



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

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RE Policy

Aim

This policy outlines the way in which we teach Religious Education (RE) at The Coombes Church of England Primary School.

Ethos

This School has a Christian foundation and our vision and values are based on this. We seek to achieve academic excellence and provide the good conditions described by Jesus Christ in the parable of the sower where each child can grow and thrive. We aim to see each child grow in character, confidence and understanding, grow in appreciation of who they are and acquire the skills needed to succeed in a changing world.

The Coombes vision is about growing. Here we grow to

Love learning

Be the best we can

Respect and care for each other

Serve our community

Look after our environment

The Coombes uses the following Christian Values to guide the children and staff;

Compassion Wisdom Respect Forgiveness Perseverance Responsibility

This vision must be 'lived out' by the children and the staff during each lesson. Below are examples of how our Christian Values can drive the planning and teaching pedagogy of our adults

<i>Christian Values in Practice</i>	
<i>Value</i>	<i>Practice</i>
<i>Compassion</i>	Teachers will plan to ensure that all children understand compassion and how this is the foundation to religions around the world.
<i>Wisdom</i>	Teachers will plan a knowledge rich curriculum which will allow children to learn about and make connections between religions of the world. They will also learn how to use knowledge to inform decisions which leads to wisdom.
<i>Respect</i>	By learning about all religions, children will respect others' beliefs and be able to talk respectfully about them. They will also learn how to treat those with other faiths respectfully.
<i>Forgiveness</i>	Children will learn about how forgiveness is shown in different religions, and be inspired to show forgiveness to others.
<i>Perseverance</i>	Teachers will plan work which challenges all children and provides the opportunity for children to work hard and value effort.
<i>Responsibility</i>	Teachers will plan to ensure all children understand their responsibility in applying our values to different religions and how their actions have an impact on those around them.

Our Aim

We strive to ensure our pupils will receive high quality learning opportunities which engage pupils in learning about World Religions. Religious Education is a compulsory subject to which every pupil should have access.

Our Principles

Our RE policy is a statement of our beliefs on:

- How RE is taught across the school
- The programme of work our curriculum follows
- Our assessment procedures
- Monitoring of RE teaching

How RE is taught at The Coombes C of E School

The Coombes C of E School follows the recommended time allocation for R.E., which is 1 hour per week for Key Stage 1 and 1 ¼ hours for Key Stage 2.

We believe R.E. provides children with opportunities to:

- *Develop conceptual understanding of Christianity and other world faiths, and their religious beliefs and practices* – in order that they can begin to engage in informed reflection and discussion about religions and religion.
- *Develop an informed appreciation of religions* – in order that they can explore their own religious identity, appreciate other religions with openness, interest and enjoyment.
- *Value religious and cultural diversity* – in order to enhance their social and cultural development and to contribute to a more just and civil society.
- *Create meaning from their knowledge and understanding of religions*– in order to enquire through asking and discussing questions and enhance their spiritual and moral development.
- *Develop an awareness of the richness of religions, their teachings and their contributions to society and culture* – in order that they can make increasingly mature judgements about the world in which they live.
- *Recognise commonality and difference within and between religions* – in order to develop respect, openness and curiosity.
- *Develop a sensitive understanding of the significance of religious commitment and practice in the lives of individuals* – in order that they might develop respect for individuals and their right to hold beliefs that are different from their own.

R.E. does not seek to place religious beliefs on children or to undermine their own beliefs by promoting one faith tradition over another. Within the school, R.E. is separate and distinct from Collective Worship

In line with our Teaching and Learning policy, we encourage a range of resources and teaching methods to be used including: DVDs/online clips, books, artefacts, music, drama and ICT.

We believe that all children have the right to access the RE curriculum so teachers are also expected to consider appropriate scaffolding or differentiation to ensure all pupils can access their learning in RE and have appropriate support to help them. In order to ensure that all

children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) achieve to the best of their ability, it may be necessary to adapt the RE curriculum for some pupils (please see SEN policy). We believe that good R.E. teaching draws upon the children's own experiences and presents religions as living faiths so where possible, visits to places of worship occur and visitors are invited to talk about their faith.

The Foundation Stage (EYFS)

It is important in the foundation stage to give children a broad, play based experience of RE in a range of contexts, including where possible outdoor play. Children in Early Years are taught RE in line with the 'Understanding the world' strand of the EYFS 2020 Framework.

The Coombes RE Curriculum

The school follows the National Curriculum requirements for teaching R.E. The Oxford Diocesan Board of Education (ODBE) recommends that Church Aided schools follow the Wokingham Agreed Syllabus, which is available for all Wokingham LA schools.

All units of work are planned using the 'Discovery' scheme of work. This scheme has been written to follow the Agreed Syllabus and involves studying Christianity, Judaism, Sikhism, Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam. The units of work about Islam are optional within the Agreed Syllabus, but have been included, as this reflects the faith background of many of our pupils. Each term, the scheme outlines units of work based on key questions and learning objectives.

Coverage of religions and concepts can be found on the RE Breadth Map that teachers follow to ensure effective coverage and progression within the teaching of RE topics.

At the beginning of a topic, teachers also share an RE Knowledge Organiser with pupils which outlines key vocabulary and knowledge that will be covered in the unit and is referenced throughout lessons.

Assessment Procedures

During the course of the academic year pupils carry out a variety of assessment tasks to provide a good evidence base of pupil attainment. This is used to contribute to a school portfolio with samples of R.E. assessments, tasks and pupil work. Teacher assessments are recorded on Target Tracker.

Monitoring RE

The RE subject leader will share their subject statement which outlines their Intent, Implementation and Impact of their leadership of RE with all members of staff. The RE subject leader will also outline their subject development in an action plan, which will also detail a calendar of monitoring opportunities. They will feedback their findings to teachers, the Senior Leadership Team and Governors.

During the year, it is intended that the R.E. subject leader should monitor learning by looking at pupil work, interviewing pupils and learning walks.

Through monitoring, the subject leader will:

- Ensure there is clear progression of concepts and knowledge throughout the school
- Analyse assessment data and pupil progress
- Identify any training needs and offer additional support, guidance or professional development to staff where appropriate
- Ensure there are suitable resources available to engage and support the teaching of RE

Right to withdraw

According to the Education Act 1996 and the School Standards and Framework Act 1988 parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of Religious Education lessons. Parents should discuss this with the Headteacher.