



St Francis
CofE Primary School



Religious Education Policy

Version Number	V1
Date Adopted by Governors	February 2025
Scheduled Review Date	February 2027
Statutory or Best Practice Policy	Best Practice
School or Trust Policy	School

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Christian Distinctiveness

At St Francis Church of England Primary school, our Christian vision is ‘Every person matters, every person helps, every person succeeds so that we can live life in all its fullness’. This is based on the Church of England’s vision for education with the promise by Jesus of “life in all its fullness” at it’s heart.

Aims and purpose of the policy

The aim of teaching RE at St Francis’ is to support and challenge pupils to reflect upon, develop and affirm their own beliefs. Also, the teaching promotes their values and attitudes and those of others through an exploration of shared human experiences and to understand the place and significance of religion in the contemporary world. We have made our scheme of work, which is in accordance with the Cornwall Agreed syllabus 2020, relevant, exciting, thought provoking and accessible to all our children.

In addition, as a Church of England primary school, we give the teaching of Christianity a greater emphasis than the teaching of other religions and to make clear the links with Church of England teaching and practice.

Related policies

The following polices should be read in conjunction with this policy:

- Behaviour policy
- RSE policy
- PHSE policy
- Equality policy
- Collective Worship Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Progression in Spirituality Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding policy

1. The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of children

The 1988 Education Reform act requires schools to promote the spiritual, moral and cultural development of pupils and the school and in society through the provision of a broad and balanced curriculum. At St Francis, RE plays an important role, along with all of the other curriculum areas. What we learn about others and ourselves in RE and across the curriculum we apply in our daily lives.

2. The implementation of the agreed syllabus on RE and St Francis’ approach:

Despite our Anglican status, there are no presumptions made as to the religious backgrounds, beliefs and values of the children. All staff are expected to work together to achieve our aims, guided by our mission statement. Some are Christians from a variety of denominations. We value the religious background of all members of the school community and hope that this will encourage individuals to share their own experiences with others freely.

All religions and their communities are treated with respect and sensitivity and we value the links that can be made between home, school and a faith community. We acknowledge that each religion studied can contribute to the education of all of our pupils. We promote teaching in RE that stresses open enquiry and first hand experiences wherever possible for both staff and children. The syllabus is implemented by means of a sensory approach, where children may look at and handle religious artefacts, hear music or taste food from a religious tradition.

3. Content of Religious Education curriculum

The content draws on the Cornwall Agreed Syllabus 2020 and is set out in modules. The following are studied:

- Christianity (this is taken from the highly comprehensive 'Understanding Christianity' resource)
- Judaism
- Hinduism
- Islam
- Thematic units that focus on previous learning complete by the children

In addition to this, the school's values-based approach is underpinned each half term with a values day which is illustrated through a deep theological study of a biblical text.

4. Time allocation

RE is taught in every class on a weekly basis. It takes up a minimum of 1 hour of curriculum time per week.

5. Teaching and resources:

Learning in RE may be by means of direct whole class teaching or in smaller groups, by providing direct hands-on experience with RE resources, teacher prepared materials, stories, poetry, drama, trips and visitors. A range of reference materials for Religious Education are available comprising books, curriculum resources, online materials and website links. There are also posters and artefact boxes. Staff are aware of useful websites such as www.request.org.uk and also www.curriculumkernewek.org.uk

In addition, the school has close link with All Saints' Church in Falmouth and utilises the expertise of the leaders within the church as well as those in other denominational churches in the area.

6. Links with other subjects

RE has links with other areas of the curriculum such as English, Science, History and Art. It also has links with the way in which the school organises its collective worship. There are very close links with the school's PSHE curriculum which is taught weekly and encourages the

children to be reflective about their own thoughts and opinions as well as embrace values which are important to them.

7. Withdrawal from RE

It is recognised that parents have the right to withdraw their child from RE in its entirety or in part. If a parent chooses to withdraw their child from RE then arrangements are made by the class teacher in consultation with the Headteacher.

8. The Religious Education leader

Miss Harris is the leader for RE and is responsible for the development of the subject across the school. She is responsible for helping staff to plan RE for a particular class, monitoring planning and what is taught in RE by spending time in classrooms, looking at children's work and talking to pupils. The leader is also responsible for purchase and storage of all RE resources. She works closely in her role with the Senior Leadership Team. Miss Harris attends training courses on new initiatives and updates on the subject and provides staff training for all teachers.

9. Pupil Voice in RE

Our Worship Leaders group play an active role in leading worship throughout the school in our assemblies. Worship Leaders also evaluate the impact of collective worship. In class learning forums each half term, pupils are consulted about how they feel about their RE learning and their opinions are a key part of our school review process.

10. Monitoring and evaluation:

The RE curriculum is monitored and evaluated regularly through learning walks, planning, learning scrutinies and conversations with both children and staff. The effectiveness of any INSET for Religious Education provided from within the school or by an external agency is evaluated either by means of a written evaluation or by verbal feedback.

11. Policy review

This policy is reviewed annually.