

## **Religious Education Policy**

### **Introduction**

This policy of Religious Education should be taken and used as part of St. Nicholas Church of England Primary School's overall strategy and implemented within the context of our vision, instrument of government, aims and values as a Church of England School.

*To develop the emotional, spiritual, physical and intellectual growth of each child in our care built on a firm foundation of Christian Values.*

*Creating the space for each child to grow within our Christian Values of Friendship, Courage, Perseverance, Responsibility, Creativity and Thankfulness.*

As a school we use religious education as a central structure to the children's moral, spiritual, cultural, mental and physical education. As a school we will follow the Somerset agreed syllabus 'Awareness, mystery's and values'. The scheme of work will be adjusted to meet the needs of a key stage one and key stage 2 class curriculum.

### **Aims of Religious Education**

The aims of Religious Education for our children at St Nicholas Church of England Primary School are:

- For the children to use their curiosity to develop an appreciation and wonder of the world in which they live.
- To reflect upon their own feelings and experiences and develop the skills to express them.
- To allow their spiritual, emotional and social development to grow through reflection on their feelings and relationships.
- To develop children's attitudes, respect and understanding that will allow them accept diversity in the world around them.
- Acquire and develop understanding and knowledge of beliefs, traditions and values of Christianity and other faiths
- To reflect on their own beliefs, values and experiences.

### **Schools approach to Teaching Religious Education**

At St. Nicholas Church of Primary School the children will receive their education teaching in a balance of whole class, group work and individual work. Where possible the children will be taught R.E through integrated topics that make good use of strong cross curricular links. Lessons will have clear learning objectives and a mixture of approaches. The school has a strong philosophy for learning through hands on experience so where appropriate visits and visitors will be arranged to support the children's learning. A practical approach to the subject has been adopted.

We aim to make the teaching of R.E exciting and interesting to inspire and engage with questions to promote their own spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development.

#### **Planning**

The school has adopted the Somerset Syllabus, *Awareness, mystery and values*. This has been woven through the curriculum framework for our two class structure to allow for progression and continuity in each class and the opportunity to learn about each unit in varied and exciting ways.

#### **Resources**

There is a large collection of resources in the resource room to cover each of the units and main religions to be covered in Key Stage One and Two. The local church is available to be visited when arrange with the Vicar and there is also the opportunity to have several visitors into the school to talk and share experiences and resources with the children.

#### **Monitoring, Evaluation and Assessment.**

The teaching and planning of Religious Education will be monitored by the coordinator on a termly basis. Lessons will be monitored as it comes up on the cycle of subject monitoring.

Teachers must ensure that all lessons are planned from the Awareness, Mystery and Value Programme of Study; assessment will then be able to be on an achieved, not achieved basis for the focus area of study on each unit. In the Awareness, Mystery and Value scheme there are level descriptors which can be completed at the end of the year.

**Parents, Governors and Diocesan liaison.**

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their child/children from religious education teaching, We encourage parents to consult the teacher and headteacher if they have any concerns or needs relating to the teaching of religious education.

The teaching of religious education will be supported by the diocesan advice and training and resources provided to schools, it is possible to obtain resources and advice from the diocese in Wells when required. The Governors have a responsibility to monitor the teaching of Religious Education and opportunities provided to the children at a regular basis.

Agreed: October 2014

The Policy is to be reviewed: October 2016