

Wilby Church of England (VA) Primary School
Religious Education (RE) Policy



*Together we are inspired to learn within the family of God's love.
We encourage one another to reach our full potential within a Christian atmosphere.*

John 13:34

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another as I have loved you."

Vision

At Wilby CE VA Primary School we are deeply committed to inspiring our children to learn and reach their full potential. Everyone is valued as an individual and helped to develop and progress in their own unique way within a Christian atmosphere.

Context

- The context of RE at Wilby CE VA Primary School is that of a small, rural primary school serving children in the age range 4-11.
- We work to the Northamptonshire Agreed Syllabus Growing Together incorporating Understanding Christianity
- We recognise the variety of religious and non - religious backgrounds from which our pupils come. We welcome the diversity and we intend to be sensitive to the home background of each child. We are glad to have the active support of members of local faith communities in RE and in general.
- We recognise the inter-relationship between pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, and the leading role which the RE curriculum plays in some of these areas.

We feel that it is important that the children are not only introduced to the faiths of those within their school community but also to those faiths represented in the wider community. An introduction to the key beliefs, practices and impact of faith will hopefully lead to understanding, sensitivity and respect for fellow humankind.

Introduction

Our pupils and their families can expect an RE curriculum that enables pupils to acquire a rich, deep knowledge and understanding of Christian belief and practice, this should include the ways in which it is unique and diverse. We use high-quality resources; the Understanding Christianity resource. Pupils can expect that teaching and learning will use an approach that engages with biblical text and theological ideas.

Pupils can expect our RE curriculum will engage and challenge them through an exploration of core concepts and questions. We will provide meaningful and informed dialogue with a range of religions and worldviews.

RE will have a high profile within the curriculum and will be a priority for senior leaders. The RE curriculum is intrinsic to the outworking of our Christian vision in enabling all pupils to flourish. In addition, the RE curriculum will contribute to British values and spiritual moral social and cultural development

Aims and Objectives

As stated in the Church of England Religious Education Statement of Entitlement, religious education in this school aims:

- To know about and understand Christianity as a diverse global living faith through the exploration of core beliefs using an approach that critically engages with biblical text.
- To gain knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews appreciating diversity, continuity and change within the religions and worldviews being studied.
- To engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose raised by human existence and experience.
- To recognise the concept of religion and its continuing influence on Britain's cultural heritage and in the lives of individuals and societies in different times, cultures and places.
- To explore their own religious, spiritual and philosophical ways living, believing and thinking.

Teaching and learning

RE has a high profile within our school curriculum and is comparable with other core curriculum areas. Quality teaching in RE helps generate respect for different views and interpretations where real dialogue takes place. Learners develop and use a wide range of higher level skills such as enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection to deepen their understanding of the impact of religion and worldviews as lived by believers. Key cross-curricular skills such as reading, writing, observation, and discussion are practised. Assessment based on knowledge and understanding of core religious concepts shows that attainment is high and progress significant in developing an understanding of Christianity and a range of other world religions and on other world views as appropriate.

RE offers a wide variety of teaching and learning experiences, understanding that pupils learn best in different ways. Pupils will experience opportunities to learn and express themselves through an enquiry based style of learning by:

- Listening to the teacher and each other
- Ask and discuss 'big' questions
- Reading of texts
- Seeking information for themselves in libraries and on computers
- Discussion with the teacher and other pupils
- Pair and group work
- Using a range of media such as artefacts, pictures, photographs, music and drama
- Visits and visitors
- Artwork
- Time for reflection

Matching Work to Pupils' Needs

Policy and practice in religious education reflects whole school policy and encompasses the full range and ability of all pupils. All pupils' contributions are valued in RE as they draw on their own experiences and beliefs. A range of teaching and learning strategies to achieve differentiated learning are used including task, outcome, resource, support and pupil grouping. There is particular concern to ensure that all tasks are challenging and sufficiently demanding to stimulate and engage all pupils whilst extending the most able.

Resources

Religious education will be funded to enable a range of resources on different religions to be purchased, such as books for teachers, pupils and the library; posters, CDs, DVDs and artefacts. The school makes use of guidance material produced by the Diocese. Funding will also allow,

where possible, visits to different places of worship and provide INSET for staff. All resources will be listed, stored, be easily accessible and kept in good condition. Resource banks will be available for both staff and pupils on all major religions and worldviews as appropriate.

Breadth and balance

Although work on Christianity will predominate, there will be in-depth work on the major world religions and on other world views as appropriate. Teaching will seek to bring about a deeper knowledge and understanding of religious traditions but also to develop a range of skills such as the ability to empathise and evaluate attitudes, and develop respect for diversity.

Equal Opportunities

Religious education will challenge stereotypes, misinformation and misconceptions about race, gender and religion. It seeks to present religions and worldviews in all their richness and diversity in terms of beliefs, traditions, customs and lifestyle in a sensitive and accurate way in order to encourage a positive attitude towards diversity. All questions, views, and opinions will be treated with sensitivity and respect.

Relevance

Teachers will establish clear links between elements of religious belief and practice and aspects of the children's own lives. Teaching will enable pupils to gain something of personal value from their study of religious belief and practice, for example, the way that they might apply insights gained from religious stories to their own lives. This will be done through engaging pupils in an enquiry -based style of learning and by posing challenging questions to and by pupils.

Cross-curricular links

Religious education supports the development of general educational abilities such as literacy, empathy and the ability to express thoughts, feelings and personal beliefs. RE also makes a major contribution to pupils' SMSC development. It addresses issues, which arise in a range of subjects such as English, drama and history, geography, computing, music as well as personal, social and emotional education and citizenship.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

Assessment in religious education will:

- Involve identifying suitable opportunities in schemes of work such as Understanding Christianity.
- Be directly related to the expectations of the Northamptonshire Agreed Syllabus.
- Seek to identify development in the different areas of learning in the subject and not only in the acquisition of factual knowledge.
- Recognise the range of skills and attitudes which the subject seeks to develop.
- Employ well defined criteria for marking and assessment which identify progress and achievement as well as effort, following the school's marking policy.
- Enable effective tracking of pupil progress to identify areas for development in pupil's knowledge and understanding, as well as whole school areas for development.
- Enable effective reporting to parents.

Role of the RE subject leader

The subject leader will:

- Ensure that all pupils receive their legal entitlement of religious education.
- Produce and regularly review a subject policy to ensure that it remains up to date
- Ensure all teachers are aware of what should be taught in religious education, what resources are available, and what standards of attainment are expected at the end of each Key Stage.
- Support colleagues and help develop their subject expertise.
- Monitor and review the implementation of policy, schemes of work, the quality and effectiveness of the delivery of RE, pupils' progress and standards.
- Liaise periodically with the Governors.
- Seek opportunities for professional development for themselves and other staff.
- Order resources.
- Monitor end of term assessments.
- Observe the teaching of RE in school, providing support and guidance for teachers.

Legal Requirements

From the time of the 1944 Education Act, parents have had the right to withdraw their children from religious education. The school must comply with any request from a parent to withdraw their child and parents are not required to give their reasons for wanting to do so. However, in view of the Christian ethos and distinctive Christian character of our school, we would hope that all children admitted will participate fully in RE, and that anyone wishing to withdraw their child would discuss this with the Headteacher before making this decision.