



## RUSHBURY C.E. (VC) PRIMARY SCHOOL

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Religious Education (RE) plays an important role in defining the school's distinctive Christian character. The subject is central to the school's understanding of education and mission, and the commitment that 'the Church at national, diocesan and local level is called to work towards every child and young person having a life enhancing encounter with the Christian faith and the person of Jesus Christ' (Going4Growth Report).

As a school we recognise that spiritual development lies at the heart of the curriculum. All members of the school community should experience Christianity through the life of the school, as well as through the taught curriculum. Christianity will be the majority study in RE as understanding Christianity as a living religion is the foundation of Religious Education in church schools.

It is important that this draws on the richness and diversity of Christian experience in the breadth of its Anglican and other denominational forms, and in the variety of worldwide forms. The encounter must be an open one which stems from and instils respect for different views and interpretations and in which real dialogue and education takes place.

Church schools have a duty to foster an accurate and increasing understanding of world religions and world views. As a result, pupils will gain greater insight into the world in which they are growing up. They will also be able to appreciate the faith of others and develop a deeper understanding of their own beliefs and practices.

These outcomes must contribute to harmonious relationships within and between communities, promoting social inclusion and combating prejudice.

The school bases its RE provision on the Shropshire Agreed Syllabus 2021. At least 5% of RE curriculum time will be dedicated to meeting explicitly RE objectives, although the subject may be taught across the curriculum when appropriate. Within this teaching allocation at least two thirds of subject content will be allocated to an exploration of the Christian faith, and the concepts, beliefs, teachings and practices that lie at its heart.

#### Curriculum aims

The aims of Religious Education in our school are:

- To offer a full and positive presentation of living Christianity in an opportunity for encountering the Christian life in Anglican and other contexts, and to enable pupils to encounter Christianity as the religion that shaped British culture and heritage and influences the lives of millions of people today.
- To enable pupils to learn about other major religions, their impact on culture and politics, art and history, and on the lives of their adherents.
- To develop an understanding of religious faith as the search for and expression of truth,

and so to consider important human questions, values and concerns.

- acquire knowledge and understanding of the central beliefs and practices of Christianity and of the other principal religious traditions represented in Great Britain
- To contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual / philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own faith and beliefs.

## Planning and Delivery

Religious Education is taught in accordance with the requirements of:

- the Shropshire Agreed Syllabus 2021
- advice given by the Diocese of Hereford

## Time Allocation

**At Key Stage 1 (including Reception): 36 hours per year**

Christianity

At least one other religion in Early Years and another in KS1

Evidence of attention to those faiths represented in the community.

Pupils understand how religious beliefs are applied to everyday life in a personal context, but also in a wider setting.

**At Key Stage 2: 45 hours per year**

Christianity

At least two other religions

Evidence of attention to those faiths represented in the community.

Pupils understand how religious beliefs are applied to everyday life in a personal context, but also in a wider setting.

Christianity will receive more attention than any other Religious tradition.

The school will follow a two year class plan which will determine which religions to teach.

The religious questions in the Shropshire Agreed Syllabus form the basis for learning and PlanBee is used for planning.

## Teaching and Learning

The outcomes for pupils at the end of their time in our school are that they are able to:

- Compare and contrast the key beliefs and practices of the religions studied and show how they are connected to believers' lives
- Describe different aspects of belonging to a religion – symbol, story, festival, belief, faith in action, ritual and worship
- Express religious beliefs and ideas with the appropriate language, vocabulary and terminology and describe what they mean
  - Ask questions sensitively about the lives of believers and suggest appropriate answers
  - Reflect on the decisions people make – including believers – and suggest possible outcomes
  - Compare their own experience and identity with others – including believers
  - Reflect and empathise with the big questions of life, suggesting some answers / insights

- Be confident to explore their own spirituality and search for truth
- Value the religious journey of faith
- Develop pupils' ability to interpret and appreciate religious imagery and expression

**Spiritual** - widening pupils' vision of themselves and their own experience, within the context of a growing awareness and understanding of faith.

**Moral** - helping each pupil develop their own informed values.

**Social** - helping pupils understand some major forces shaping the values in our society.

**Cultural** - aiding pupils in exploring aspects of their own cultural heritage, and in developing positive attitudes towards diversity.

Additional links will be found across the curriculum especially through Global Learning, our Cultural Capital, Citizenship and PSHE. RE can also make a positive contribution to enhancing creativity and enjoyment and ensure the well-being of all pupils.

### **Equal Opportunities/Special Needs**

The teaching of Religious Education will be in accordance with Special Educational Needs and Behaviour policy. Respect for all people, irrespective of race, gender or religion will be strongly encouraged. Care will be taken to ensure that all resources used reflect these policies.

We ensure that all pupils have equal access to a broad and balanced curriculum regardless of age, gender, race and ability. All children will participate in RE activities. Learning will be differentiated to provide appropriate challenges to specific individuals and groups. Adult support will be used when appropriate and in accordance with other policies such as SEND.

### **Health and safety**

Health and Safety must always be considered when planning R.E. Activities, especially on occasions when the sampling of different foods or cooking is involved. Information concerning food allergies is held in the school office and staffroom.

Parental consent is required for visits will be in accordance with the school visits policy and the Shropshire guidelines for educational visits.

### **Assessment, recording and reporting**

Assessment of children's development is made through ongoing teacher assessment. Progress of all children and groups will be monitored during pupil progress meetings, through work scrutiny and lesson observations. Reporting to parents will happen once a year and in some cases, where a particular issue may arise, more regularly.

### **Monitoring and Evaluating**

Monitoring and evaluation of teaching and learning will take place in line with the schools monitoring and evaluating programme and where specifically mentioned on documents such as the development plan.

### **Teaching Methods**

A wide range of teaching strategies are used in the teaching of Religious Education. These include: The introduction of religious topics by relating them to experiences in the pupils' own lives: e.g. Religious celebrations would be linked to family celebrations such as birthdays that the pupils have experienced

Talks and demonstrations by practising members of religions  
Examining religious artefacts  
Responding to works of art depicting religious events and stories  
Listening to stories  
Investigations and enquiries set up by pupils  
Dramatic representations of events  
Cooking (food is an important element of many religious celebrations and festivals)

### **Withdrawal from Religious education**

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Religious Education Lessons. If parents wish to withdraw their children, they should discuss their wishes with the headteacher. The headteacher must comply with the wishes of the parents in this matter.

