

Policy for Religious Education (R.E.)

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Policy developed by: Rebecca SurrIDGE, R.E. Subject Leader

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*Our vision is to inspire and celebrate
learning, achievement, faith and fun.*

Ours is a school that works in partnership with the community to enable and equip each child to live life to the full (The Bible, John 10:10) reflecting the Christian values of our foundation.

We will realise our Vision by:

- providing a happy, healthy and secure environment where all are respected, valued and encouraged to contribute
- encouraging participation and a love of learning by offering experiences full of opportunity and creativity, so that every child fulfils their academic potential
- demonstrating, as a church school, our Christian values in action
- pursuing excellence in every aspect of school life, supporting one another and celebrating the achievements of all

Our School Vision was drafted in 2014, the school's 250th year, incorporating the ideas and priorities of children, staff, parents, governors and the wider community.

This policy embodies the school's vision and Christian values in action by:

- Establishing R.E.'s central place in the purpose of North Nibley Church of England Primary School because, as a church school, we see that our faith informs all aspects of our life together and commits us to a search for truth.
- Making clear that our approach to the teaching of R.E. allows individuals and communities to explore ideas and make meaning and sense of their lives through the great religions of the world. All contributions are valued and each person's journey is respected. Our approach enables pupils to know about, understand and respond to the important and ultimate questions of life.
- Explicitly stating that R.E. must be taught in such a way that it inspires pupils to explore, develop and affirm their own faith and values and to have respect for the faith, beliefs and values of others. Activities must allow the creative expression of each individual's beliefs.
- Requiring teachers and other adults to draw links, in R.E., other subjects and across the full breadth of school life, to the Christian values that are central to our community.

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Aims

The principal aim of R.E. is to explore what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live, so that pupils can gain the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to handle questions raised by religion and belief, reflecting on their own ideas and ways of living.

- R.E. should contribute dynamically to children's education by provoking challenging questions about meaning and purpose in life, belief about God, ultimate reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human.
- Pupils should learn about religious beliefs in local, national and global contexts, to discover, explore and consider different answers to these questions.
- Pupils learn to weigh up the value of wisdom from different sources, to develop and express their insights in response and to agree or disagree respectfully.
- Pupils should be equipped with systematic knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and beliefs, enabling them to develop their ideas, values and identities.
- Pupils should develop an aptitude for dialogue so that they can participate positively in our society, with its diverse religions and beliefs.
- Pupils should gain and deploy the skills needed to understand, interpret and evaluate text, sources of wisdom and authority and other evidence. They should learn to articulate clearly and coherently their personal beliefs, ideas, values, and experiences.

The Teaching of R.E. at North Nibley Primary School

R.E. will be taught throughout the school. R.E. will be allocated at least 5% of curriculum time and this means that 36 hours per year will be allocated at Key Stage 1 and 45 hours per year at Key Stage 2.

As North Nibley is a Voluntary Aided' school the governors have determined the R.E. policy and syllabus in consultation with the head teacher, teaching staff and diocesan adviser. The Governors have determined that the "Gloucestershire County Council's Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education" (2017-2022) , which integrates the 'Understanding Christianity' resource, will be taught at North Nibley school.

Teaching and Learning

The teaching and learning approach has three core elements: Making sense of beliefs; Making Connections and Understanding the impact, which are woven together to provide balance and breadth. The elements set the context for open exploration of religion and belief. They offer a structure through which pupil can encounter diverse religious traditions alongside non-religious worldviews.

A range of visitors will be invited to support the teaching of R.E., and where possible, there will be planned visits to places of worship. Every opportunity is taken to forge good links with the local Anglican church, St. Martin's.

The units that constitute the agreed syllabus will be taught as a separate subject, on a two-year cycle, but there may be opportunities to link the unit to topic work and other curriculum subjects such as literacy, drama, history etc.

In this school the faiths taught in R.E. at KS1 are Christianity, Judaism and Islam and at KS2 Christianity, Judaism, Islam and Hinduism.

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Legal Requirements

Parents have a legal right to withdraw their children from Religious Education lessons, but as R.E. is so central to the life and identity of North Nibley Primary School we would ask parents to discuss with the head teacher any reasons they might have for doing this.

Monitoring

The R.E. co-ordinator will support and monitor the subject and will receive an adequate budget to do this, in accordance with the School Improvement Plan.

The R.E. co-ordinator will liaise with the governors and report regularly to the governing body on progress in R.E.