



Anything is possible, we can all succeed
To inspire ... To aspire
I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
Philippians 4:13

Religious Education (R.E.) Policy

What is R.E. at Upton-upon-Severn C.E. Primary School?

Our school vision states that 'Anything is possible, we can all succeed. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.' R.E. is concerned with the spiritual dimension in life and the search for meaning and purpose. The content is concerned with the beliefs of major world religions and the effects of those beliefs on lifestyle and behaviour.

Aims

At Upton-upon-Severn C.E. Primary School we aim to:

- Provide all children with a broad knowledge of the religious traditions of Christians, Jews, Hindus and Muslims, as well as an awareness of other faiths including Buddhists and non-religious worldviews including Humanists.
- Develop in children a capacity to understand the beliefs of themselves and others in order to enhance their own spiritual and moral growth.
- Develop their understanding of the ways in which beliefs influence people in their behaviour, practices and outlook.
- Encourage children to develop a positive attitude towards others who hold religious beliefs different from their own.
- Nurture children on their individual spiritual journey, whilst recognising that the vast majority are not regular church goers.

Legal Position of Religious Education in School

The 1988 Education Act states 'Religious Education has equal standing in relation to core subjects of the National Curriculum in that it is compulsory for all pupils'.

Upton-upon-Severn CE Primary School is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled School and therefore follows the Worcestershire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2020 – 2025 and **RE is a core subject in our school.**

The Church of England's Statement of Entitlement

Upton-upon-Severn C.E. (VC) Primary School

The Church of England's Statement of Entitlement (February 2019) outlines the aims and expectations for RE in Church of England schools and guides this school's approach to RE.

It begins by stating: 'Religious Education in a Church school should enable every child to flourish and to live life in all its fullness (John 10:10). It will help to educate for dignity and respect encouraging all to live well together'. Quoting from the Church of England's Vision for Education: Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good, it continues: 'Such an approach is offered through a commitment to generous hospitality, being true to our underpinning faith, but with a deep respect for the integrity of other religious traditions (and worldviews) and for the religious freedom of each person'.

Organisation

Curriculum:

These aims will be achieved through our scheme of work which is based on the Worcestershire Agreed Syllabus for R.E. and the resource Understanding Christianity. There are three core elements, closely interwoven, which are Making Sense of Beliefs, Making Connections and Understanding the Impact. Each half term unit of work begins with a Big Question which pupils discuss and revisit throughout.

Nursery:

In preschool, our children start to talk about the different ways in which people believe and behave, and staff encourage children to ask questions. The children learn through creative play, make-believe, role play, dance and drama, through dressing up and acting out scenes from stories, celebrations or festivals. They make and eat festival food and talk and listen to each other; they hear and discuss stories of all kinds.

Foundation stage:

R.E. teaching follows the Early Learning Goals of the Foundation Stage Curriculum as well as our Long Term Plan based on the Worcestershire Agreed Syllabus. There are close links with PSHE, and Early Learning Goals within social and emotional development are met through R.E. sessions.

Children in EYFS encounter religious and non-religious worldviews through special people, books, times, places and objects. They listen to and talk about stories. Children are introduced to subject-specific words and use all their senses to explore beliefs, practices and forms of expression. They ask questions and reflect on their own feelings and experiences. They use their imagination and curiosity to develop their appreciation of, and wonder at, the world in which they live.

Key Stage One:

In Years One and Two, children develop their knowledge and understanding of religions and worldviews, recognising their local, national and global contexts. They use basic subject-specific vocabulary. They raise questions and begin to express their own views in response to the material they learn about and in response to questions about their ideas. Children learn about some of the religious beliefs of Christians, Jews and Muslims. They will be taught for at least 36 hours over the school year.

Key Stage Two:

In Years Three, Four, Five and Six, children extend their knowledge and understanding of religions and worldviews, recognising their local, national and global contexts. They are introduced to an extended range of sources and subject-specific vocabulary. They are encouraged to be curious and to ask increasingly challenging questions about religion, belief, values and human life. Pupils learn to express their own ideas and to give reasons to support their ideas and views. They learn about religious beliefs of Christians, Muslims, Hindus and Jews as well as some non-religious worldviews. They will be taught for at least 45 hours over the school year.

Approaches to teaching and learning:

Upton-upon-Severn C.E. (VC) Primary School

To facilitate pupils' learning;

- The purpose of each lesson is made clear
- Activities are planned with appropriate differentiation
- Activities use a variety of approaches, such as drama, music, art, time for reflection as well as written tasks
- Work will be recorded in R.E. books
- Written work is marked and may have questions focussing on helping children reflect on their beliefs and opinions.

Resources

There is a collection of reference books and teacher resources including artefacts and photographs available from the central resources room. A set of children's Bibles is kept in the library.

Assessment and Recording

We track progress through considering each child's progress against Making Sense of Beliefs, Understanding the Impact and Making Connections. This is recorded on a class sheet each half term. Each class has a large blank Big Book. Every term, each class throughout the school completes a page. The subject for this is raised from an open-ended 'Big Question' concerning the topic of RE being taught at that point. A Learning Objective from with Understanding Christianity or the Worcestershire Diocese Units provide good starting points.

Right of withdrawal

At Upton, we wish to be an inclusive community but recognise that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from RE on the grounds of conscience. However, the right of withdrawal does not extend to other areas of the curriculum when, as may happen on occasions, spontaneous questions on religious matters are raised by pupils or there are issues related to religion that arise in other subjects such as history and citizenship.

Where parents make a request to withdraw their child(ren) from the teaching of RE, the school will, as a matter of courtesy, ensure that the parents are aware of the following:

- the learning objectives covered in RE so that parents can make an informed decision
- what supervision arrangements will be in place for child(ren).

We would ask any parent considering this to contact the Headteacher to discuss any concerns and anxieties about the policy, provision and practice of RE at our school.

8.1.23