

Guilden Sutton Church of England Primary School



'Love and Justice for All'

'And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.'
Micah 6:8.

through the teachings of Jesus all can flourish spiritually, emotionally and academically throughout life, living out love and justice for all.

Religious Education Policy 2023 - 2024

Staff member responsible	Mrs T. Rainford & Miss R. Doak
Governor/Other responsible	Revd. H Carty
Date of Policy	May 2024
Reviewed	Annually

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 well together. (RE Statement of Entitlement, The Church of England Education Office, February 2019)

Through the teaching of Religious Education (RE), children learn the essential knowledge of other religions and worldviews, as well as skills and attitudes such as critical thinking and empathy. This understanding of others' worldviews is an essential first step to enabling each pupil to understand, reflect on and develop their own personal worldview, which is one of the core tasks of education. (Cheshire West and Chester Agreed Syllabus, 2019)

In all Church school's religious education must be considered an academic subject. All pupils are entitled to religious education that is delivered in an objective, critical and pluralistic manner. Pupils are entitled to a balanced RE curriculum which enquires into religions and worldviews through theology, philosophy and the human and the social sciences.

(RE Statement of Entitlement, The Church of England Education Office, February 2019)

The spiritual and moral development of our children underpins all aspects of our school life through an enriched curriculum.

We recognise the need for pupils to understand and learn about Christianity and the belief systems, practices and cultures of other world faiths. As a school, we welcome the opportunities on offer to us, through the curriculum, to learn about other cultures, religions, communities and people.

Legal Requirements

Guilden Sutton is a Church of England Controlled school therefore Religious Education (R.E.) must be taught in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus. The governing body is responsible for the subject in the school which is then delegated to the Head teacher and R.E. subject leader.

Intent:

The purpose of teaching Religious Education in school is:

- To know about and understand Christianity as a diverse global living faith that is relevant to daily life 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.

Principles

We aim through our teaching:

- To provide a course of R.E. which meets the legal requirements of the Cheshire West and Chester Agreed Syllabus appropriate to the educational needs of the children in our school, at their different stages of development.
- To contribute to the spiritual, social and moral development of our school as a caring community and the pupils as individuals.
- To assist and encourage experience of Christian life and worship.
- Through study of major world religions to encourage an understanding and appreciation of the rich diversity of religious beliefs and practices in society today.

Implementation:

In Reception, our children will experience enquiry based R.E. related activities from Christianity and a range of world religions to contribute to the Foundation Stage curriculum requirements. By the end of the summer term, they will be moving towards the statutory requirements for Key Stage 1.

In Key Stage 1, the majority of work in R.E. will be based on the Christian faith with the introduction of Judaism and Islam.

Islam, Sikhism, Judaism and Hinduism will be taught in Key Stage 2 where knowledge and understanding will be built upon. The children are also introduced to Humanism as a non-religious world view. 50% of R.E. work will focus on Christianity (as outlined by the Cheshire West and Chester agreed syllabus).

R.E. will be taught 5% of the timetable: as separate lessons or as block units. In Key Stage 1 this amounts to 50 minutes per week. In Key Stage 2 children will be taught R.E. for 1 hour per week.

- R.E. in our school is organised using a whole school overview. This lays out which religions, concepts and themes are studied by each year group.
- Wherever possible all children will learn from primary source material as well as through the use of outside speakers with relevant experience and audio-visual aids.
- R.E. will be taught throughout the school, mainly by the class teacher and regularly supported by clergy from local churches and visiting speakers.
- R.E. may be taught in a 'whole class' setting but with flexibility to allow for discussion, questioning and reflections in small groups and individually. Higher order thinking questions, based on Bloom's Taxonomy, underpin the teaching of R.E. which stimulates the children's enquiry skills.
- Visits to local churches and other places of worship will enhance the children's knowledge and understanding.

A variety of teaching approaches are encouraged:

- Teacher presentations, role play and story telling
- Higher order questions and answer sessions, discussions and debates to develop enquiry skills
- Individual and group research
- Photographs, pictures and artefacts
- I.T., film, CD, radio to research and communicate ideas. All resources are in labelled boxes in the Key Stage 2 corridor. Bibles are in every classroom and class sets are available.
- Annual Interfaith week and workshops led by visitors of different faiths.
- Progress will be assessed using 'Can I statements' taken from R.E. planning.
- Children will complete a 'sticky knowledge quiz' and self-assess against the 'Can I statements' after each topic.
- R.E. may be linked to other subjects as appropriate.
- R.E. resources will be reviewed and updated regularly and use will be made of the Cheshire Library Service. Resources are stored in a central location and used to support learning.
- Classroom support will be welcomed under the guidance of the teacher e.g. skilled individuals and parents

Planning, Assessment, Reporting and Record Keeping:

- R.E. is planned termly using yearly overview which runs alongside Cheshire West and Chester Agreed Syllabus. Work is marked to the same standard as all other core subjects which allows pupils to reflect on their work and acknowledge ways that it can be improved.
- Every KS1 and KS2 child is to have an R.E. book.
- 'Can I statements' taken from R.E. planning are used to monitor and assess children's progress and attainment. These will be stuck in every child's R.E. book after each topic alongside their 'sticky knowledge quiz'.
- R.E. is planned on an annual cycle and is in line with Cheshire West and Chester Agreed Syllabus.
- Staff plan units of work using the agreed Medium Term planning provided by Chester Diocese, the 'Understanding Christianity' resource and supplemented by their own units of work to ensure full coverage of the R.E. curriculum.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

- The Head Teacher has overall responsibility for monitoring and evaluation.
- The R.E. subject leader will assist the Head Teacher by monitoring Long Term and Medium Term plans.
- The subject leader will talk to children, go on learning walks and monitor books through book scrutiny and report back to the Head Teacher and link governor.

- The Subject Leader will manage resources.
- The Subject Leader will endeavour to keep up to date with information, initiatives and developments in R.E. 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 R.E. Generally, this will be an annual plan and should be informed by this policy.

Equal Opportunities:

R.E. as an essential part of the curriculum should be relevant, worthwhile and accessible to all. It should express that all pupils are loved and valued by God as part of creation.

We aim to help the children in our school to respect themselves and to be sensitive to the needs of others.

Withdrawal:

Parents do have a right by law to withdraw their child from the R.E. curriculum, although every effort is made by the school to involve children of all faiths. The school will undertake responsibility for the supervision of withdrawn pupils with regard to health and safety, alternative work will be provided.

Impact:

The Religious Education curriculum at Guilden Sutton Church of England Primary School is of high quality and well planned to allow pupils to develop their knowledge and show progression.

Children will have:

- Grown in understanding of others through learning activities involving sharing and co-operation.
- Developed trust and respect of others.
- Started to formulate their own sense of purpose in life.
- Embarked upon a personal search for a faith by which to live.
- Learnt something of the religious experience of others.
- Developed their own beliefs, values and ideals in light of their experiences.
- Developed respect for other people, their beliefs and their lifestyles.
- Started to develop an enquiring attitude towards religion and to explore activities of prayer and worship.