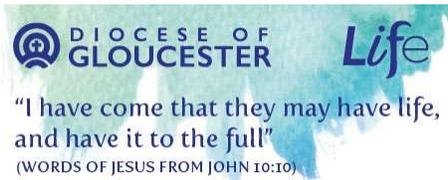


St James' C of E Junior School



Policy for Religious Education in Church of England Primary Schools



Guidance from the Diocese of Gloucester's Board of Education

March 2020

Author:

**Author: Debbie Helme, Strategic Lead for RE
(Written in partnership with SW Area Diocesan
Advisors)**

Reviewed by:

**Katharine McFarland, RE Lead, St James' C of E Junior
School**

Adopted by the LGB:

21st May 2024

Contents

Legal Position of Religious Education in School	3
The Church Of England’s Statement of Entitlement	3
Religious Education and the School’s Christian Vision	3
Religious Education Intent	4
School Approach to Religious Education	4
Organisation & Time Allocation	5
Assessment/Recording & Reporting	5
Responsibilities for RE in School	5
The Right of Withdrawal from Religious Education	6
Managing the Right of Withdrawal	6
APPENDIX TWO – Assessment Tools	8
RE Subject Leader End of Year Summary	12

Name of School: St James' C of E Junior School

Legal Position of Religious Education in School

Religious Education is unique in the curriculum as it is neither a core or foundation subject. In the 1988 Education Act it states, 'Religious Education has equal standing in relation to core subjects of the National Curriculum in that it is compulsory for all pupils'.

St James' C of E Junior School is a Church of England Academy therefore Religious Education is provided in line with the funding agreement and the academy follows the Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2017 – 2022.

The Church of England's Statement of Entitlement

The Church of England's *Statement of Entitlement* outlines the aims and expectations for Religious Education in Church of England Schools and guides this school's approach to RE.

It begins by stating: *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 to educate for dignity and respect encouraging all to live well together.* Quoting from the Church of England's Vision for Education: Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good, it continues *Such an approach is offered through a commitment to generous hospitality, being true to our underpinning faith, but with a deep respect for the integrity of other religious traditions (and worldviews) and for the religious freedom of each person.*

Full details of this document can be found in Appendix One.

Religious Education and the School's Christian Vision

The School's Vision:

Developing the love of life and learning in a caring Christian community.
'Do unto others as you would have them do to you' (Luke 6:13)
'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.' (John 10:10)
Together we are a family, learning to love and loving to learn.

Building on these themes, RE in this school contributes to the outworking of our vision by developing a love of learning and life in a caring Christian community. RE is central to the purpose of St James' C of E Junior School because, as a church school, we see that the Christian faith informs all aspects of our life together and commits us to a search for truth. As a school with a diverse multicultural population, with members actively committed to other faiths, we celebrate this diversity and offer a welcoming and inclusive environment for all our pupils. RE is taught in such a way that it inspires pupils to explore, develop and affirm their own faith and values and have respect for the faith, beliefs and values of others.

Religious Education Intent

The school believes that Religious Education has a vital part to play in the education of a Key Stage 2 child. The intent of Religious Education at St James' C of E Junior School is:

- developing knowledge, understanding and awareness of Christianity and other principal religions;
- encouraging respect for those holding different beliefs;
- promoting spiritual, moral and cultural development.

Religious Education is not concerned with nurturing children in a particular faith.

Religious Education in this school is provided under the terms of the Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus. We endorse the view of RE stated in the Agreed Syllabus; the principal aim is:

The principal aim of religious education 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.

Religious Education is an important school subject. It can make a substantial contribution to the general personal and social development of every child in line with the overall aims of the school. We hope that through Religious Education pupils will develop positive attitudes towards themselves, other people and the natural world.

Religious Education has a particular part to play in pupils' spiritual development. We see spiritual development in terms of pupils' capacity to reflect on fundamental aspects of life. This should not be viewed too narrowly in terms of R.E and collective worship; other subject areas should also contribute.

School Approach to Religious Education

In line with all church schools, this school has duty to provide accurate knowledge and understanding of religions and world views.

A wide range of imaginative teaching methods and pupil groupings ensure effective RE sessions. We appreciate the positive impact that local faith communities can have on pupils' experience in RE. Therefore this school encourages visits to places of worship and welcomes visitors from different faith communities. We recognise it is vitally important that teachers demonstrate respectful attitudes towards all faiths, modelling the attitudes and responses we would expect from our pupils.

As identified in the Statement of Entitlement, teaching and learning in RE in this school will provide:

- A challenging and robust curriculum based on an accurate theological framework.
- An assessment process which has rigour and demonstrates progression based on knowledge and understanding of core religious concepts.
- A curriculum that draws on the richness and diversity of religious experience worldwide.
- A pedagogy that instils respect for different views and interpretations; and, in which real dialogue and theological enquiry takes place.
- The opportunity for pupils to deepen their understanding of the religion and world views as lived by believers.
- RE that makes a positive contribution to SMSC development

Organisation & Time Allocation

In accordance with the structure of Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus we have agreed that children at St James' C of E Junior School (Key Stage 2) will study Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism and also consider non-religious worldviews. This will enable the children to have basic knowledge of many of the denominations that exist in our school. RE will be taught for at least for 45 hours over the year. This entails 12 units found in the Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus. These units will be taught in RE weeks which will occur once in each term (6 RE weeks per year).

Assessment/Recording & Reporting

The Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2017-2022 sets out a structure for recognising pupil achievements and each pupil can work progressively towards achieving the expected end of key stage learning outcomes as outlined in the syllabus.

An assessment activity will be included with each unit of work. Teachers' assessments should be updated on the school tracking system and shared with the RE lead.

School reports are sent home in the summer term of each year and the RE report is written with reference to assessment records, achievements, activities forming part of the RE curriculum as well as pupils' individual work.

Responsibilities for RE in School

The **subject leader** is responsible for overseeing the teaching and learning of religious education in the school. The role includes:

- Ensuring personal subject knowledge and expertise are kept up-to-date by participating in CPD for RE and share good practice
- Disseminate information from any external courses attended
- Providing and sourcing in-service training for staff as necessary
- Ensuring the staff are familiar with the syllabus and supporting resources such as *Understanding Christianity*
- Supporting and clarifying approach to planning, delivery and assessment being clear about the subject's intent, implementation and impact including discussing ideas for pupils with special educational needs
- Acquiring and organising appropriate resources, managing a budget when necessary
- Monitoring the teaching and learning of RE through regular lesson observations, work scrutiny, learning walks, analysis of data and pupil voice and be able to discuss impact and standards
- Contributing to the SIAMS self evaluation process particularly around Strand 7

The Head Teacher and Governors make sure:

- RE has a high profile within the curriculum
- All pupils make progress in achieving the learning outcomes of the RE curriculum
- The subject is well led and effectively managed and that standards and achievement in RE and the quality of the provision are subject to regular and effective self-evaluation
- Those teaching RE are suitably qualified and trained in the subject and have effective and regular opportunities for CPD
- Teachers newly appointed to church schools are provided with support offered by the diocese to enable them to become effective teachers of RE
- Clear information is provided for parents on the RE curriculum and the right to withdraw
- RE is resourced, staffed and timetabled so that the school can fulfil its legal obligations on RE and pupils make good progress

The Right of Withdrawal from Religious Education

At St James' C of E Junior School we wish to be an inclusive community but recognise that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from religious education on the grounds of conscience. However, the right of withdrawal does not extend to other areas of the curriculum when, as may happen on occasions, spontaneous questions on religious matters are raised by pupils or there are issues related to religion that arise in other subjects such as history and citizenship.

We would ask any parent considering this to contact the head teacher to discuss any concerns and anxieties about the policy, provision and practice of religious education at our school.

Managing the Right of Withdrawal

The school will ensure that parents who want to withdraw their children from RE are aware of the RE syllabus and that it is relevant to all pupils and respects their own personal beliefs.

- Parents should be made aware of its learning objectives and what is covered in the RE curriculum and should be given the opportunity to discuss this, if they wish.
- The school may also wish to review such a request each year, in discussion with the parents.
- The use of the right to withdraw should be at the instigation of parents, and it should be made clear whether it is from the whole of the subject or specific parts of it. No reasons need be given.
- Parents have the right to choose whether or not to withdraw their child from RE without influence from the school, although a school should ensure that parents or carers are informed of this right and are aware of the educational objectives and content of the RE syllabus. In this way, parents can make an informed decision.
- Where parents have requested that their child is withdrawn, their right must be respected, and where RE is integrated in the curriculum, the school will need to discuss the arrangements with the parents or carers to explore how the child's withdrawal can be best accommodated.
- If pupils are withdrawn from RE, schools have a duty to supervise them, though not to provide additional teaching or to incur extra cost. Pupils will usually remain on school premises.
- Where a pupil has been withdrawn, the law provides for alternative arrangements to be made for RE of the kind the parent wants the pupil to receive. This RE could be provided at the school in question, or the pupil could be sent to another school where suitable RE is provided if this is reasonably convenient.
- If neither approach is practicable, outside arrangements can be made to provide the pupil with the kind of RE that the parent wants, and the pupil may be withdrawn from school for a reasonable period of time to allow them to attend this external RE.
- Outside arrangements for RE are allowed as long as the LA SACRE (VC schools) or diocese (VA schools) is satisfied that any interference with the pupil's attendance at school resulting from the withdrawal will affect only the start or end of a school session.

Approval/review by local governing board

Headteacher signed:

Date: Simon Millington

Chair of Governors signed:

Date: Amanda Choung

Date of next review:

Date: 21st May 2024

APPENDIX ONE – Statement of Entitlement

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-02/RE%20Statement%20of%20Entitlement%20for%20Church%20Schools.pdf>

Guidance Document

Section I – Assessment Tools

Proformas for end of unit relating to each strand

RE leader's overview document for end of year

RE Assessment: Making sense of Belief

Please use child's initials in all boxes

Class:		Teacher:		
Year Group/s:	Boys:	Girls:	Teacher's role eg class teacher/PPA/HLTA	
Pupil premium children:		SEND children:		
Looked after children:		Disadvantaged children:		
UNIT NAME				
Those pupils are working at age related are:	Secure – Pupils are able to... <i>Copy making sense of belief outcomes in focus</i>			
	'On Track' for Age Related Expectations:			
For some their ability to complete outcomes are:	Developing <i>Pupils are not yet able to complete all of the above.</i>	Exceeding <i>Pupils use their knowledge and understanding to complete all skills above and exceed the tasks asked of them.</i>		
		Evidence of excellence <i>Give examples of above</i>		
Contextual issues eg variety of teachers/ clashes with violin lessons etc				
Pupils who are of specific concern,				
Class Teacher response and next steps				
RE Co-ordinator/ leader response to this data and next steps to inform T&L				
Percentage of developing		Percentage 'On track'		Percentage at exceeding

RE Assessment: Understanding the Impact

Please use child's initials in all boxes

Class:		Teacher:			
Year Group/s:	Boys:	Girls:	Teacher's role eg class teacher/PPA/HLTA		
Pupil premium children:			SEND children:		
Looked after children:			Disadvantaged children:		
UNIT NAME					
Those pupils are working at age related are:	Secure – Pupils are able to... <i>Copy making sense of belief outcomes in focus</i>				
	'On Track' for Age Related Expectations:				
For some their ability to complete outcomes are:	Developing <i>Pupils are not yet able to complete all of the above</i>		Exceeding <i>Pupils use their knowledge and understanding to complete all skills above and exceed the tasks asked of them.</i>		
			Evidence of excellence <i>Give examples of above</i>		
Contextual issues eg variety of teachers/ clashes with violin lessons etc					
Pupils who are of specific concern,					
Class Teacher response and next steps					
RE Co-ordinator/ leader response to this data and next steps to inform T&L					
Percentage of developing		Percentage 'On track'		Percentage at excellent	

RE Assessment: Making Connections

Please use child's initials in all boxes

RE Assessment: Making Connections					
<i>Please use child's initials in all boxes</i>					
Class:			Teacher:		
Year Group/s:	Boys:	Girls:	Teacher's role eg class teacher/PPA/HLTA		
Pupil premium children:			SEND children:		
Looked after children:			Disadvantaged children:		
UNIT NAME					
Those pupils are working at age related are:		Secure – Pupils are able to... Copy making sense of belief outcomes in focus			
		'On Track' for Age Related Expectations:			
For some their ability to complete outcomes are:		Developing Pupils are not yet able to complete all of the above		Exceeding Pupils use their knowledge and understanding to complete all skills above and exceed the tasks asked of them.	
		Evidence of excellence Give examples of above			
Contextual issues eg variety of teachers/ clashes with violin lessons etc					
Pupils who are of specific concern,					
Class Teacher response and next steps					
RE Co-ordinator/ leader response to this data and next steps to inform T&L					
Percentage of developing		Percentage 'On track'		Percentage exceeding	

RE Subject Leader End of Year Summary

Class	% on track	% developing	% exceeding
Making sense of Belief			
Understanding Impact			
Making Connections			
OVERALL			
Vulnerable group 1 <small>(bespoke to schools' context)</small>			
Comments:			
Vulnerable Group 2			
Comments			
Vulnerable Group 3			
Comments			
Pupil Voice Quotes on RE			
Examples of excellence			

To be read in conjunction with school development plan, SEF and action plan for RE