



Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School

Religious Education Policy

*'Loved by God and one another, Holy Trinity is a welcoming community of faith, where we learn and flourish together.
Each day opens up horizons of hope, aspiration and joy!'*



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Religious Education Policy

Rationale

At Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School we understand that we loved by God and one 'another, although 'no one has seen God but of we love another God lives in us and his love is made complete in us' [1 John 4.11-12]. Our Religious Education curriculum is designed so our pupils understand how God loves us and how though understanding this we can love one another through living out Christian values.

We want our pupils to experience Religious Education as a safe, engaging and thought-provoking space where they can ask questions and find meaning. Holy Trinity is a welcoming community of faith with deep roots in the community, we are proud to welcome all families and children. Our Religious Education curriculum reflects this openness, creating a respectful and warm environment where everyone feels included, regardless of their beliefs.

Aims

At Trinity we aim to create a curriculum for our pupils to learn about the role of religion and sacred places contextually within our community. We aim to provide a Religious Education curriculum that enables our pupils to hold balanced and informed conversations about religion and worldviews. Through our Religious Education we aim to guide pupils to experience horizons of hope, aspiration and joy.

This principal aim incorporates the following aims of Religious Education in Church schools:

- ✓ 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 and understand about other major world religions and non-religious worldviews, their impact on society, culture and the wider world, enabling pupils to express ideas and insights.
- ✓ To contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own beliefs and values.

Appropriate to their age at the end of their education in Church schools, the expectation is that all pupils are religiously literate, and as minimum pupils are able to:

- ✓ Give a theologically informed and thoughtful account of Christianity as a living and diverse faith.
- ✓ Show an informed and respectful attitude to religions and non-religious worldviews in their search for God and meaning.
- ✓ Engage in meaningful and informed dialogue with those of other faiths and none.
- ✓ Reflect critically and responsibly on their own spiritual, philosophical and ethical convictions.

Our Religious Education Policy is inclusive and designed to support the way in which all members of the school can learn and flourish together. Each day opens up new opportunities, a fresh start bringing horizons of hope, aspiration and joy!

Religious Education and the Law

RE is for all pupils

- Every pupil has an entitlement to Religious Education.
- RE is a necessary part of a 'broad and balanced curriculum' and must be provided for all registered pupils in state-funded schools in England, including those in the sixth form, unless withdrawn by their parents (or withdrawing themselves if they are aged 18 or over).
- This requirement does not apply for children below compulsory school age (although there are many examples of good practice of Religious Education in nursery classes).
- Special schools should ensure that every pupil receives RE 'as far as is practicable'.
- The 'basic' school curriculum includes the National Curriculum, Religious Education and Relationship Sex Education. In Church schools Religious Education has the status of a core subject.

- Religious Education is also compulsory in academies and free schools, using the syllabus as set out in their funding agreements.

In Church of England schools pupils and their families can expect a Religious Education curriculum that is rich and varied, enabling learners to acquire a thorough knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith.

Withdrawal from Religious Education

Parents/guardians have the right to withdraw their children from Religious Education lessons, and teachers may also withdraw from teaching Religious Education. Written notice of withdrawal should be sent to the Religious Education Subject Leader or Executive Headteacher. We provide parents with detailed information about our Religious Education curriculum but respect their right to withdraw without pressure.

How is Religious Education taught At Trinity?

At Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School Religious Education is taught in accordance with the Dioceses of Leeds and York Diocesan Syllabus for Religious Education and Understanding Christianity. Understanding Christianity is a high-quality, widely-used resource for teaching about Christianity, developed by Church of England Education Office and RE Today Services. It offers a spiral model of investigating eight core concepts that tell the 'big story' of Christianity.

Understanding Christianity focuses on 3 strands:

Making sense of the text Developing skills of reading and interpretation; understanding how Christians interpret, handle and use biblical texts; making sense of the meanings of texts for Christians.

Understanding the impact Examining ways in which Christians respond to biblical texts and teachings, and how they put their beliefs into action in diverse ways within the Christian community and in the world.

Developing skills of reading and interpretation; understanding how Christians interpret, handle and use biblical texts; making sense of the meanings of texts for Christians.

Making connections Evaluating, reflecting on and connecting the texts and concepts studied, and discerning possible connections between these and pupils' own lives and ways of understanding the world.

Elements are taken from Understanding Christianity © RE Today 2016.

To ensure a broad and balanced approach to RE, we integrate these key threads to foster interconnectivity, encouraging pupils to engage in reflection and critical thinking. This approach deepens their understanding and supports the development of personal, disciplinary, and substantive knowledge.

The Dioceses of Leeds and York Diocesan Syllabus for Religious Education, which is also grounded in these three core strands provides the breadth and balance in teaching about religions and beliefs. These elements are woven together to allow for overlap, adapting to the religion, concept, or question being explored.

Our goal is to help children and young people engage in balanced, well-informed conversations about religion and belief. To achieve this, we focus on the same three elements as found in the Understanding Christianity program, ensuring a broad and flexible approach that treats each tradition with integrity. This structure supports the development of religious literacy, enabling pupils to encounter diverse religious traditions and non-religious worldviews.

Our Religious Education curriculum is bespoke and reflects the distinctive and inclusive ethos of our Anglican foundation. We continually aim to embed Christian Values at the heart of our school life. At Trinity Religious Education is an academic subject which means that Religious Education is taught in a way that is rigorous and intellectually stimulating. It requires pupils to think critically about religious beliefs and practices, and to develop their own understanding of the world. Religious Education provides pupils with the opportunity to understand what it means to be a religious believer in the world today: At Trinity Religious Education helps children to understand the different ways in which people around the world express their religious beliefs. It also helps them to understand the challenges and opportunities that religious believers face in the modern world.

In EYFS, Religious Education introduces key beliefs and practices of Christianity, helping children develop a basic understanding of religion and its significance in their world, fostering a sense of connection and curiosity. For a balanced approach to RE, our EYFS curriculum incorporates thematic units that promote a broad and inclusive understanding of Religious Education, encompassing various aspects of different faiths through thematic units.

In Key Stage 1, pupils focus primarily on Christianity, Islam and Judaism; in Key Stage 2, they expand their studies to include Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, and Sikhism. The curriculum also incorporates nonreligious perspectives, to promote a balanced and broad worldview.

Our curriculum is coherently and sequentially designed, building on key themes year after year allowing our children to make connections and develop their understanding over time

Purpose of Religious Education at Trinity

At Trinity Religious Education is help pupils to:

Make Sense of Beliefs Identifying and making sense of core religious and non-religious concepts and beliefs; understanding what these beliefs mean within their traditions; recognising how and why sources of authority are used, expressed and interpreted in different ways, and developing skills of interpretation.

Understand the Impact Examining how and why people put their beliefs into action in diverse ways, within their everyday lives, within their communities and in the wider world.

Make connections Reasoning about, reflecting on, evaluating and connecting the concepts, beliefs and practices studied; allowing pupils to challenge ideas and the ideas to challenge pupils' thinking; discerning possible connections between these ideas and pupils' own lives and ways of understanding the world.

The Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development lies at the heart of our curriculum; it takes place in the continuing Christian Values promoted by our School.

Time Allocation

In line with the Church of England's recommendation, Religious Education comprises at least 5% of curriculum time. This equates to approximately 36 hours per year in Key Stage 1 and 45 hours per year in Key Stage 2. We provide this time through weekly lessons and dedicated RE events to ensure pupils have the opportunity to develop a meaningful understanding of the subject.

Visits and Visitors

Experience-based learning is an essential part of our Religious Education provision. To enrich pupils' understanding of religious and cultural traditions, visits to places of worship and representatives of different faiths are encouraged. All activities comply with the school's educational visits policy, helping pupils appreciate the diversity of lived faith experiences.

Supporting All Learners

At Trinity the teaching of Religious Education is inclusive, aligning with the school's SEND and inclusion policies. Lessons are designed to provide accessible and meaningful learning opportunities for all pupils. We believe that a broad and balanced curriculum is essential, with Religious Education playing a key role in supporting every pupil's holistic development.

Monitoring and Evaluation

A copy of our Religious Education Policy is available to parents on the school website and available on request. The Local Academy Council and the Senior Leadership Team monitor the effectiveness of this policy. The effectiveness of Religious Education is evaluated as part of the Section 48 SIAMS inspection.

The Religious Education Subject Leader is responsible for monitoring Religious Education teaching and learning, maintaining planning records and evidence of pupil engagement. Self-evaluation by subject leaders

ensures high standards of subject leadership and curriculum delivery. The governing body will review this policy annually and the Religious Education Subject Leader will conduct annual monitoring to ensure that it aligns with our school's vision and commitment to inclusive education.