

St Meriadoc C of E VA Junior Academy
RE Policy written by Mrs T Nisbet
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At St Meriadoc Junior Academy we aim to provide the best possible quality of learning experience and environment for the children within its care. We aim to provide a happy, encouraging, supportive environment where children feel inspired to learn. Through everything we do at St Meriadoc Junior Academy, we hold our Christian foundation at heart, the belief that every child is created in the Image of God and is loved by Him. All staff at St Meriadoc Junior Academy, are committed to developing the children's potential to its full. We aspire to hold a school where all children are happy, enthusiastic, conscientious, polite and caring.

Rationale

We intend to provide children with an in-depth understanding of the life and work of God, Christ and their place in our everyday lives. Nevertheless, we also understand that the pupils are not exempt to developments in the wider world so through the implementation of the Cornwall Agreed Syllabus 2014, we deliver a broad R.E. curriculum where 60% of the curriculum time is spent on Christianity and Curriculum Kernewek whilst the other 40% of the time develops a knowledge and understanding of four other main religions in Great Britain. This entails encouragement of each student to interpret and respond to a variety of concepts, beliefs and practices within religions and to their own and others' cultural and life experiences. Successful outcomes will depend upon careful choice and use of teaching and learning strategies. It is essential that the process of teaching and learning must be applicable to learning for life, in a broad sense, as well as within the context of RE.

Aims

Through our teaching and learning at SMJA, we intend that RE will:

- Stimulate in every child a sense of curiosity and excitement about the world and to encourage them to search for truth, meaning and purpose in life.

- Educate pupils intellectually, socially, morally, aesthetically, physically and spiritually.
- Providing a broad and balanced curriculum within a diversity of learning environments and experiences that develops individual potential and rewards it.
- Enabling children to develop the opportunity to reflect on the feelings, experiences, beliefs and ideas of others.
- Understanding how to use a variety of sources as a way of gathering information, and draw meaning from these experiences.
- Linking together features of a range of religions to identify and form patterns to aid understanding.
- Explore the significant theological concepts within Christianity as part of developing their wider religious, theological and cultural literacy.
- Making prayer and worship real educational experiences.

Attitudes and Skills in RE

AT SMJA we understand that RE is more than just developing childrens' knowledge and understanding. We seek to develop children's skills in investigation/enquiry, communication, interpretation, reflection, empathy, analysis and evaluation. As well as promoting children's learning through their social, moral, spiritual and cultural development.

As with skills RE has a number of key attitudes it seeks to promote. These include self-esteem (so that every child feels valued and significant), respect (including being sensitive to the beliefs, feelings and values of others), open-mindedness (being willing to learn and gain new understanding) and appreciation and wonder (developing childrens' imagination and curiosity).

Responsibilities

Every class teacher plans their own RE lessons according to the scheme of work devised by the RE Co-ordinator. The long term plan for RE ensures that the requirements of the Agreed Syllabus are met across the school. Statements in the knowledge, skills and understanding and breadth of study are covered at least twice. Medium Term RE plans are handed in half termly to the RE Co-ordinator who liaises regularly with the Head teacher.

Procedures and practise

RE is taught at SMJA for one hour per week across the school. Opportunities for cross curricular links are often created by linking RE with other subjects such as Literacy and Art. At times RE themed challenge days are held across the school. The aim of this is to provide the children with an in-depth study of a certain festival or theme at a given time. The use of ICT is encouraged to enrich our RE lessons through using a variety of different software, the internet and I-pads. Our monthly Church services and special assemblies throughout the year, often provide an opportunity for classes to share their RE work and thoughts with parents.

Planning/Scheme of Work for R.E.

The curriculum map for RE details the units of work to be covered by each class to ensure continuity and progression across the school. Christianity is studied every year by all classes and constitutes the majority of the work that is 60% of the year. As of the school year 2017/18, we have implemented the planning resource of Understanding Christianity which is a Church of England Education Office project. It aims to 'help all teachers support pupils in developing their own thinking and their understanding of Christianity, as a contribution to their understanding of the world and their own experience within it.' Multi-faiths are studied for 40% of the year. At lower Key Stage 2 the children learn about Islam and Judaism and at upper Key Stage 2 the children learn about Sikhism and Hinduism.

The curriculum map allows for continuity and progression in the following ways:

- it enables the RE co-ordinator to develop the planning of the subject, in order to provide a range of learning experiences for the children and staff
- each year builds on the knowledge and understanding gained in the previous year(s)
- it enables the staff to recognise the development of learning for the children
- it prevents repetition of ideas

Resources

All resources are kept in classrooms. These resources include videos, teacher resource books and Children's Bibles. The internet is regarded as a useful resource for RE especially interactive tours of places of worship which are too far to visit in person.

Visitors are invited into school where appropriate to enhance our teaching of RE. Also visits to places of worship are encouraged where possible.

Assessment

Since introducing the Understanding Christianity programme of study we have introduced the Culham learning statements for assessment as they relate to our agreed syllabus. The Culham learning statements are linked to AT1 Learning about religion and AT2 Learning from religion from the Cornwall Agreed Syllabus but we will be displaying our assessment through age related expectations. Data is collected termly based on focus AT1 and AT2 objectives by the RE lead and this is shared with the Data lead teacher for analysis. This analysis is then shared between the RE lead and Headteacher, where the assessment information is used to help plan the next RE challenge morning focus, any whole school issues which could be covered through collective worship, focus pupils who could be encouraged to use prayer or reflection spaces to help deepen and broaden their understanding etc. This information is shared with staff to help plan the next stage of a class's work as well as guiding pupil's learning. Teachers can use their assessment to recognise and handle misconceptions, building on pupils' responses and steering them towards a clearer understanding, for example, by helping them to apply new learning to different situations. As well as encouraging pupils to judge the success of their own work and setting targets for improvement.

Monitoring and evaluation

Half termly plans and assessment sheets are passed to the Co-ordinator to monitor provision for R.E. across the school and samples of work handed in. Photographs of displays are taken as a record of work undertaken and children are asked for their opinions on the RE studied in pupil conferencing. The Co-ordinator regularly attends RE courses and training to keep informed about recent RE initiatives and updates. These are fed back to staff at training days and staff meetings.

Parental involvement

Parents are informed each term of the RE topic being studied by information placed on the school website and through Topic leaflets that are sent home. Parents do have the right to withdraw their children from Religious Education and worship. As a Church School, however, we do hope all children will participate in such activities. We strongly encourage parents to contact the Head teacher or R.E. co-ordinator if they have any concerns and anxieties about the policy, provision and practice of R.E. at our school.