

St Michael's CE Aided Primary School

Policy for Religious Education

The legal requirements:

St Michael's is a Church of England Aided school and its Religious Education (R.E.) policy is the responsibility of the *Governing Body*. In drawing up this policy, the *Governors* have consulted with the *Diocese* and have taken into account the multi-cultural and multi-faith nature of the community of families who come to our school.

In light of this the *Governors* have established the following Aims for R.E. at St Michael's:

- Children should be taught about Christianity in a way that is open and without pressure so that they are helped to consider and develop their own beliefs, values and attitudes. We respect the faith stances of all our children and families.
- Children will be helped to learn about other world faiths, particularly those that are present in our school. Through this we will aim to promote tolerance and sensitivity.
- Children will be taught about Christianity and other faiths in a way which helps them to understand what it means to hold a religious way of life
- Through R.E. children will be helped to develop a reflective approach to life in the context of understanding, experience, belief and religious practices

Our syllabus:

We have largely adopted the *Oxford Diocesan Scheme of Work (2014)* which covers the requirements of the *Oxfordshire Syllabus* although we have an additional emphasis on Easter, Christmas (in Year 4) and the stories of *Mohammad* (in Year 2).

Our approach to teaching R.E.:

The children in our school are taught about Christianity and aspects of Islam, Judaism and Hinduism. This reflects the religious make up of the school, as we have many Christian and Muslim children, as well as some Hindu and Jewish children; and means that we are able to teach, and celebrate, the similarities and differences between these Faiths.

Methods in teaching R.E./links with other curriculum areas:

All of our teaching and learning in R.E. is based on an exploration of key questions. We encourage the children to ask questions, listen and reflect. We plan activities to make R.E. both interesting and enjoyable, using creative arts as well as other areas of the curriculum. ICT is embedded in the teaching of R.E. through the use of school purchased software and relevant websites. We often draw on the expertise of members of the community and visit

places of religious significance to make learning about, and from, religion a rich and vivid experience.

Resources:

We use the Oxford Diocesan scheme of work alongside elements of purchased schemes. We are constantly reviewing and extending our R.E. resources and have photo packs, videos, DVDs, artefacts, a wide range of books and access to natre.org.uk and retoday.org.uk. (through our membership of the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education). Stories often have an important place in R.E. and we have purchased books with this in mind.

We welcome visitors from all faith communities and often draw on the expertise of our Vicar, parish workers and members of staff.

Although parents are entitled to withdraw their child from R.E., we encourage all of our children to participate in this very important area of the curriculum.

Equal Opportunities and Race Relations Policy:

R.E. is planned to meet the varied needs of all learners, regardless of their gender, background, culture, physical or cognitive development. Learning objectives, through key questions, are set to meet these needs in line with our Special Needs Policy.

Records and Assessment:

Our lessons are planned with the appropriate levels of AT1 (Learning about Religion) and AT2 (Learning from Religion) as their basis which means the majority of children in each class will access their learning at the appropriate level for their age group. However, opportunities are also planned in to stretch the more able and to recognise the achievements of those children who find elements of R.E. more challenging than their peers. AfL strategies are used as an important tool to move learning on whilst summative assessments are recorded using an assessment computer program. Parents/guardians receive a written report on their children's progress in R.E. at the end of term six.

Monitoring and Review:

	Staff	Curriculum Committee	Governing Body
Policy approved by	06.10.08	04.11.08	08.10.08
Policy reviewed	16.01.12	10.01.12	31.01.12
	09.06.15	21.06.15	17.06.15
Coordinator	Emma Billingham		