



Religious Education Policy

School Address	Bank Road Pilning South Gloucestershire BS35 4JG
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1. Introduction

This policy should be taken and used as part of St Peter's Anglican Methodist Primary School's overall strategy and implemented within the context of our vision, instruments of government, aims and values as a church school.

Religious Education helps children to investigate and reflect on the fundamental questions of life, to develop a sound knowledge of Christianity and other world religions, to understand what it means to have a faith and become aware of spiritual and moral issues.

The values of the teaching of Jesus and love and respect for your neighbour are fundamental to all aspects of our school. Children are encouraged to develop a reflective spirituality which will give them the resilience, resourcefulness and empathy to face the challenges of a changing world.

The school values of Thankfulness, Compassion, Honesty, Forgiveness, Friendship and Courage were created by the children and Governors, recognising the individual needs for social, moral, spiritual and cultural developments as well as academic. The values permeate throughout the school on a daily basis and underpin the school's approach to religious education overall.

2. Purpose

- To promote Christian values through the South Gloucestershire Scheme of Work (2022 - 2027) for non-Christian themes and Understanding Christianity (SACRE Agreed Scheme of Work); Personal, Social, Spiritual, and Emotional Curriculum, acts of Collective Worship, school rules and organisation that should permeate all aspects of school life.
- To give time for discussion and questions in order to encourage free- expression of personal belief and develop opportunities for spirituality
- Show that personal belief is linked to attitudes and forms of behaviour.
- Encourage practical involvement and a caring nature and give pupils the experience of being part of the church family

- To provide opportunities for personal response to emotion through a range of situations and rites of passage - birth, death, awe, wonder.
- To develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity, other major world religions and the good value systems found in Britain.
- Have respect for other people's views and to celebrate the diversity in society.

3. Principles

- Religious Education is planned with reference to the South Gloucestershire Scheme of Work and Understanding Christianity for all aspects of the curriculum and with the "Teaching and Learning Policy".
- Pupil entitlement means that at least 5% curriculum time devoted to R.E.
- R.E. is taught in a cross curricular way when possible. It forms an important part of the school's spiritual, moral, social & citizenship teaching.
- Different types of physical settings and grouping are used when appropriate e.g. Circle Time, small discussion groups.
- Starting points are based on human experiences which can relate to religious values e.g. "Who is my neighbour?"
- Where the topic is appropriate a thematic approach is used e.g. change, caring, growth. Otherwise termly RE Topics are introduced.
- Values and personal belief are extended by studying their application e.g. tolerance, patience.
- At the beginning of each R.E. lesson, the children are given a spaced retrieval activity to recall previous learning called '4 from Before'.

4. Detail of the policy

- Caring values are expressed in various forms of practical help- Charities e.g. Food bank, Help the Heroes, Comic Relief, Children in Need and the Methodist Centre.
- Resources are available from the schools resource bank or from Hillside House.
- Bristol is rich in a number of places of worship which can be visited- both Christian and major world faiths.
- We welcome the use of visiting speakers.
- Whenever possible the school becomes involved in local church & community events and encourages involvement from members of local churches in contributing to the life of the school. e.g. in their prayers for the school community
- We welcome the support offered by the Diocese, Methodist Circuit and South Gloucestershire Authority,
- Members of Staff and Governors support the work in the school by attending Courses and keeping the staff aware of outside agencies which provide support.
- Continuity and progression is ensured through the use of the South Gloucestershire Scheme of Work for non-Christian themes (due to be updated in May 2022) and Understanding Christianity (SACRE Agreed Scheme of Work). Standards are monitored by the R.E. Coordinator, who will also advise staff. Each member of staff is responsible for assessing the progress of pupils in their class, twice a year.
- Governors are involved in monitoring R.E. through the Foundation Governors, Minister of St Peter's Church and the Teaching and Learning Committee.

- This policy is used along with other school policies- social inclusion, racial equalities and equal opportunities, teaching and learning, assessment & monitoring and Collective Worship.

5. The Legal Position of Religious Education

- Our school curriculum for R.E. meets the requirements of the 1988 Ed Reform Act (ERA)
- ERA stipulates that R.E. is compulsory for all children. Parents may, after written notice to the Head Teacher, withdraw their child from R.E. classes. Staff have the legal right to withdraw from R.E. teaching after giving due notice of their intention to the school governors.
- ERA states that the R.E. syllabus should reflect that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, and that it should, at the same time, take account of the teaching and practices of other major religions.

6. The Legal Position of Religious Education

- The RE subject leader will support and monitor assessment of RE and will liaise and report to the Governing Body the progress in RE.
- Assessment of RE in South Gloucestershire is matched closely to the assessment systems of English and Maths. The children are assessed at Developing, Secure and Greater Depth.
- RE is reported to parents via the annual report and is assessed as 'working towards standard', 'at standard' and 'above standard'.
- Examples of work are kept in a portfolio.

7. Conclusion

R.E enables children to reach the school's objectives which are:-

- Develop as well rounded individuals and are encouraged to respect Christian values and the environment
- See learning as fun and are motivated to reach their full potential in a happy secure environment
- Are encouraged to participate in all areas of school life with confidence and enjoyment
- Are responsible for their actions and know the rewards and consequences
- Will learn the benefits of a healthy life style
- Are encouraged to view learning as a life-long challenge

8. Policy Agreed:

By the Full Governing Board at their meeting on 13 November 2023

This policy will be reviewed by the Foundation governors in line with the overall policy timetable which is every three years.

Review May 2026