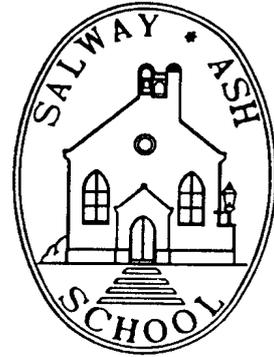


Review process start: September 2016
Date Adopted: September 2017
Approval Committee: Governing Body
Date of next review: September 2018

Salway Ash CE VA Primary School

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY



Mission Statement:

Our aim at Salway Ash School is to

- provide a supportive environment where children, staff, parents, governors and the local community all work together to attain high standards, achieving academic, creative, spiritual, social and emotional fulfilment.
- provide a secure, caring Christian ethos that enables us to grow together, learn together and inspire each other.

Let Our Light Shine As We Achieve Together

1. The Legal Position of RE

The 1988 Education Act identifies the unique status of Religious Education in the school curriculum that it is neither a core subject nor a foundation subject but 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' and that 5% of curriculum time be allocated to it.

The teaching of RE at Salway Ash School follows the locally Agreed Syllabus 'The Dorset Agreed Syllabus for RE 2011'.

We use the 'Understanding Christianity' approach for the teaching of Christianity. We also use 'Discovery RE', which we incorporate into our planning for other faiths.

2. Rationale/Aims for teaching RE

The Dorset Agreed Syllabus states as its vision: "The principal aim of Religious Education in Dorset is to engage pupils in enquiring into big questions arising from the study of religion, belief, philosophy and ethics. In so doing RE will support pupils' own personal, moral, philosophical, ethical and spiritual development and promote respect for others."

This vision fits with our school aims and values as a Christian school community, with its emphasis on Christian and British values. It also links well with our creative, topic based and enquiry centred curriculum.

Each section of the 'Understanding Christianity' approach starts from pupils' own experience and understanding progressing through the major concepts of the Christian faith, building up pupils' individual knowledge. This involves a questioning approach, linking ideas and beliefs central to our faith and supporting them with study and knowledge of the Bible. Pupils are invited to 'dig deeper' into the core beliefs, in order to enrich their understanding.

'Discovery RE' also encourages a questioning approach and we use this to focus on other major world faiths which include the Muslim faith (Islam), Judaism, Hinduism, and Sikhism.

We also support those young people and families who are Humanist in belief or who do not have a religious faith.

As a VA school we ensure that at least two thirds of our RE teaching is Christian based.

"All children should have the right to think and believe what they want and to practise their religion". UNCRC Article 14

At Salway Ash School we aim that Religious Education will:-

- **Develop a knowledge and understanding of Christianity**, including its impact on our individual lives, our local community and on our society today.
- **Enable pupils to use the bible** as a source of knowledge, research and investigation into the Christian faith.
- **Develop a knowledge and understanding of some of the other principal religious faiths** represented in the UK.
- **Provoke challenging questions** about the meaning and purpose of life, beliefs, the self, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human.
- **To encourage personal reflection and spiritual development.**
- **Encourage pupils to explore their own beliefs** (whether they are religious or non-religious), examine controversial issues of religious belief and faith and to express their responses
- **Enable pupils to build their sense of identity and belonging**, which helps them flourish within their communities and as citizens in a diverse society
- **Teach pupils to develop respect for others**, including people with different faiths and beliefs and help to challenge prejudice
- **Prompt pupils to consider their responsibilities** to themselves and to others and to explore how they might contribute to their communities and to wider society. It encourages empathy, generosity and compassion.
- The specific **skills for learning** to be developed in RE are given on page 15 of the Agreed Syllabus.

3. The contribution of RE to other curriculum aims, in particular community cohesion

RE offers opportunities to promote an ethos of respect for others, challenge stereotypes and build understanding of other cultures and beliefs. This contributes to promoting a positive and inclusive ethos that emphasises democratic values and human rights. RE plays an important part in the school's approach to both Christian and British values.

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

Section 78 (1) of the 2002 Education Act states that all pupils should follow a balanced and broadly based curriculum which 'promotes the spiritual, cultural, social, mental and physical development of pupils and of society, and prepares pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life'. Learning about and from religions and beliefs, through the distinct knowledge, understanding and skills contained in RE within a broad-based curriculum, is essential to achieving these aims.

Personal development and well-being

RE helps children become successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens. It encourages the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to make good decisions and positive and healthy choices. It underpins our 'No Blame' approach to peaceful problem solving, reinforces the belief that we may make mistakes but we have the capacity to rectify these and help those we may have been in conflict with.

Community cohesion

RE enables a developing understanding of community cohesion, shared values and the reasons for challenging racism and discrimination and should promote community cohesion at four levels:

The school community - RE provides a positive context within which the diversity of cultures, beliefs and values can be celebrated and explored.

The community within which the school is located - RE provides opportunities to investigate patterns of diversity of religion and belief and, when appropriate, make links with different groups in the local area.

The UK Community – a major focus of RE is the study of diversity of religion and belief in the UK and how this influences national life.

The global community – RE involves the study of matters of global significance recognising the diversity of religion and belief and its impact on world issues.

4. Approaches to teaching RE

RE has an important part to play as part of a broad, balanced and coherent curriculum. All pupils are entitled to Religious education. High quality learning experiences in RE are designed and provided by careful planning through locally agreed syllabuses, (diocesan advice) and in school, taking into account the need to offer breadth of content.

In order to make RE a lively, active subject we employ a variety of teaching methods including art, music, discussion, the development of thinking skills, drama, the use of artefacts, pictures, stories and the use of periods of stillness and reflection. Where possible, we want our pupils to have opportunities to encounter local faith communities through visits to local places of worship or visits from members of local faith communities.

5. How RE is organised

In accordance with the locally agreed syllabus, Christianity will be studied at depth at Key Stages 1 and 2 and there will be a focus on Hinduism, Islam and Judaism. In addition, should it be appropriate to the curriculum or learning context, material from the study of Buddhism, Sikhism and secular worldviews such as Humanism, can be included. In this sense, the new agreed syllabus allows greater flexibility for RE to form an integral part of topic based work within a more creative curriculum. For the most part, RE will be delivered as a discrete subject (which for KS2 is organised as a two year rolling programme). The Understanding Christianity approach informs our teaching of Christianity. This is introduced at EYFS stage; a multi-faith approach is used for other faiths for the youngest children. Christianity teaching can also be supplemented by the Discovery RE scheme of work.

Other faith teaching is included in the KS1 programme of study and the two year rolling programme for KS2, based on Discovery RE units of work.

6. Assessment and recording of RE

Each teacher will be responsible for the regular assessment of pupils' attainment in RE through the pupils' verbal contributions, written work, Art work and other factors. Pupils may if required, complete assessment tasks relating to the topics taught. The class teacher, on a separate pro forma, will record the progress made by each pupil, looking at that child's overall understanding each half term. We are currently trialling a new method of assessment that links with the NC standards, focusing on 'working towards/achieving/or above the expected level'. This information will be used by the co-ordinator to track pupil progress and by the class teacher to ensure that each pupil is progressing and is being set work that is appropriately challenging.

7. Arrangements for monitoring standards of teaching and learning in RE

The co-ordinator will monitor RE within the school through analysis of this assessment data in conjunction with regular lesson observations and work scrutiny. Observations and analysis made will contribute to the Church school self evaluation process.

8. Responsibilities for RE within the school, (Head, teachers and Governors)

As well as fulfilling their legal obligations, the governing body and Headteacher should also make sure that:

- All pupils make progress in achieving the learning objectives of the RE curriculum.
- The subject is well led and effectively managed and that standards and achievement in RE and the quality of provision are subject to regular and effective self-evaluation
- Those teaching RE are suitably qualified and trained in the subject and have regular and effective opportunities for CPD
- Teachers are aware of RE's contribution in developing pupils' understanding of religion and belief and its impact as part of the duty to promote community cohesion.
- Teachers explore how new pedagogies and technology can be fully utilised to support RE learning objectives and promote community cohesion
- Clear information is provided for parents on the RE curriculum and the right to withdraw
- Teachers are aware that they do not have to teach RE unless specifically appointed to do so. However at interview they are asked if they would be prepared to uphold the values of a Church school.
- RE is resourced, staffed and timetabled so that the school can fulfil its legal obligations to RE and ensure pupils make good progress
- Where there are insufficient teachers in a school who are prepared to teach RE, the Headteacher ensures that pupils receive their entitlement to RE. In these circumstances, the Head Teacher might wish to seek advice from their LA or SACRE

9. Inclusion and the right of withdrawal from RE

At Salway Ash School we are an inclusive community. Therefore the school will always accommodate children of other faiths (or versions of) and recognise the value of their beliefs and shared values. RE is presented as a valuable part of the curriculum for all children.

We recognise that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from religious education. We would ask any parent considering this to contact the Headteacher to discuss any concerns or anxieties about the policy, provision and practice of religious education at school.

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Links with the Local Community

Christian

- Reverend Jo Neary, Broadwindsor
- Salwayash Church Community and Parish Council
- Church of St. Mary's Beaminster (Rev David Baldwin)
- Exeter Cathedral Education Centre

Islamic

- Exeter Mosque: Islamic Centre of SW, 12-13 York Road, Exeter. EX4 6PG (01392 250597)

Hindu

- Sushma Sahajpal – sushma_sahajpal@yahoo.co.uk
- Mr. Rahi Bains – rahibains@aol.com
- Southampton Hindu Temple: 75-195 Radcliffe Road, Northam, SO2 0PS, (contact: Mr. P. B. Sharma (Assistant Secretary) 01703 632275)

Judaism

- Jewish Education Workshops: Jane Silver-Corren (01308 459320/07887 675161)

Signed:

Date:

Policy reviewed September 2016

Review date September 2017