



Otterbourne Church of England Primary School

Subject: Religious Education

Statement of Intention, Implementation and Impact

Intention:

At Otterbourne Primary School, we believe that it is important for all our pupils to learn from and about religion, so that they can have a better understanding of the world around them.

The aim of Religious Education in our school is to help children to acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and the other principal religions represented in Great Britain. We also are dedicated to helping our children appreciate the way that religious beliefs shape the lives and behaviour of millions of people in the world, including both adults and children in our school. We seek to develop the children's ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues and to enhance their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. We also want to foster an ethos of empathy, understanding and inclusiveness as a reflection of our school Christian values and the work in particular of our Pupil Parliament and Diversity and Worship Councils.

Religious Education is taught throughout the school in such a way as to enhance the overall aims, values, and ethos we share.

It plays a very important role, along with all other curriculum areas (particularly PSHE), in promoting social awareness and understanding in our children. We encourage our pupils to ask questions about the world and to reflect on their own beliefs, values and experiences. We want our children to be able to take valuable life lessons away from the teachings of the Bible and other holy literature, which are applicable to people of all faiths and none.

Our curriculum is designed to encourage creativity, imagination, enquiry, debate, discussion and independence.

Implementation:

At Otterbourne Primary School we use the curriculum taken from the Locally Agreed Syllabus for Hampshire: 'Living Difference IV', and from the Nationally Agreed Syllabus: 'Understanding Christianity'.

We use 'Living Difference IV' for our topics which cover faiths other than Christianity and we use Understanding Christianity for those topics centred on aspects of Christianity.

In Foundation Stage and KS1, children are required to learn about Christianity and one other faith and at Otterbourne we use Hinduism as our other faith. In LKS2, children are required to learn about Christianity and two other faiths and we teach topics on both Christianity and Judaism. In UKS2 we teach topics on Christianity and Islam.

There are no presumptions made as to the religious backgrounds and beliefs and values of the children and the staff. 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 which are made between home, school, and the local faith community. We are extremely fortunate that members of the local church, St Matthew's, regularly visit our school.

All RE units explore a big idea or concept. Each concept is explored using a 5- step cycle:

- ❖ communicate
- ❖ apply
- ❖ inquire
- ❖ contextualise
- ❖ evaluate

This cycle encourages children to think more deeply and to share their own experience. Key knowledge is revisited throughout the year and links to prior learning is emphasised with a regular revision of religious vocabulary.

RE teaching is currently recorded in RE books which follow the children through the school. Photographic evidence is also widely used.

As the children progress through the school, the Pillars of our Curriculum are constantly highlighted and are embedded in our long-term RE plans. These promote opportunities for a broader look at RE concepts and ideas and how they can impact our own lives. Children will become more aware of the need to look after our planet through our pillar of 'Sustainability and Change' and they will learn to be more respectful and inclusive of others through our pillar of 'Diversity and Equality'. Children are also encouraged to be more reflective, which is taught through our pillar of 'Aspiration and Well-Being.' Links are made to our school Christian values and the British values of mutual tolerance and respect.

Religious Education is taught on a weekly basis in each year group and mixed year group classes.

Lessons are planned and delivered in a variety of ways so that all children can participate fully. Interactive, practical activities linked to the themes in the curriculum, and to other subjects where appropriate, encourage our pupils to discuss their ideas and extend their understanding of difficult concepts and challenging questions.

Impact:

We want our children to have thoroughly enjoyed their learning experiences in RE so that when they leave Otterbourne Primary School they have a deeper understanding of both Christianity and other world religions as well as their own place in the world. We want them to be able to encounter with tolerance the ideas of others and to have been given the tools needed to begin to form and develop their own ideas about life and the world beyond.

The challenges of the RE curriculum mean that children become confident to engage with people who think differently to themselves and are able to articulate the reasons behind their own beliefs.

We would like the children to have a good understanding of the Christian faith through a growing knowledge of the Bible. Our children will leave Otterbourne Primary School showing respect and inclusivity towards others (Diversity and Equality) and will have a keen sense of the importance of caring for our planet (Sustainability and Change). The core Christian values that Otterbourne Primary School upholds will serve as an integral part of the children's moral compass as they move on from Otterbourne and out into the wider world. Children are encouraged to develop as citizens and to make a positive contribution to the wider world

We measure the impact of our RE curriculum through regular observations and assessments:

- Key knowledge and skills are assessed against the inquiry cycle
- Observations of the children's attitudes towards, and reflections on, their RE learning are made over time
- Children have the opportunity to discuss their understanding and tolerance of the world around them
- RE books and photographic evidence are used to show the children's progress, and the books follow the children as they move up the school

The subject leader is able to highlight strengths and achievements and any improvements, knowledge and skills that still need to be embedded.

Religious Education at Otterbourne Primary School aims to enhance pupils' awareness and understanding of religions and beliefs, teachings, practices and forms of expression and to develop their ability to reflect on, consider, analyse, interpret and evaluate issues of truth, belief, faith and ethics and to communicate their responses sensitively.

We are proud to offer opportunities for all pupils for personal reflection and spiritual development and a greater preparedness for life in a multi-cultural, global society where they can exist peacefully with others, living life to the full.