Chilthorne Domer Church School

Together we Love, we Aim High and we Celebrate!

Religious Education Policy including Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

This guidance should be taken as part of the overall strategy of the school and operated within the context of our vision, aims and values as a Church of England School.

Head teacher: Mrs Nichola Chesterton

Chair of Governors: Mr Peter Luscombe

To be reviewed: February 2028

We have carefully considered and analysed the impact of this policy on equality and the possible implications for pupils with protected characteristics, as part of our commitment to meet the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) requirement to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

In our school our Christian vision shapes all we do.

Our visions and Aims:

- To provide a welcoming and compassionate community in which all are equally valued for who they are, developing in children a love of learning and a desire to continue to expand their knowledge and skills throughout their lives.
- To encourage the experience of Christian life and participation in worship. We have close links with the Parish Church and children regularly worship in the church. Provide an atmosphere where diversity is celebrated.
- To encourage children to have a sense of belonging and responsibility towards others in our school community, the local community and the wider world. For all children to feel protected and safe.
- To provide a creative and well planned curriculum which enables all children to achieve the highest standard of work and learning of which he/she is capable and at the same time develop lively and enquiring minds. We want our children to be inspired by the quality of teaching and we encourage our children to have high expectations of their learning and achievement and to become imaginative, creative young people who can ask questions, make links and solve problems.
- To help children to understand the importance of good health and a healthy lifestyle and to ensure they know how to stay safe.
- To work together with parents forging strong home school partnerships.
- To create a stimulating environment in and around the school, in order to promote cultural, aesthetic and spiritual awareness.
- To allow children the space to play imaginatively and cooperatively, developing independence and resilience.
- The school's policy of inclusive education applies equally to all adults and children who work here regardless of gender, religion, race, background, specific difficulty or physical ability.

'Religious education in a Church school should enable every child to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate for dignity and respect encouraging all to live life well together.'
RE Statement of Entitlement from the Church of England Education Office Feb 2019

Policy Statement

Religious Education (RE) has a very high profile within the Chilthorne Domer Church School curriculum and makes a significant contribution to preparing pupils for life in modern Britain. Learning activities provide fully for the needs of all learners. Pupils will be inspired by the subject and develop a wide range of skills such as enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection, to deepen their understanding of the impact of religion on the world. Christianity is taught as a living and diverse faith, focused on the teachings of Jesus and the Church, alongside a range of religions and worldviews. Religious Education encourages pupils to learn from different religions, beliefs, values and traditions while creating a safe space for them to explore their own beliefs and questions of meaning.

Legal Requirements

As a Voluntary Controlled (VC) School, at Chilthorne Domer Church School we are required to follow the locally agreed syllabus.

Section 48 of the 2005 Education Act requires the inspection of religious education in schools which have a religious character. This is the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS).

Manging the right to withdraw

Parents have a right by law to withdraw their children from the Religious Education curriculum. In this event, we will undertake responsibility for their supervision with regard to health and safety. Information on these arrangements are clear on our website. There will always be opportunity for parents to discuss the contents of the RE curriculum should they have concerns.

Aims of RE

- To enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living faith that influences the lives of people worldwide and as the religion that has most shaped British culture and heritage
- To enable pupils to know about and understand other major world religions and world views, their impact on society, culture and the wider world, and to appreciate the diversity, continuity and change within those religions and world views
- To engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose
- To contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own beliefs and values.

Teaching and Learning

In line with the Church of England RE Statement of Entitlement [2019] at Chilthorne Domer Church School we aim to provide:

- A curriculum that enables pupils to acquire a rich, deep knowledge and understanding of Christian belief and practice
- A curriculum that draws on the richness and diversity of religious experience worldwide
- The opportunity for pupils to deepen their understanding of the religion and world views as lived by believers
- A pedagogy that instils respect for different views and interpretations; and, in which real dialogue and theological enquiry takes place
- Engaging and varied learning activities that provide for the needs of all learners, supported by high quality resources
- The opportunity for pupils to develop a wide range of skills including enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection
- RE that makes a positive contribution to SMSC development and also to pupils' understanding of British values. Please see our SMSC and BV policy
- An assessment process which has rigour and demonstrates progression based on knowledge and understanding of core religious concepts

Implementation

- Christianity is taught using the locally agreed syllabus and Understanding Christianity allowing for discussion, questioning and reflection as a whole class, in small groups and individually.
- Other religions are taught during Faith weeks which happen termly in line with religious festivals as appropriate.
- Visits to local churches and other places of worship are encouraged.

- A variety of teaching approaches are encouraged:
  - Teacher presentations, role play, drama and story telling
  - Questions and answer sessions, discussions and debates
  - Individual and group research
  - Secondary sources such as photographs, pictures and maps
  - IT, film, podcasts, radio, websites, to research and communicate ideas.

Curriculum balance and time

Reflecting Chilthorne Domer Church School's trust deed, Christianity should be the majority religion studied and should be at least 50% of curriculum time. Dedicated curriculum time is given to cover RE objectives that are set out within our agreed syllabus. This should aim to be close to 10% but no less than 5% in key stages 1 and 2.

Resources

Collective Worship follows the Roots and Fruits Creative Collective on a three year rolling programme. Please see the website for more details. We also have a visiting reverend who lead us in Collective worship both in school and at St Marys Church.

Monitoring, Evaluation, Assessment, Recording, Reporting

- Governors have responsibility for monitoring how the RE in the school reflects its Christian vision
- The headteacher has overall responsibility for monitoring and evaluation
- The RE subject leader will assist the headteacher by monitoring long term and medium term plans
- The RE subject leader will assist the headteacher by monitoring RE through work scrutinies
- The subject leader will manage resources
- The subject leader will endeavour to keep up to date with information, initiatives and developments in religious education and disseminate this as appropriate
- The subject leader will be aware of staff development needs and encourage continuing professional development
- The subject leader will facilitate the sharing of good practice
- The subject leader will be responsible for drawing up an action plan for religious education
- Generally, this will be an annual plan and should be informed by this policy
- The subject leader will liaise with the Diocesan adviser with responsibility for Religious Education.