



Unlocking....

Minds that learn, Hearts that love, Faith that gives



Subject Intent, Implementation and Impact

Subject	Subject Lead	Scheme
Religious Education	Jenny Carter	Oxford Diocesan Scheme and Understanding Christianity

R.E Intent

RE plays an important role in expressing the Christian vision of the school. RE reflects the ethos and values that are held and promotes understanding of people of all faiths and none. RE has the same high status as any other academic subject and contributes to the overall development of our pupils from all backgrounds and traditions.

As Peter was given the keys to the kingdom of God, so the hope is that through the teaching of RE, children at St. Peter's School will be given the keys to unlock their hearts and minds, developing knowledge and understanding of how faith impacts on people's lives. Learning about people of all faiths, in RE, is underpinned by our school values which are the embodiment of the school's Christian vision. St Peter's School promotes Christian values and fosters an environment of spirituality, creativity and respect where everyone, of all faiths, is valued, living out Peter's words: "Above all, love each other deeply" 1 Peter 4:8

The aim of our R.E teaching is to ensure children:

- know about and understand Christianity as a diverse global living faith through the exploration of core beliefs using an approach that critically engages with biblical text.
- to gain knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews appreciating diversity, continuity and change within the religions and worldviews being studied.
- to engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose raised by human existence and experience.
- to recognise the concept of religion and its continuing influence on Britain's cultural heritage and in the lives of individuals and societies in different times, cultures and places.
- to explore their own religious, spiritual and philosophical ways of living, believing and thinking.
- to give children the keys to unlock their hearts as they develop spiritually and to unlock their minds as they develop academically.

R.E Implementation

Teaching and Learning

Throughout their time at St. Peter's School all children will be taught the main principles of different world religions: Judaism, Hinduism, Islam and Christianity. R.E is taught using an enquiry-based approach, which is an investigative approach based around Big Questions. Each RE unit has an overarching Big Question which children are encouraged to discuss throughout the unit. Each lesson has a key question which links back to the Big Question.



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Children are given the chance and encouraged to ask 'I wonder ..?' questions which are recorded in the class reflection books or on RE Learning Walls in classrooms.

Within RE lessons there are opportunities for children to reflect on their own experiences and emotions and to respond personally. Children often work in groups with others and so are given opportunities to share their thoughts and ideas allowing them to model consideration and respect for those who hold different views to themselves.

A range of teaching and learning strategies are used in R.E lessons; children may access their learning through drama, art or written work. Children work in the same R.E exercise books throughout a key stage. This allows for new learning to be built on previous learning and for progress to be clearly identified. Each class has a Class Reflection book. This is used in R.E lessons to record whole class or group discussions. The children's comments are added into the book on post-it notes. It is also used to record the children's initial responses to the Big Question at the start and then at the end of a topic. This demonstrates the progression in their learning and understanding throughout each unit.

The teaching of R.E in EYFS follows the EYFS style of learning as set out in the EYFS framework. The R.E learning journey is recorded through the whole class floor book. Evidence is gathered by photos and samples of work.

Planning

We follow the Oxfordshire Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education. In KS1 and KS2 teachers plan their R.E lessons using the Oxford Diocesan scheme of work and from September 2022 will include units from Understanding Christianity. The units have been mapped across the two-year cycle to ensure that coverage of Christianity and other world faiths meets the requirements specified in the 'Religious Education in Church of England Schools Statement of Entitlement' (at least 50% of R.E curriculum time should be on the teaching of Christianity). In EYFS, R.E is planned using the Early Learning Goals in the EYFS Framework, as well as Understanding Christianity (from September 2022).

R.E lessons are taught on a weekly basis. At times, where it is appropriate a unit of R.E may be taught in a block of time e.g., a whole day or sequence of afternoons. Each R.E lesson has a key question, a learning objective (LO) and three I Can statements which are constructed using the principles of Blooms Taxonomy ensuring that there is a sufficient level of challenge. The teacher also provides a 'Deepening our Learning' question which provides the opportunity for children to think that little bit more deeply about the concept being studied.

Visits

Visits to different places of worship are planned into the two-year cycle. Within each phase (i.e. KS1, Lower KS2, Upper KS2) children have the opportunity to visit a Christian place of worship as well as a one of a different world faith. For example, in Years 5 and 6, children will visit a Cathedral as well as a Mosque. The visits to Christian places of worship have been specifically planned so that throughout their time at St. Peter's school, children get to experience a range of different churches. In EYFS, the children visit the local St. Peter's church; in KS1, children will do



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a pilgrimage to St. Leonard's church in Eynsham. In Lower KS2, children will visit a larger church, St. Mary's in Witney and in Upper KS2, children will visit Christchurch Cathedral in Oxford. The Vicar of St. Peter's Church plays an active role in supporting the teaching of R.E at St. Peter's School. He will come into school to support R.E lessons where a particular Christian concept such as baptism or communion is being studied.

What is the impact of our teaching?

By engaging in our religious education curriculum, we aspire to enable our children to flourish as citizens in a pluralistic and global community. Children at St. Peter's school are equipped with knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews. As a result of their secure knowledge of the core beliefs of Christianity and other world faiths, they are able to hold informed conversations about religion and belief with those of all faiths and none. This is done with an attitude of respect and tolerance, applying skills of religious literacy. Through active engagement our pupils are enabled to explore the meaning of their existence and their purpose in life.