



CROPREDY C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Religious Education Policy

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Signed – Chair of Governors	<i>Andy Bird</i>
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‘We believe in inspirational teaching that encourages every child to gain confidence and strive for personal success.’

Our school is here:

- *To provide high quality education for children of the local community in accordance with Christian principles*
- *To further the links between the school and the local community*
- *To teach respect for individuals and an understanding of the beliefs and cultures of others, as well as Christian values and beliefs*

Aim

Our aim is for our Christian principles and ethos to be at the heart of every aspect of school life. Through a wide exploration of religious beliefs and practises we hope children will gain a deepening insight into other religions as well as their own.

As a school rooted in the teaching, values and spiritual life of the Church of England, we aim to:

- Develop awareness of the spiritual and moral dimensions of life experience.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other principal religious traditions represented in Great Britain.
- Learn about Christianity as the basis for our scheme of work
- Have knowledge of a range of Christian stories from the Bible.
- Develop understanding of what might it mean to be committed to a religious tradition.
- Enable children to reflect on their own experiences, beliefs and values.
- Encourage children to have confidence in their own view point whilst engaging in open and honest enquiry
- Enable children to respect the rights of others to hold beliefs different to their own
- Enable children to view religion as a joyous experience to be celebrated with music, movement and drama – a living activity in a cross curricular context.
- Enable children to become successful learners who enjoy learning, make progress and achieve
- Enable children to become confident individuals who are able to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives
- Encourage children to aspire to be responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to society.

1. The Legal Position

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Care, create, challenge in a Christian environment.

The school, in accordance with the 1996 Education Act, provides religious education for all pupils registered at the school. R.E and the National Curriculum make up the basic curriculum. Unlike subjects of the National Curriculum, R.E. is taught in accordance with a locally agreed syllabus in our case, that of Oxfordshire. It has the same status and importance as any other subject and, as such, the same high standards are applied to this as to other subjects.

2. The Value of R.E.

R.E. enables pupils to:

- Learn about religions and beliefs which have influenced the lives of millions of people and heavily influenced the development of different human cultures.
- Apply academic skills such as analysis and critical creative thinking, to their approach to the study of religion with different disciplines as they mature
- Learn more about themselves and their place in the world from their increasingly academic and creative exploration of religions and beliefs.
- The purpose of R.E does not include any attempt to alter a child's beliefs. Indeed, reflecting the inclusive ethos of the school our R.E. programme is designed not to 'convert pupils or urge a particular religion or religious belief on pupils'.

3. Planning and delivery

The R.E. curriculum is based on two key aspects of learning laid down in the agreed syllabus:

- Learning about religion – AT1
- Learning from religion – AT2

Teacher will use these strands when planning their lessons. As suggested in the aims of the subject, all pupils will learn about Christianity and other world faiths in a course in which Christianity will clearly predominate.

4. Teaching, Learning and Achievement

Learning will focus on pupils' own experiences and self-concept, universal human experiences and concepts as well as religious experiences and concepts.

A variety of resources, styles, and techniques will be used as appropriate. Pupils will engage in activities, which will also enable teachers to assess what they have learnt. Records kept will include information of pupils' experiences and judgements about their attainment and progress.

The planning and implementation of RE lessons is the responsibility of the class teachers. Teaching and learning methods are there for at the discretion of the individual. A variety of approaches that are appropriate to the age, ability and experience of the children will be used. These include:

- Teacher led discussion time
- Circle time activities linked to PHSE

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- Cross curricular project work
- Drama and role play
- Observations/use of artefacts, pictures, books etc.
- Visits to places of worship
- Use of ICT

5. Withdrawal from RE

Parents may withdraw their children from all or any part of RE and teachers can exercise their right to withdraw from teaching the subject. However, we hope that all parents and teachers will feel comfortable with the type of RE being taught at this schools. Parents who wish to withdraw their children are requested to provide written notification to this effect.

6. Resources

Artefacts and teaching material for each of the religious traditions have been collected and stored in large labelled boxes. These boxes are accessible to all staff, but the contents must be returned to the correct box after use. There are additional books in the school library. Great respect must be shown to all religious holy books and artefacts used by staff and pupils in lessons.

7. Assessment

The class teacher is to ensure that a balance of experience is provided therefore monitors work. Informal assessment following guidelines is used to inform future planning. The RE co-ordinator also makes class observations.

Formal assessment will follow the Oxfordshire syllabus end of unit assessments and will take place at the end of each unit. These will be stored by the RE co-ordinator.

8. Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

At Cropredy we actively promote diversity through our celebrations of different faiths and cultures. RE and PHSE lessons reinforce messages of tolerance and respect for others, together with multi-cultural works and work on the Global Learning Programme.

The school will seek ways to enable the children to experience something of the different approaches of different faiths by welcoming and engaging with visitors from different faiths and cultures, and where possible visiting places of worship relevant to different faiths and cultures.

9. Monitoring and Review

This policy is a working document. Therefore, it is open to change and restructure as and when appropriate. The SLT will review this policy in three years.