

TODDINGTON ST. GEORGE CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

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*Lighting a Spark
in every child*

Religious Education Policy

Toddington St George Church of England School is an Anglican School (with Academy status).

Vision

Toddington St George Church of England School (Diocese of St Albans) is an inclusive Christian community in which the curriculum is underpinned by agreed values based on Christian teaching. The strategic plan, aims and policies enable every member of the school community to be valued as a child of God where they are given the opportunity to be inspired, challenged and supported in their learning and to receive committed, conscientious pastoral care. The TSG philosophy is embodied in the school vision 'Lighting a Spark in Every Child'.

Legal Requirements

The legal requirements governing Religious Education were set out in the Education Reform Act of 1988 and confirmed by the Education Acts of 1996 and 1998.

These require that

- Religious Education must be provided for all registered pupils in maintained schools, including those in reception classes
- Religious Education in voluntary controlled schools must be provided in accordance with the local agreed syllabus. To this end we have adopted the agreed RE syllabus for Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire and Luton: Identities, Meanings and Values (2012)
- Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Religious Education and this right is identified in the school prospectus
- Religious Education, as part of the curriculum promotes the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils



Aims and Objectives

Agreed Syllabus Aims

The aim of Religious Education in schools is to contribute educationally to the development of pupils as individuals and members of society by fostering a reflective approach to life in the context of a growing understanding of the experiences, attitudes, beliefs and religious practices of humanity.

Schools Aims and Objectives

Religious Education encourages the informed study of religious issues and considered reflection upon experience and should

- Support pupils in their personal search for meaning
- Encourage pupils to reflect, to wonder and to face the mystery of life
- Provide opportunities for all pupils to study Christianity and to appreciate its influence in the world and on our society
- Enable all pupils to learn about world faiths and encourage them to be sensitive to the range of beliefs and religious groups in the community
- Provide opportunities for pupils to explore and understand ways in which meaning is expressed e.g. symbol, image, story and
- Work alongside other areas of the curriculum (e.g. dance, drama, music, art, literature)

The Development of Skills

An understanding of the complexities of religion depends upon the development of a wide range of skills. These skills are developed over the whole area of the school curriculum

- Higher level thinking skills
- Personal; knowledge of self, others and things
- Empathy; entering another's experience
- Artistic response; painting, poetry, dance and
- Communication; language skills, conveying meaning and organising knowledge

The Development of Attitudes

Children should be given the opportunity to develop positive attitudes towards religion

- Open to life; questioning, reflective, committed to search for meaning
- Looking at life; interest in different ways of looking at life and
- How others see life; respect, sympathy for those with different views



Organisation

The Religious Education program develops knowledge alongside appropriate skills and attitudes. It consists of two attainment targets

- Learning about Religion, and
- Learning from Religion

Time

Key Stage 1: 36 hours of tuition per year (e.g. 50 minutes a week).

Key Stage 2: 45 hours of tuition per year (e.g. an hour a week).

Teaching Methods

Best practice in RE is the same for that of other subjects and will include for example;

- Visits and visitors
- Handling artefacts
- Celebrating festivals
- Cooking and sharing food
- Conducting surveys and interviews
- Watching and discussing audio visual materials
- Using ICT resources
- Discussion, debate and role play
- Use of higher order thinking skills and techniques
- A range of resources are available to support the teaching of RE including books, posters, DVDs, and artefacts kept centrally
- Currently the pupils learn through a minimum of one RE day a year

Leaders Role

The current lead for RE is Liz Collins, Deputy Head Teacher

Her role is to

- Promote RE to pupils, colleagues, parents and governors to keep up to date with current issues and resources
- Ensure opportunities for training are available and to offer guidance and support to colleagues
- Monitor the teaching and learning to ensure continued outstanding attainment and progress

Assessment

Teachers are required to challenge pupils appropriately, as well as knowing those pupils who are working above, at or below national expectations. Teachers are required to inform the leader of the results of assessments and gifted and talented pupils.

Home- School



Parents and carers are kept informed in a number of ways which include through consultations, work sharing and the regular newsletter.

Governance

As a Church of England School there will be a named governor for Religious Education, Spiritual Moral Social Cultural Education and Collective Worship.

Continuing Professional Development

The governors and Head teacher are very committed to RE and the support it gives children in their lives, to this end they encourage whole school INSET on RE such as Understanding Christianity and CPD for the Head and RE lead.

Conclusion

The implementation of this policy will ensure children have the best start to their journey as they answer the 'big' questions of life.

Note- This policy should read in conjunction with the Collective Worship Policy and the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Policy.

RE Leader - Liz Collins

Policy reviewed- October 2016

To be reviewed again October 2017

