



Flax Bourton Church of England Primary School

“Aiming High, Respecting Others, Having Fun”

This policy should be taken as part of the overall strategy of the school and implemented within the context of our vision, aims and values as a Church of England School.

Religious Education Policy

Revised – January 2021

Rationale:

We are in a caring, Christian community. In recognising both the Christian Foundation of the school and the legal requirements for teaching RE in accordance with the 1996 Education Act, Flax Bourton provides Religious Education for all pupils registered at the school. Religious Education is part of the basic curriculum but not part of the National Curriculum because it is taught in accordance with a locally agreed syllabus (in our case the revised North Somerset Agreed Syllabus 2016 Awareness, Mystery and Value). Religious Education has the same status and importance as any other subject and the same high standards are applied to Religious Education as to all other subjects. Religious Education should not attempt to alter a child's own beliefs but to provide knowledge of their own and others' beliefs.

RE is a statutory subject within the basic curriculum. This statement taken from the AMV website, used by North Somerset, explains why:

- *An understanding of religions and beliefs* is vital if children and young people are to gain the insights they need to make the most of their opportunities in life and to cope with the difficulties they will inevitably face.
- RE provokes challenging questions about the ultimate meaning and purpose of life, beliefs about God, the self and the nature of reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human. It develops pupils' knowledge and understanding of Christianity, other principal religions, other religious traditions, and other world views that offer answers to these challenging questions.
- It offers opportunities for personal reflection and spiritual development. It enhances pupils' awareness and understanding of religions and beliefs, teachings, practices and forms of expression, as well as of the influence of religion on individuals, families, communities and cultures.
- RE encourages pupils to learn from different religions, beliefs, values and traditions, while exploring their own beliefs and questions of meaning. It should challenge pupils to reflect on, consider, analyse, interpret and evaluate issues of truth, belief, faith and ethics and to communicate their responses.
- RE encourages pupils to develop their sense of identity and belonging. It enables them to flourish individually within their communities and as citizens in a diverse society and global community. RE has an important role in preparing pupils for adult life, employment and lifelong learning. It enables pupils to develop respect for and sensitivity to others, in particular those whose faiths and beliefs are different from their own. It promotes discernment and enables pupils to combat prejudice.

<http://amv.somerset.gov.uk/requirements/legal-requirements/importance-rationale-vision/>

Aims:

The aims of Flax Bourton's Religious Education are drawn from the North Somerset Agreed Syllabus and help pupils to:

- acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and the other principal religions represented in Great Britain, including no faith/religion;
- develop an understanding of the influences of beliefs, values and traditions of individuals, communities, societies and cultures;
- develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues with reference to the teaching of the principal religion, including no faith/religion, represented in Great Britain;
- enhance their spiritual, moral, cultural and social development by:
 - developing awareness of the fundamental questions of life raised by human experience, and how religious teaching can relate to them;
 - responding to questions about the teachings and practices of religions;
 - reflecting on their own beliefs, values and experiences in light of their study;
- develop a positive attitude towards other people, respecting their right to hold different beliefs from their own, and towards living in a society of diverse religions and no faith/religion.

Methods:

- Each year group plans lessons from units of work on Christianity from 'Understanding Christianity' and units of work studying Christianity and other faiths from 'Discovery R.E.'
- In accordance with the North Somerset Agreed Syllabus, the teaching of religions will reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are, in the main, Christian. The children will also learn about four of the other major religions and those who chose no faith/religion, namely: Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam - according to the appropriate key stage.
- As a Church school, the expectation is that in our R.E. teaching, there would be 2/3 focus on Christianity and 1/3 on the other principle world religions.
- Religious artefacts, the Bible and other books, St. Michael and All Angel's Church in Flax Bourton, audio and video materials, computer based and online websites, visitors, poems, art work ...etc will be used to stimulate learning in an enriching and engaging way.
- Teachers will assess children's attainment in RE using the assessment materials from 'Understanding Christianity' and 'Discovery R.E.'
- All children, whatever their academic ability, should have equal access to the RE curriculum.
- The development of the teaching and learning of Religious Education will be closely monitored by the subject leader through the collection of end of unit assessments, class-based observations, supporting members of staff in their planning and delivery of the subject, and observing displays and presentations during Class Assemblies.
- The RE subject leader meets with the RE link Governor twice a year to review the learning and teaching of RE.

The Education Reform Act 1988 makes provision for pupils and teachers to withdraw from RE. Parents wishing to exercise this right are asked to express their wish in writing to the Headteacher, school would then provide an alternative provision.

This policy is to be read in conjunction with other policies:

Collective Worship

Spiritual Development

PHSE

Spiritual, Social, Moral and Cultural Development

Signed _____ Date _____