imagine and reflect on other possibilities.
- *Analysis and Evaluation* e.g. develop an argument; voice an opinion; give reasons; consider alternatives; weigh up evidence; make considered judgements.
- *Synthesis* e.g. link ideas to make the bigger picture clearer – i.e. comparing similarities in religious beliefs.
- *Application* e.g. make connections and distinctions between beliefs, events etc.
- *Communication* e.g. ability to communicate thoughts, ideas, empathy, beliefs and values; state opinions and be willing to accept criticism, correct themselves.
- Attitudes including respect, sensitivity, open-mindedness, confidence and self-esteem.

## **Teaching Methods**

Religious Education is made accessible to children and supports all individuals to achieve their full potential. This is achieved by using a range of activities that address the children's preferred learning style. A creative approach is taken where possible and planning for each year group includes opportunities for visual, auditory and kinaesthetic activities with up to date ICT resources. We feel it is important to always give the children time to reflect upon their learning at the end of each lesson.

## **Assessment, Recording and Reporting**

There are no statutory Key Stage assessments for Religious Education. We will use our professional judgement to assess the children by:

- Discussion and questioning with children.
- Scrutinising children's work.

Assessing against the Swindon Agreed Syllabus

## **Monitoring**

The children's work books are used as evidence of their progress. When Religious Education is a major focus on the School Development Plan, the subject leader/headteacher will watch a sample of lessons. RE is monitored as part of the rolling programme of themed reviews. It is also evidenced by the children's attitude toward themselves, each other and visitors to the school.

## **Equal Opportunities**

The school believes that it is important for all children to have access to opportunities for spiritual development and awareness and an understanding of the major religious traditions. Children's needs are addressed by:

- Creating effective learning environments
- Providing equality of opportunity through teaching approaches
- Using appropriate assessment approaches.
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Religious Education exercise books should be passed on to the next teacher when a child moves class. An RE report is written for each child at the end of every year and shared with the parents.

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## Resources

There is a good selection of resources for Religious Education and Collective Worship – books, artefacts, pamphlets, online material, etc. Each class has a reflection and prayer area.

The following resources are also available either in school or on request:

- Bibles
- Books
- Pictures
- Local Church building which is visited regularly as described in part below
- Local Church leadership which visits regularly and is represented on the Governing Body
- Music
- Representatives from other faiths
- Internet
- Artefacts from different religions
- Experience of those who have a religious commitment

St. Marys Church is an important resource for Religious Education. We make use of the church to celebrate our Harvest/Easter/Christmas and leaving ceremonies and on other occasions such as mock christenings, etc.

## Legal Requirements

RE must be provided for all registered pupils in state-funded schools in England, including those in the sixth form, unless withdrawn by their parents. It is a necessary part of a 'broad and balanced curriculum'.

In the UK, parents still have the right to withdraw their children from RE/RME on the grounds that they wish to provide their own religious education. (School Standards and Framework Act 1998 S71 (3)). This will be the parents' responsibility.

## RE Coordinator

The RE subject leader is Phil Anley

Policy approved by **Emma Lindsay**

Designation **Head Teacher**

Signed

Date.....September 2017

Review..... September 2019

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