

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Approved by Staffing & Curriculum Committee Chair: February 2018  
Review Date: January 2019



## **‘One family learning for life, on a journey towards our potential’**

**Kennet Valley C of E VA Primary school has a deep rooted Christian ethos which enables us all to learn and succeed in a caring, thoughtful Christian community.**

**Our school respects and welcomes all genders, faiths, cultures and abilities, and encourages everyone to reach their potential.**

Religious Education is unique in the school curriculum in that it is neither a core subject nor a foundation subject but the 1988 Education Act states that ‘Religious Education has equal standing in relation to core subjects of the National Curriculum in that it is compulsory for all registered pupils’

Kennet Valley is a Church of England Voluntary Aided School therefore the provision of RE must be in accordance with the Trust Deed of the School. The Governors in consultation with the Head teacher have decided, following advice from the diocese, to adopt the Locally Agreed Syllabus RE ‘Thinking Together’ and supplement this with material from the Diocese.

### **Aims in Religious Education**

The following whole school aims are particularly relevant to our work in Religious Education:

- ❖ **Each child is treated as uniquely gifted in body, mind and spirit**
- ❖ **Growing and learning becomes a way of life for everybody involved in the school**

Religious Education will:

- Start from the pupil’s own perspective and create space in learning opportunities for development in spirituality, beliefs, ideas and attitudes
- Develop pupil’s ability to use language to think critically, and to express their developing ideas, beliefs and spirituality
- Be enjoyable and encourage a love of learning

### **Skills to be developed in Religious Education**

Our teaching must stimulate curiosity and develop children’s sense of exploration and discovery. We aim to help children to understand that questions in RE will seldom simply be answered by facts. In RE we aim to develop a classroom where inquiry is the norm – children are encouraged to look for alternative possibilities and to be open-minded and flexible in their thinking. We aim to teach children to think for themselves become flexible learners and draw their own conclusions.

These skills are cumulative across the key stages and include:

- Investigation- searching for answers
- Interpretation- interpreting actions, events, symbols and artefacts
- Analysis and Evaluation- development of arguments based on research and personal belief. Seeking reasons, explanations and alternatives
- Synthesis - linking ideas together to make a bigger picture
- Application- applying learning to own beliefs, ideas experiences and those of others
- Communication – sharing/communicating own thoughts, beliefs, ideas and showing an ability through communication to empathise, accept criticism and develop as a well rounded, balanced person

We aim to encourage and develop the key attitudes detailed in the Agreed Syllabus including:

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- Self-awareness
- Respect for all
- Open-mindedness
- Appreciation and wonder

## Approaches to the Teaching of RE

In order to make religious education a lively, active subject we employ a variety of teaching methods through discussions, recording, active participation, outside visitors, trips, art, music, the development of thinking skills, drama, the use of artefacts, pictures, stories, and the use of periods of stillness and reflection.

Where possible we want our pupils to have opportunities to encounter local faith communities through visits to local places of worship or visits from members of local faith communities.

Religious Education at Kennet Valley School is delivered in the following way.

We use as a basis for our planning on Understanding Christianity and Discovery RE.

These include

- At KS 1 pupils study Christianity as the primary focus and Judaism as our secondary focus
- At KS 2 pupils study Christianity as the primary focus and Judaism as the secondary focus and Islam as the tertiary focus.

## Assessment and Monitoring of RE

The learning intentions are shared with the children and regularly throughout each half term unit of work tasks are set which are linked to the learning intentions. These tasks take a variety of styles, for example:

- Creative work
- Drama
- Writing
- Mind mapping

The children are encouraged to develop skills to enable them to self assess their progress in RE and to understand how to improve their RE work. RE has a key focus on the School Development Plan and plays a major role in the Self Evaluation Process

It is expected that each teacher will be responsible for the regular assessment of his or her pupils through marking work set.

Each pupil will complete tasks during their learning that will form part of assessment work done in RE. In accordance with the new syllabus assessment will form an integral part of the normal teaching and learning routine linked to learning intentions. The level achieved will be used by the co-ordinator to track pupil progress through the school and will be used by the class teacher to ensure that each pupil is set work that is appropriately challenging.

The assessment task is always an integral part of the teaching and learning and never a bolt-on-activity. Assessment assesses both Attainment Target 1 and Attainment Target 2 (ATI & AT2).

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The co-ordinator will monitor RE within the school through analysis of this assessment data and work sampling e.g. observations, planning.

## Reporting to parents

On an annual basis, the school reports to parents on attainment and progress in RE based on teacher judgement.

## The Right of Withdrawal from RE

At Kennet Valley School we wish to be an inclusive community but recognise that parents, of course, have the legal right to withdraw their children from Religious Education on the grounds of conscience. We would ask any parent considering this to contact the head teacher to discuss any concerns or anxieties about the policy, provision and practice of religious education at Kennet Valley School.

Co-ordinator: Mrs Emma Russell