



The Bishops' Church of England Learning Academy

R.E. Policy

May 2017

*"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as though you were working for the Lord."
Colossians 3:23*

Aims:

The aim of teaching RE at the Bishops' is to support and challenge pupils to reflect upon, develop and affirm their own beliefs, values and attitudes and those of others through an exploration of shared human experiences and to understand the place and significance of religion in the contemporary world. We have tried to make our scheme of work, which is in accordance with the Cornwall agreed syllabus, relevant, exciting, thought provoking and accessible to all our children.

In addition, as a Church of England School, we intend to give the teaching of Christianity a greater emphasis than the teaching of other religions and to make clear, the links with Church of England teaching and practice.

The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of children:

The 1988 Education Reform act requires schools to promote the spiritual, moral and cultural development of pupils and the school and in society through the provision of a broad and balanced curriculum. At The Bishops', RE plays an important role, along with all of the other curriculum areas. What we learn about others and ourselves in RE and across the curriculum we apply in our daily lives.

The implementation of the agreed syllabus on RE and The Bishops' approach:

Despite our Anglican status, there are no presumptions made as to the religious backgrounds, beliefs and values of the children. All staff are expected to work together to achieve our aims, guided by our mission statement. Some are Christians from a variety of denominations. We value the religious background of all members of the school community and hope that this will encourage individuals to share their own experiences with others freely.

All religions and their communities are treated with respect and sensitivity and we value the links that can be made between home, school and a faith community. We acknowledge that each religion studied can contribute to the education of all of our pupils. We promote teaching in RE that stresses open enquiry and first hand experiences wherever possible for both staff and children. The syllabus is implemented by means of a sensory approach, where children may look at and handle religious artefacts, hear music or taste food from a religious tradition.

Content of RE programme:

The content draws on the Cornwall agreed syllabus and is set out in modules. The following are studied:

- Christianity (this is taken from the highly comprehensive 'Understanding Christianity' resource)
- Judaism
- Hinduism
- Sikhism
- Islam

Time allocation:

RE is taught in every class on a weekly basis. It takes up approximately 1 hour of curriculum time per week.

Teaching and resources:

Learning in RE may be by means of direct whole class teaching or in smaller groups, by providing direct hands-on experience with RE resources, teacher prepared materials, stories, poetry, drama, trips and visitors. Staff are aware of useful websites such as www.request.org.uk and also www.curriculumkernewek.org.uk

Links with other subjects:

RE has links with other areas of the curriculum such as English, history and art. It is also links with the way in which the school organised its collective worship. RE also provides opportunities for teaching the following cross curricular dimensions: Equal opportunities, Personal and Social Education.

Withdrawal from RE:

It is recognised that parents have the right to withdraw their child from RE in its entirety or in part. If a parent chooses to withdraw their child from RE then arrangements are made by the class teacher in consultation with the Head of School.

The Religious Education leader:

Mr P. Rowe is the leader for RE and is responsible for the development of the subject across the school. He is responsible for helping staff to plan RE for a particular class, monitoring planning and what is taught in RE by spending time in classrooms, looking at children's work and talking to pupils. The leader is also responsible for purchase and storage of all RE resources. He works closely in his role with the Head of School and Senior Teacher. Mr Rowe attends training courses on new initiatives and updates on the subject and the school provides staff training for all teachers either provided by Mr Rowe or an invited trainer.

Monitoring and evaluation:

The RE curriculum is monitored and evaluated regularly through lesson observations, planning and learning scrutinies and conversations with both children and staff. The effectiveness of any INSET for Religious Education provided from within the school or by an external agency is evaluated either by means of a written evaluation sheet or by verbal feedback.

Pupils are consulted about how they feel about RE and we take their opinions into account when making future plans.