

Voluntary Aided, Founded in 1834

Religious Education Policy

Together, growing in mind, body and spirit

As a Voluntary Aided school, the teaching and learning of Religious Education is of prime importance. It helps pupils think about themselves in relation to God as revealed in the major faiths, particularly Christianity, their feelings, their relationships and an understanding of themselves as significant, unique and special. It has a vital role in the children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

This policy is intended to ensure consistency across the school of teaching and learning in Religious Education within the context of the school's improvement plan. This policy should be read in conjunction with the school's curriculum, and other aspect policies which provide greater details of the arrangements relating to the teaching and learning of Religious Education. Religious Education will predominantly be taught as a discrete subject with purpose and context linked into the school's overall curriculum and, where possible, the more general creative themes.

All children are included and are given equal access and opportunities to achieve within Religious Education. The governors and staff are committed to providing the full range of opportunities for all pupils, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, social, cultural or religious background. All pupils have access to the curriculum, and the right to a learning environment, which dispels ignorance, prejudice or stereotyping.

Aims

The principal aims in the teaching of Religious Education in Coulsdon C of E Primary School are to;

- develop knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith (and the Anglican tradition).
- apply an understanding of Christianity, reflect on what the religious ideas and concepts mean to them, and make reasoned choices and informed responses to life issues and moral choices
- acquire knowledge of and develop understanding of other religions, and the ability to engage in dialogue with other faiths
- apply an understanding of religion to develop sensitivity and respect toward all people
- develop the ability to reflect on and communicate issues of truth, belief and faith.

Agreed Practice

Religious Education at Coulsdon is determined by the Governing Body, and delivered in line with the Guidelines offered by the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education in accordance with national requirements. Medium and long term planning is based on the Southwark Diocese Scheme of Work 2016 which is found on <https://education.southwark.anglican.org/>.

The Programmes of Study for Religious Education incorporate two components:

Attainment Target 1: Learning about Religion Attainment Target 2: Learning from Religion

Strands of learning focus on:-

AT1: beliefs, teachings & sources: forms of expression: practices & ways of life

AT2: identity & belonging: meaning, purpose & truth: values & commitments

Christianity is studied in depth through the EYFS and both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, and given two thirds of the teaching time.

Pupils will also be introduced to aspects of the beliefs and practices of Judaism and Hinduism in KS1 and Judaism, Islam, Sikhism and Buddhism in KS2. (See Appendix 1: RE Themes – Overview). Aspects of other faiths may also be included where they naturally occur in cross-curricular work.

Skills and knowledge should be developed in a variety of ways e.g. discussion, art, music, dance, drama, writing, times of stillness and quiet reflection, exploring artefacts, pictures and photographs, videos, visiting local places of worship, talking with members of other faiths.

EYFS: Knowledge and skills in RE will be learnt through the SDBE units in line with the school's overview. The learning will also thread through areas of the EYFS curriculum, particularly Understanding of the World.

Time Allocation

The recommended 5% of overall teaching time is allocated to Religious Education.
RE is taught by class teachers or those teaching regularly in the class.

Enrichment Opportunities

Each class will make a visit to a place of worship, and are encouraged to invite visitors to the school.
The school will make use of organizations (e.g. Barnabas Trust) to enhance RE provision.

Classroom environment

Please refer to Learning Environment Guidelines for advice on class spiritual areas and display.

Assessment and Reporting

(Please refer to the school Assessment Policy).

Monitoring / Review and Development

Religious Education will be monitored and reviewed by the subject leader/Head Teacher and the school's Faith Group, and in discussion with pupils, staff and parents. It also forms part of the school's Statutory Inspection of Church Schools (SIAMS) document.

Areas for development will feed into the priorities in the School's Annual Improvement Plan.

Health and Safety

Refer to the school's Health and Safety Policy

Parents and Religious Education

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from Religious Education on the grounds of conscience. However, we strongly encourage parents to contact the Head Teacher if they have concerns and/or anxieties about policy, provision and practice of Religious Education at Coulsdon C of E Primary School.

Signed: Lisa Tansley

Signed: 

Date: June 2023

Review date: June 2025