



Hawkesbury CE VC Primary School

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Introduction

RE is central to the purpose of Hawkesbury CE VC Primary School because as a church school we see that the Christian faith informs all aspects of our life together and commits us to a search for truth.

RE in Hawkesbury CE VC Primary school explores how individuals and communities make meaning and sense of their lives through the major religions of the world. It enables pupils to know about, understand and respond to the important and ultimate questions of life. RE is taught in such a way that it inspires pupils to explore, develop and affirm their own faith and values and have respect for the faith, beliefs and values of others. It is not the practice of this school to preach to or seek to convert children. Values education permeates the RE curriculum at Hawkesbury CE VC Primary school.

Aims

At this school, RE supports and strengthens the vision, ethos and values which are at the heart of what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. The importance placed on the development of the whole child spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in the RE curriculum.

Specifically, RE aims to enable pupils of all abilities and stages of development to:

1. Understand the Big Picture of Christianity and the key concepts within it.
2. Develop knowledge and understanding of Christian beliefs and practices so that they understand the importance of the Bible, the role of the church and recognise that for Christians their faith provides a way of interpreting life and its meaning.
3. Develop knowledge and understanding of the beliefs and practices of some of the other principal religions in Britain.
4. Understand how belief may impact on culture, relationships, values and lifestyle.
5. Understand how belief can be expressed in a variety of ways including art, dance, music, ritual celebration and in different cultural settings.
6. Develop spiritually, morally, culturally and socially by helping them to reflect upon personal feelings, responses and relationships.
7. Explore ways in which religious values and teaching have an impact on actions and decisions for people of faith
8. Be supported in their own search for meaning and purpose in life.
9. Develop a sense of awe, wonder and mystery.
10. Explore concepts love, forgiveness and sacrifice.
11. Develop skills of reflection, empathy, communication, analysis, investigation, interpretation, evaluation and synthesis
12. Develop attitudes of respect, sensitivity, open mindedness and self esteem

Legal Framework

As a Voluntary Controlled School, we follow the South Gloucestershire Syllabus as well as Understanding Christianity; these are statutory documents for the teaching of RE. Parents have a legal right to withdraw their children from religious education lessons, but as RE is central to the life and identity of Hawkesbury CE VC Primary school we would ask parents to discuss with the Headteacher any reasons they might have for doing this.

Teaching and Learning

1. The scheme of work for RE will maintain a balance between Understanding Christianity and the South Gloucestershire Syllabus

2. There will be clear learning outcomes for all units of work, based on the appropriate expectations as set out in the RE syllabus.
3. The long term plan for RE will ensure that there is continuity and progression for pupils and opportunities for assessment in both Understanding Christianity and the South Gloucestershire Syllabus.
4. A range of teaching and learning activities will ensure that pupils learn effectively and with interest.
5. Pupil progress and attainment in RE will be tracked and recorded three times a year in years 2 and 6 and the school will keep evidence to support assessment data.
6. Attainment in RE will form part of pupils' annual report to parents
7. RE will be taught as a discrete subject and as part of a cross-curricular approach where appropriate
8. A range of visitors will be invited to support the teaching of RE, and where possible, there will be planned visits to places of worship.
9. In this school children are taught about Christians, Jewish people and Muslims (in KS1) and Christians, Jewish people, Hindus and Muslims (in KS2). In EYFS, children will encounter Christianity and other faiths as part of their growing sense of self, their own community and their place within it.
10. RE will be given at least 5% of curriculum time i.e. 50 minutes per week in the foundation stage and one hour in Key Stages 1 and 2.

Subject Leadership

1. The RE subject leader will support and monitor the subject and will receive an adequate budget to do this.
2. The RE subject leader will ensure that his/her subject knowledge and expertise are kept up to date by means of regular training.
3. The RE subject leader will ensure that staff receive adequate training in the teaching and assessment of RE.
4. Where possible, the RE subject leader, the head teacher and the Foundation and Ethos committee, will monitor the quality of RE teaching across the school.
5. The RE subject leader will liaise with the Foundation and Ethos governor committee and they will report on attainment in RE.
6. The RE subject leader and head teacher will ensure that the principles set out in the Church of England Education Office Statement of Entitlement for RE are implemented.

Other related policies are SMSC development. and Collective Worship.

Agreed at the Foundation Governors meeting 26th September 2017, agenda item 5.2.

Signed: Chair of Foundation Governors

Review Date: Autumn 2019 Equalities Impact Assessment: Completed