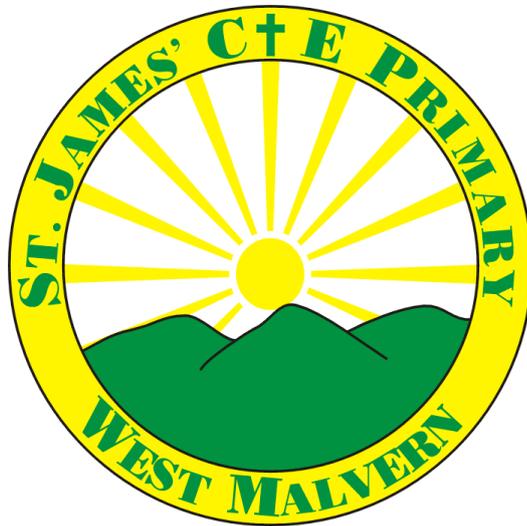


St. James' CE Primary School



Learning Together: Caring Together

Religious Education Policy

Policy Reviewed: February 2016

Date Approved by Governing Body: February 2016

Review Date: February 2019

ST. JAMES' CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Policy for Religious Education

Our Mission Statement

We are a safe and happy school, where we are encouraged to make responsible choices for our learning and our community; now and in our later lives.

We achieve this by:

- Providing a lively and challenging environment
- Allowing everyone to be adventurous in their learning
- Putting the needs of every learner at the heart of our curriculum
- Encouraging independence and respect for others
- Expecting everyone to develop an understanding of Christian values.

St. James' CE Primary School's motto is 'Learning Together: Caring Together.'

The School's Christian (Caring) Values are based on Galatians 5:21-22:

'For the Fruit of the Spirit is: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Gentleness, Faithfulness and Self Control.'

St. James' CE Primary School

POLICY FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Overview

At St. James' CE Primary School we will help all children to develop an understanding of the place that religion plays in people's lives and how it has influenced history and the growth and development of society.

We will use the Worcester Diocese Agreed Syllabus to underpin our scheme of work and will establish meaningful links with the other subjects of the curriculum.

Our aim is to ignite a curiosity to learn about religion that will help children understand about faiths, beliefs and how religion has influenced both the development of mankind and the society in which we live.

We encourage our children to explore all our Christian (Caring) Values during RE lessons. We want our children to develop a deep understanding of how our values are fundamental principles of the Christian faith and other faiths through our RE lessons.

Aims

The principle aim of RE is to engage pupils in systematic enquiry into significant human questions addressed by religion and world views. It allows them to develop the understanding and skills needed to appreciate and appraise varied responses to these questions, as well as develop responses of their own. Children will:

- a. Know about and understand a range of religions and world views.
- b. Express ideas and insights about the nature, significance and impact of religions and worldviews.
- c. Gain and deploy the skills needed to engage seriously with religions and world views.

(Worcestershire Agreed syllabus for Religious Education 2015–2020)

How we teach RE:

1. We will use the Worcestershire Agreed Syllabus (2015–2020).

2. Children will be taught Religious Education in their class, by a qualified teacher every week.
3. We will begin the teaching of Religious Education in Foundation Stage using the Worcestershire Agreed Syllabus. At this stage children begin developing their knowledge, skills and understanding of the world through a variety of hands-on experiences.
4. As the children move into Key Stage 1 they will build on their earlier work as the Agreed Syllabus continues to provide the guidelines for teaching and learning. Children will learn about Christianity and Judaism in KS1.
5. Strong links will be made with the teaching of Literacy. Stories, plays and poems from the Bible and other religious and moral sources will be shared with the children.
6. Religious Education will become a stimulus and a springboard for the development of speaking and listening skills, writing and for the development of higher order thinking and reasoning skills.
7. As they move in to Key Stage Two the children will learn about Christianity and the other major faiths and world views, as set out in the Agreed Syllabus. These include Islam, Hinduism and other world views, such as Humanism are considered.
8. Art, design technology, drama will be closely linked with Religious Education as children use these subjects to communicate what they have learnt.
9. On every appropriate occasion teachers will use first-hand experience, visits, visitors, artefacts, ICT and the local and wider environment to engage children's interest and imagination.
10. Through their understanding of different faiths and beliefs children will be encouraged to develop their feelings, empathy and understanding for others.
11. Through their understanding of Religious Education, learners will be helped to develop an understanding of fundamental British values.
12. Children will learn about the influence of religion, faith and belief on democracy, government, monarchy, citizenship, and the law. They will learn about rights and responsibilities and about moral, spiritual, social and environmental issues in conjunction with our PSHEC teaching (including 'Philosophy for Children').
13. We will allocate financial resources to build up an extensive collection of artefacts and books to support the teaching of Religious Education.

Outcomes

We will strive to ensure that Religious Education at St. James' is engaging and stimulating; it will be used to promote excellence and enjoyment. Religious Education will have a strong presence in the ethos of the school through displays, performances, music, drama and assemblies.

Families and the wider school community will be encouraged to participate in the teaching and learning of Religious Education through involvement in visits, home learning activities and encouragement of visitors in school. Through careful planning we will make Britain and the world our classroom.

Children will be taught knowledge, skills and understanding through the use of thematic units. As they achieve the different outcomes, teachers will highlight and make notes using the End of Key Stage outcomes in their planning files. Teachers will assess the children as either 'Emerging', 'Expected' or 'Exceeding' based on their understanding of the units they have been learning about. This runs parallel to our school assessment system for core subjects – 'Beginning, 'Developing' and 'Secure'.

We expect children to achieve as well in RE as they do in other subjects across the curriculum. RE lessons have a high priority because they teach the children to develop key skills such as respect, responsibility and reflection. We encourage the children to look out at our world, to reflect on how their learning can make a difference to their own lives and to the lives of others.