

# SFSM RE Policy



# **'Behold how good and how pleasant it is for us to dwell together in unity (Psalm 133:1)**

## **'We are a team that achieve amazing things everyday'**

*This policy should be read in conjunction with other policies in schools including: SMSC, Collective Worship, PSHE, Teaching and Learning, Assessment, Marking and Feedback and other curriculum policies.*

### **The Purpose of RE at SFSM Church of England School**

We teach RE as a core part of our school curriculum to help our pupils develop their religious literacy. We understand religion to be:

'Our pupils' ability to hold balanced and well-informed conversations about religion and world views'.

### **The Aims of RE at SFSM Church of England Junior School**

Through RE at SFSM Church of England Junior School we meet the legal requirements of:

- 1) The basic curriculum including provision for RE for all registered pupils.
- 2) The content of RE reflecting the fact that the religious traditions of Great Britain are, in the main, Christian; it must also reflect the teaching and practices of the other principal religious traditions represented in Great Britain.
- 3) The RE curriculum provided being in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus for Lincolnshire.

We deliver RE in accordance with the Church of England Education Office's Statement of Entitlement.

Within this framework, our aims in RE are for pupils to:

- Acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and a range of world faiths and worldwide views;
- Develop an understanding of the ways in which religious and non-religious beliefs, teachings, practices, values and traditions influence individuals, communities, societies and cultures from the local to the global context;
- Develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues, with reference to the beliefs, teachings, practices, sources of authority and ways of living associated with the principle religions represented in the UK;
- Develop positive attitudes of mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs;
- Enhance their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development by:
  - Considering the 'big questions' raised by human experience and reflecting on how religious and other traditions respond to them;

- Responding to such questions with reference to religious beliefs, teachings, practices, values and traditions, relating to their own understanding and experience;
- Reflecting on their own beliefs, values and experiences in light of their study of religious and other traditions.

### **The Context**

SFSM Church of England Junior School is a large urban school for children in the age range of 7-11. We work to the Lincolnshire Locally Agreed Syllabus.

As a Church of England School, we recognise the core place that RE occupies as part of a broad and balanced curriculum. We also understand the contribution of effective RE to our journey towards realising our school's distinctively Christian vision.

We recognise the variety of religious and non-religious backgrounds that make up our school community and we respect this variety of backgrounds in the spirit of Christian welcome. We are glad to have good relationships with faith practitioners from a range of world faiths and we value their contribution to our provision of effective RE.

We actively seek to prepare our pupils for life in modern Britain. As such, we promote key British values, including respect for and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We challenge racism and all forms of prejudice and we see RE as one curriculum area in which our pupils can encounter and critically reflect on a range of world views.

### **Time Allocation**

It is the expectation of the Church of England Office that RE should constitute a minimum of 5% curriculum time. This is in line with the recommendation made by the Dearing Report (1994). We meet this expectation by providing the minimum time of 45 hours per year for KS2. This time is arranged in a range of ways including discrete weekly lessons and RE days.

**RE curriculum time does not include collective worship.**

## **Schemes of Work and Planning**

Our RE scheme of work is based on the Lincolnshire locally agreed syllabus [and can be provided on request] and we base our work on Christianity on units from the Understanding Christianity Scheme which is approved by the diocese.

Within our scheme of work, the principle religions studied will be Christianity, Islam and Hinduism. It is not expected that pupils will study all six major world religions in depth during their time at St Faith & St Martin Church of England Junior School, although they will have learning opportunities that allow them to encounter all these faiths. It is expected that pupils will also encounter non-religious worldviews, such as Humanism, as part of their RE curriculum.

We carry out planning for RE in three phases (long-term, medium-term and short-term). The long-term plan maps the sequence of learning in RE; the medium-term plan gives details of each unit of study. The planning for each individual lesson is created by the class teacher. Annual monitoring of these is conducted by the RE subject lead as part of the annual monitoring of teaching and learning in RE.

## **Teaching and Learning**

OFSTED guidance encourages a range of teaching and learning styles in RE; our policy is to aim to ensure enquiry, art, drama, thinking skills, speaking and listening activities, multisensory activities, visits/visitors, ICT and other teaching strategies are used in order to enable each child to progress in RE according to their individual needs. We identify RE as one of the core subjects through which our pupils can develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, but we do not limit the delivery of SMSC to this subject alone. We teach to the attainment targets of the Lincolnshire locally agreed syllabus for RE and follow the guidance of the Lincoln Diocesan Board of Education in relation to assessment of progress and attainment in RE. We provide an annual report on each child's attainment in RE. This report will be based on regular monitoring of work in RE using a variety of methods including, verbal feedback and written comments on individual pieces of work.

## **Resources**

St Faith & St Martin Church of England Junior School has invested in a wide range of appropriate books, artefacts, etc, and the RE Subject Leader audits these resources annually. We take advice from the Diocesan RE Advisor and other RE professionals on the best resources to support the delivery of high-quality RE.

### **Visits and Visitors**

We consider that an essential element of the delivery of good quality RE is encounter with a range of religious and non-religious worldviews. We encourage our pupils to participate in visits to places of worship when the opportunity arises; these visits are arranged in line with the programme of study for RE and provide pupils with the chance to encounter world religions as living faiths in modern Britain. We also encourage faith leaders and other members of faith communities to visit St Faith & St Martin Church of England Junior School. These visits are arranged in accordance with the school's trips policy.

### **Supporting All Learners**

Whole school policy with regards to SEND and differentiation applies to RE. Teachers ensure that the learning activities employed in RE are differentiated to meet the variety of learning needs. We teach RE to all pupils, whatever their ability or individual needs. RE forms part of our commitment to provide a broad and balanced education to all children. Through our RE teaching, we provide learning opportunities that enable all pupils to make good progress. We strive to meet the needs of all pupils and we take reasonable steps to achieve this. For further details, see separate school policies.

### **Inspection**

The effectiveness of RE is inspected as part of the Section 48 SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools). St Faith & St Martin Church of England Junior School is a VC school. As such, progress and attainment in RE is not inspected as a distinct element of the Section 48 SIAMS inspection. It is the responsibility of the RE Subject Lead to review and maintain evidence for the RE elements of this inspection, with appropriate support from the head teacher, governors and Diocesan RE Adviser.

### **Monitoring and Review**

We intend that this policy should operate for the next 2 years, and then be fully reviewed by staff and governors. The RE Subject Leader will monitor delivery of RE during each academic year to ensure the policy is being appropriately implemented. Their role is to support and hold accountable all members of staff involved in the delivery of RE.

The RE Subject Leader must evaluate their own leadership of the subject during each academic year. Using a self-evaluation tool, such as the school evaluation form for the RE Quality Mark, the RE Subject Leader, must work with their line manager to ensure that leadership of RE remains a high priority and is of high quality.

## **Withdrawal from RE**

We acknowledge the right of parents/guardians to withdraw their children from RE lessons and of teachers to withdraw from teaching the subject. We acknowledge that parents/guardians/teachers do not need to provide a reason why they wish to withdraw from the subject. Should a parent/guardian wish to withdraw their child from RE lessons or a teacher wish to refuse to teach RE, we require that written notice be sent to the head teacher.

Should a parent/guardian request that their child be withdrawn from RE, we will endeavour to communicate clearly the place of RE within a broad and balanced curriculum to ensure that they are in possession of all the necessary information before confirming their decision. However, we will not attempt to persuade them to alter their decision. If a pupil is withdrawn from RE lessons, the school is required to provide supervision, but should not incur any additional costs in so doing.

Any queries regarding withdrawal from RE should be directed to the RE Subject Leader in the first instance, and thereafter to the head teacher.

This policy has been adopted by the Governors in consultation with the RE subject lead and teaching staff. It will be reviewed January 2025.