



Policy for Religious Education (RE) in St Giles CE Academy



Introduction

RE is central to the purpose of **St Giles CE Academy** because as a church school we see that the Christian faith informs all aspects of our life together and commits us to a search for truth.

RE in **St Giles CE Academy** explores how individuals and communities make meaning and sense of their lives through the major religions of the world as well non-religious worldviews. It enables pupils to know about, understand and respond to the important and ultimate questions of life. RE is taught in such a way that it inspires pupils to explore, develop and affirm their own faith and values and have respect for the faith, beliefs and values of others. It is not the practice of this school to preach to or seek to convert children. Values education permeates the RE curriculum at **St Giles CE Academy**.

Aims

At this school, RE supports and strengthens the vision, ethos and values which are at the heart of what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. The importance placed on the development of the whole child: spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in the RE curriculum.

Specifically, RE aims to enable pupils of all abilities and stages of development to:

1. Develop knowledge and understanding of the Christian beliefs and practices so that they understand the importance of the Bible, the role of the church and recognise that for Christians their faith provides a way of interpreting life and its meaning.
2. Develop knowledge and understanding of the beliefs and practices of some of the other principal religions in Britain.
3. Understand how belief may impact on culture, relationships, values and lifestyle.
4. Understand how belief can be expressed in a variety of ways including art, dance, music, ritual celebration and in different cultural settings.
5. Develop spiritually, morally, culturally and socially by helping them to reflect upon personal feelings, responses and relationships.
6. Explore ways in which religious values and teaching have an impact on actions and decisions for people of faith.
7. Be supported in their own search for meaning and purpose in life.
8. Develop a sense of awe, wonder and mystery.
9. Explore concepts of love, forgiveness and sacrifice.
10. Develop skills of reflection, empathy, communication, analysis, investigation, interpretation, evaluation and synthesis.
11. Develop attitudes of respect, sensitivity, open mindedness and self-esteem.



Legal Framework

In an aided school the governors determine the RE policy and syllabus in consultation with the headteacher, teaching staff and diocesan adviser. Parents have a legal right to withdraw their children from religious education lessons, but as RE is central to the life and identity of **St Giles CE Academy** we would ask parents to discuss with the headteacher any reasons they might have for doing this.

Teaching and Learning

1. The scheme of work for RE will maintain a balance between the two attainment targets: learning about religions and learning from religions
2. There will be clear learning outcomes for all units of work, based on the appropriate expectations/levels as set out in the RE syllabus.
3. The scheme of work (Understanding Christianity and locally agreed syllabus taught through Natre Resources and planning) will ensure that there is continuity and progression for pupils and opportunities for assessment in both attainment targets.
4. A range of teaching and learning activities will ensure that pupils learn effectively and with interest.
5. Pupil progress and attainment in RE will be tracked and recorded termly and the school will keep an up to date portfolio of evidence to support assessment data.
6. Progress in RE will form part of the pupils' annual report to parents.
7. RE will be taught either as a discrete subject or as part of a cross curricular approach where appropriate.
8. A range of visitors will be invited to support the teaching of RE, and where possible, there will be planned visits to places of worship.
9. In this school, the faiths taught in RE are Christianity (50%) as well as Judaism, Hinduism and Islam. Non-religious worldviews will be taught and considered throughout.
10. RE will be given at least 5% of the curriculum time.

Assessment & Recording

At St Giles Academy, the curriculum is assessed and evidenced through the children's Religious Education books (Reception and Key Stage One to have a class book in which they record evidence), in which, children answer the 'Big Question' for the lesson. Any marking in RE books must be reflective of the 'Big Question' not the accuracy of spellings/grammar. Coverage of RE education is monitored on a Curriculum Overview Mapping document. Subject Leaders use pupil voice to ascertain the depth of impact of the religious education curriculum and to inform



future planning. RE is monitored throughout all year groups using a variety of strategies including book scrutinies and pupil interviews.

Subject Leadership

1. The RE subject leader will support and monitor the subject and will receive an adequate budget to do this.
2. The RE subject leader will ensure that his/her subject knowledge and expertise are kept up to date by means of regular training
3. The RE subject leader will ensure that staff receive adequate training in the teaching and assessment of RE.
4. The RE subject leader will regularly monitor the quality of RE teaching across the school.
5. The RE subject leader will liaise with the governor who holds responsibility for RE and they will report regularly to the governing body on progress and attainment in RE.
6. The RE subject leader and headteacher will ensure that the principles set out the Church of England's Statement of Entitlement for RE are implemented.