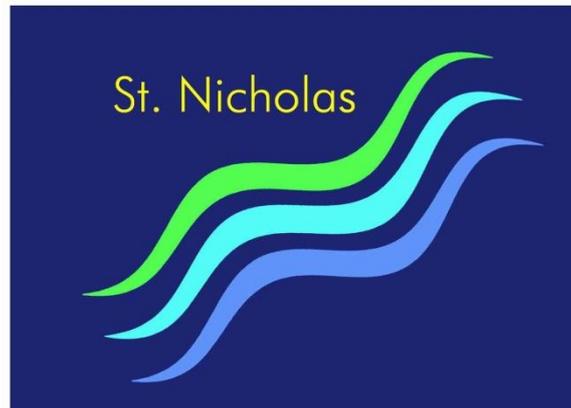


# St Nicholas CE Primary School

*'Joyful is the person who finds wisdom' Proverbs 3:13-15*



**Approved by:** St Nicholas CE Primary School Governing Body **Date:** September 2020

**Last reviewed on:** September 2020

**Next review due by:** September 2021

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# St Nicholas Church of England Primary School

## Religious Education Policy

This policy should be taken and used as part of St Nicholas Church of England Primary School's overall strategy and implemented within the context of our vision, instrument of government aims and values as a Church of England school.

In our school our Christian vision shapes all we do.

*'Joyful is the person who finds wisdom' Proverbs 3:13-15*

'At St Nicholas we nurture and encourage one another to be life long learners to do all the good we can, to all the people we can, wherever we are.'

Our Values;

- Compassion
- Endurance
- Hope
- Trust
- Forgiveness
- Koinonia (community)

Our Community aims to:

- To promote respect and understanding for all
- To encourage each other
- To reach our potential
- To embrace our differences
- To develop resilience
- To inspire
- To foster creativity
- To have empathy
- To strengthen our school community and engage with the wider world. (Koinonia)

'Religious education in a Church school should enable every child to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate for dignity and respect encouraging all to live life well together.'

RE Statement of Entitlement from the Church of England Education Office Feb 2019

## **Policy Statement**

Religious Education (RE) has a very high profile within the St Nicholas CE Primary School curriculum and makes a significant contribution to preparing pupils for life in modern Britain. Learning activities provide fully for the needs of all learners. Pupils will be inspired by the subject and develop a wide range of skills such as enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection, to deepen their understanding of the impact of religion on the world. Christianity is taught as a living and diverse faith, focused on the teachings of Jesus and the Church, alongside a range of religions and worldviews. Religious Education encourages pupils to learn from different religions, beliefs, values and traditions while creating a safe space for them to explore their own beliefs and questions of meaning.

## **Legal Requirements**

As a Voluntary Controlled (VC) School, at St Nicholas we are required to follow the locally agreed syllabus Awareness, Mystery and Values, (<http://www.awarenessmysteryvalue.org/>) drawn up by the standing Advisory Council for Religious Education [SACRE] for Bath and North East Somerset, North Somerset, Bristol and the London Borough of Haringey.

Section 48 of the 2005 Education Act requires the inspection of religious education in schools which have a religious character. This is the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS)

## **Manging the right to withdraw**

Parents have a right by law to withdraw their children from the Religious Education curriculum. In this event, we will undertake responsibility for their supervision with regard to health and safety. Information on these arrangements are clear on our website. There will always be opportunity for parents to discuss the contents of the RE curriculum should they have concerns.

## **Aims of RE**

- To enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living faith that influences the lives of people worldwide and as the religion that has most shaped British culture and heritage.
- To enable pupils to know about and understand other major world religions and world views, their impact on society, culture and the wider world, and to appreciate the diversity, continuity and change within those religions and world views
- To engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose
- To contribute to the development of pupils own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own beliefs and values.

## **Teaching and Learning**

In line with the Church of England RE Statement of Entitlement [2019] at St Nicholas CE Primary School we aim to provide:

- A curriculum that enables pupils to acquire a rich, deep knowledge and understanding of Christian belief and practice
- A curriculum that draws on the richness and diversity of religious experience worldwide
- The opportunity for pupils to deepen their understanding of the religion and world views as lived by believers
- A pedagogy that instils respect for different views and interpretations; and, in which real dialogue and theological enquiry takes place
- Engaging and varied learning activities that provide for the needs of all learners, supported by high quality resources
- The opportunity for pupils to develop a wide range of skills including enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection
- RE that makes a positive contribution to SMSC development and also to pupils' understanding of British values
- An assessment process which has rigour and demonstrates progression based on knowledge and understanding of core religious concepts

## **Implementation**

- Religious education is taught in a 'whole class' setting but with flexibility to allow for discussion, questioning and reflection in small groups and individually
- Visits to local churches and other places of worship are encouraged
- A variety of teaching approaches are encouraged including:
  - Teacher presentations, role play, drama and story telling
  - Questions and answer sessions, discussions and debates
  - Individual and group research
  - Photographs, pictures and maps
  - IT, film, podcasts, radio, websites, to research and communicate ideas.

## **Curriculum balance and time**

Reflecting St Nicholas CE Primary School's trust deed, Christianity should be the majority religion studied and should be at least 50% of curriculum time. Sufficient dedicated curriculum time, meeting explicitly RE objectives, should be given to RE. Each class has one hour of RE taught each week.

## **Resources**

Understanding Christianity is the core resource used for the teaching of Christianity. We have a good stock of resources for teaching other religions and a good resource of books.

We have a variety of Godly play resources that support the teaching of a variety of biblical stories.

## **Monitoring, Evaluation, Assessment, Recording, Reporting**

- Governors have responsibility for monitoring how the RE in the school reflects its Christian vision
- The headteacher has overall responsibility for monitoring and evaluation.
- The RE subject leader will assist the headteacher by monitoring long term and medium term plans.
- The RE subject leader will assist the headteacher by monitoring RE through work scrutinies
- The subject leader will keep a file of examples of work to demonstrate continuity and progression.
- The subject leader will manage resources.
- The subject leader will endeavour to keep up to date with information, initiatives and developments in religious education and disseminate this as appropriate.
- The subject leader will be aware of staff development needs and encourage continuing professional development.
- The subject leader will facilitate the sharing of good practice.
- The subject leader will be responsible for drawing up an action plan for religious education. Generally this will be an annual plan and should be informed by this policy.
- The headteacher and subject leader will liaise with the Diocesan adviser with responsibility for Religious Education

## **Review**

This policy will be reviewed annually.