

St John's C of E VA First School

Together, we will give our children the
ROOTS TO GROW and the **'WINGS TO FLY.'**



Religious Education

(Adapted from the Bath and Wells Diocesan Model Policy for Religious Education)

This policy should be taken as part of St. John's C. of E. First School's overall strategy and is implemented within the context of our vision of Government aims and our values as a Church of England School.

Policy Review

Review Cycle	Date of Current Policy	Author(s) of Current Policy	Review Date
	01/10/21	Alison Brimson	

Policy Ratification

Role	Name	Signature	Date
Chair of Governors	Claire Levene Plumb		
Head Teacher	Claire Marsland		

Details of Policy Updates

Date	Details
September 2021	Update and re-written to reflect model policy from the diocese

In our school our Christian vision shapes all we do.

‘Together, we give our children the roots to grow and wings to fly.’

As John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus, here at St John’s, we strive to prepare children for life – *‘life in all its fullness’ (John 10:10).*

As a fully inclusive Church school, we are rooted in hope. We aspire to nurture and help our children to be the best versions of themselves.

‘For God did not give us a spirit of timidity but a spirit of power, love and self-discipline.’ (Timothy 1:7)

Our school staff, parents and governors work together to help our children flourish as respectful, confident and aspirational citizens who seek to positively contribute to the school community, local community and the world beyond.

Our vision is based around the elements of the Parable of the Sower in Matthew 13: 1-23. For seeds to grow, they need firm and strong roots. In this parable, Jesus explains that when seeds are planted in good soil, they grow and thrive. When seeds are planted in bad soil or on unsuitable ground, the roots cannot grow, meaning the plants are weak. Jesus goes on to say, when seeds are planted in good soil they grow and bear fruit.

Like birds who nest in trees, the St John’s community aim to nurture their young, who then go on to fly out into the world and flourish.

By sowing the seeds of:

- learning to gain WISDOM
- uniqueness to show dignity and RESPECT
- life to have HOPE
- responsibility to gain SELF-CONTROL
- community to build FRIENDSHIP
- courage to PERSEVERE

together, we will give our children the

‘ROOTS TO GROW’ and the ‘WINGS TO FLY.’

‘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 life well together.’

RE Statement of Entitlement from the Church of England Education Office Feb 2019

Policy Statement

Religious Education (RE) has a very high profile within the St. John's curriculum and makes a significant contribution to preparing pupils for life in modern Britain. Learning activities provide fully for the needs of all learners. Pupils will be inspired by the subject and develop a wide range of skills such as enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection, to deepen their understanding of the impact of religion on the world. Christianity is taught as a living and diverse faith, focused on the teachings of Jesus and the Church, alongside a range of religions and worldviews. Religious Education encourages pupils to learn from different religions, beliefs, values and traditions while creating a safe space for them to explore their own beliefs and questions of meaning.

Legal Requirements

As a Voluntary Aided School, at St. John's our governing body determines our RE curriculum, which is in accordance with the school's trust deed and is discussed with the diocese. The school teaches religious education according to the locally agreed syllabus: Awareness, Mystery and Value, The Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education in Somerset <http://www.amvsomerset.org.uk/> drawn up by the standing Advisory Council for Religious Education [SACRE], with additional teaching on Christianity

Section 48 of the 2005 Education Act requires the inspection of religious education in schools which have a religious character. This is the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS)

Managing the right to withdraw

Parents have a right by law to withdraw their children from the Religious Education curriculum. In this event, we will undertake responsibility for their supervision with regard to health and safety. Information on these arrangements are clear on our website. There will always be opportunity for parents to discuss the contents of the RE curriculum should they have concerns.

Aims of RE

- ❖ To enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living faith that influences the lives of people worldwide and as the religion that has most shaped British culture and heritage.
- ❖ To enable pupils to know about and understand other major world religions and world views, their impact on society, culture and the wider world, and to appreciate the diversity, continuity and change within those religions and world views
- ❖ To engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose
- ❖ To contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own beliefs and values.

Teaching and Learning

In line with the Church of England RE Statement of Entitlement [2019] at St. John's we aim to provide:

- ❖ A curriculum that enables pupils to acquire a rich, deep knowledge and understanding of Christian belief and practice
- ❖ A curriculum that draws on the richness and diversity of religious experience worldwide
- ❖ The opportunity for pupils to deepen their understanding of the religion and world views as lived by believers
- ❖ A pedagogy that instils respect for different views and interpretations; and, in which real dialogue and theological enquiry takes place
- ❖ Engaging and varied learning activities that provide for the needs of all learners, supported by high quality resources
- ❖ The opportunity for pupils to develop a wide range of skills including enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection
- ❖ RE that makes a positive contribution to SMSC development and also to pupils' understanding of British values
- ❖ An assessment process which has rigour and demonstrates progression based on knowledge and understanding of core religious concepts

Implementation

- Religious education may be taught in a 'whole class' setting but with flexibility to allow for discussion, questioning and reflection in small groups and individually
- Visits to local churches and other places of worship are encouraged

A variety of teaching approaches are encouraged. Including:

- ❖ Teacher presentations, role play, drama and story telling
- ❖ Questions and answer sessions, discussions and debates
- ❖ Individual and group research
- ❖ Photographs, pictures and maps
- ❖ IT, film, podcasts, radio, websites, to research and communicate ideas.

Curriculum balance and time

Reflecting St John's School's trust deed, Christianity should be the majority religion studied and should be at least 50% of curriculum time. Sufficient dedicated curriculum time, meeting explicitly RE objectives, is given to RE and is no less than 5% in key stages 1 and 2.

Resources

- “Understanding Christianity” – R.E. Today Resource File. Stored in the main Staff Room.
- A.M.V. “Awareness, Mystery and Value” <https://www.amvsomerset.org.uk/>
(The Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education in Somerset)

Monitoring, Evaluation, Assessment, Recording, Reporting

- ❖ Governors have responsibility for monitoring how the RE in the school reflects its Christian vision
- ❖ The headteacher has overall responsibility for monitoring and evaluation.
- ❖ The RE subject leader will assist the headteacher by monitoring long term and medium term plans.
- ❖ The RE subject leader will assist the headteacher by monitoring RE through work scrutinies
- ❖ The subject leader will keep a file of examples of work to demonstrate continuity and progression.
- ❖ The subject leader will manage resources.
- ❖ The subject leader will endeavour to keep up to date with information, initiatives and developments in religious education 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 religious education. Generally, this will be an annual plan and should be informed by this policy.
- ❖ The subject leader will liaise with the Diocesan adviser with responsibility for Religious Education