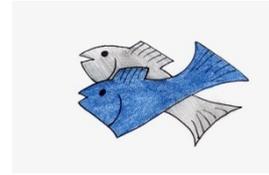


# WHITFIELD ST JAMES CE © PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Policy for Religious Education

FEBRUARY 2002

Revised Autumn 2014.



### Introduction

- This document is a statement of the aims, principals and strategies for teaching and learning of RE.
- It was developed during Spring 2002 through a process of consultation with teaching staff and governors.
- It was approved by the governing body in March 2002
- This policy was reviewed in Spring 2010 in accordance with the schedule for the review of this, and all other, policy documents as set out in the school's Development plan.

At ST James' school our principle aim in the teaching of R.E. is to contribute educationally, emotionally and spiritually to the development of our pupils as individuals, by fostering a growing understanding of the experiences, attitudes, beliefs and religious practices of humankind.

### Aims of teaching R.E.

*The Principal aim of RE in Derbyshire schools is to enable pupils to participate in an on-going search for wisdom, through exploring questions raised by human experience and answers offered by the religions and beliefs of the people of Derbyshire and the wider community, so as to promote their personal development.*

- ❖ To provide, in particular, an awareness of the nature and claims of the Christian faith, and of the part which it has played in shaping the cultural and social life of Britain.
- ❖ To develop knowledge about, and an understanding of, the mission and teaching of Jesus Christ, where He is the focus of Christianity, and where He, in the foundation of a Church of England school, is at the centre of our journey of faith. This journey is to be travelled through the teachings of the Bible in RE lessons, Christian Assemblies, and in the way we conduct ourselves within the moral framework of our community of St. James'.
- ❖ To help children to acquire and develop those skills which will enable them to appreciate religious ideas and practices.
- ❖ To provide children with an insight into the nature of religion and what it means to be religious.
- ❖ To encourage attitudes of openness and sensitivity towards people whose religious beliefs and customs may be different from their own.

- ❖ To help children to identify those areas of human life and experience in which religion plays a significant part.
- ❖ To explore with children the relation between religion and other areas of experience and knowledge.
- ❖ To foster a sense of awe, respect and wonder leading to a desire to penetrate more deeply into those areas with which religion is concerned and *to develop their sense of identity and belonging*.
- ❖ With other areas of the curriculum to contribute towards the children's moral development.
- ❖ To find out about religious traditions, what people believe, how they worship, celebrate, their lifestyles and how they mark the different stages of life. To be involved in worship, prayer and Christian service.

## Planning

*Planning is done in Phases:* RE may be planned as a separate subject or, where appropriate, within a cross curricular topic.

The recommended time allocation for RE is taken into account at the planning stage.

*Sometimes RE may be delivered in a block instead of one distinct lesson a week; a whole day of RE.*

## Teaching Methods/Learning Styles

We use a variety of styles and teaching methods. Class lessons, group work and other opportunities are given for individual expression. R.E. is taught through story, drama, use of artefacts, videos, I.C.T., and written work. Where possible children are given first hand teaching experiences, visits to church and other places of worship, visitors to school and contributions made by other pupils and their families.

Currently R.E. is taught in accordance with the Derbyshire Agreed Syllabus (All Our Worlds), but will be transferring to the Derbyshire Agreed Syllabus for R.E. 2014-2019 over the next year. Full Syllabus to be used from September 2015.

## Equal Opportunities

St James' School is (Church of England) voluntary controlled. Religious Education is offered to all pupils in accordance with the agreed syllabus. This includes teaching Christianity and other major faiths and the school policy reflects this approach.

## As a Church of England School

We aim to provide a course of religious education within the framework of the Church's year, appropriate to the educational needs of children at different stages of development. We aim to help children understand the presence of Christian beliefs and values in our society and in the world and something of their biblical and historical significance.

We wish to encourage the development of strong and harmonious links between school and church for the benefit of the community of St. James.

## Assessment and Record Keeping.

In planning R.E. teachers will incorporate opportunities for pupils to acquire knowledge of religious perspectives and allow children to share their own experiences. Assessment in RE will focus on the development of the pupils understanding about religion and their evaluative responses regarding their own and other children's religious experiences. Assessment will be made by observation during discussion and responses to oral and written work. *One assessment will be carried out each term, linked to current topics, levelled against the recognised 7 levels of attainment targets. (Except in FS) These are recorded and used to inform report writing.*

*Evidence of planning and work is collected per phase. This evidence is stored in the RE co-ordinators file, along with an additional portfolio including photographic evidence.*

## Role of Head Teacher and Governors

It is the Head Teacher's duty to secure the provision of RE for all registered pupils. The Governing Body must also exercise their functions with a view to securing this provision. The Head Teacher and Governing Body must ensure that sufficient time and resources are given to RE in school to meet the statutory requirements.

## Role of the Co-ordinator

The Co-ordinator has responsibility for RE resources and the purchase of resources within agreed budgets. The Co-ordinator will try to support colleagues who are planning RE activities. He /She will attend RE courses and keep staff informed of any new changes or developments. He /She will review the policy in line with the Whole School Development Plan, and after discussion with colleagues decide targets for the future. *He /She will collect evidence of work and planning from all Key Stages.*

## Resources

We have built up a wide selection of children's books which are kept in the school library. Teacher's resource material, books, DVD's. Posters, photographs and artefacts are stored on the RE shelf in the teachers Resources Store near the library, *and in the large book case in the corridor. Some resources, which are mainly used at KS1 or FS are stored in their appropriate areas.*

Mrs A Roberts Sept 2014.