



Here at St Paul's CE Primary School, we are proud to provide excellent care and outstanding education for children from three to eleven years old in our unique, picturesque setting. Our Christian vision is at the heart of all we do, and we endeavour to provide a personalised curriculum to each and every child.

Our small class sizes allow us to give each child a high level of support and guidance. We take care to ensure that we know every child's starting points and we adapt our teaching to meet their needs, meaning every pupil is experiencing challenge and success.

Our RE curriculum is bespoke to our children and supports their journey to becoming aware of world religions. The curriculum ensures they are able to critically analyse source materials, develop a philosophical understanding of the world and understand how beliefs impact the actions of people. Children will also have an opportunity to develop a historical understanding of religion.

Our RE Curriculum

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 educate for dignity and respect encouraging all to live well together.

Religious Education in Church of England Schools, A Statement of Entitlement 2019

RE has a very high profile within our curriculum and it is treated as a core subject at our school. Learners should be inspired by the subject and develop a wide range of higher-level thinking skills such as enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection to deepen their understanding of the impact of religion on the world.

The aim of Religious education is to help children develop a knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other major world religions. Pupils will explore through local, national and global contexts.

We aim to understand the way that religious beliefs shape our lives and our behaviour, develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues and provide opportunities for the children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. RE makes a distinctive contribution to pupils' learning by enabling them to reflect upon themselves as whole people, experiencing life through the body, the mind and the spirit.

We want children to develop philosophical thinking, understand how belief impact actions and society and develop an understanding of religion rooted in theology.

Intent

- To know about and understand Christianity as a diverse global living faith through the exploration of core beliefs using an approach that critically engages with biblical texts.
- To gain knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews appreciating diversity, continuity and change within the religions and worldviews being studied.
- To engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose raised by human existence and experience.
- To recognise the concept of religion and its continuing influence on Britain's cultural heritage and in the lives of individuals and societies in different times, cultures and places.
- Explore concepts within and between faiths to help them understand and respect different religions, beliefs, values and traditions (including ethical life stories), and understand the influence of these on individuals, societies, communities and cultures.

The Church of England Education Office Statement of Entitlement 2019

In addition Religious education will allow pupils -

- To explore their own religious, spiritual and philosophical ways of living, believing and thinking.
- Have opportunities to consider their own experiences, attitudes and values, and those of other people.
- Learn about religious and ethical teaching, enabling them to make reasoned and informed judgements on religious and moral issues.
- Develop their sense of identity and belonging, preparing them for life as citizens in a diverse society.
- Develop enquiry and response skills that deepen their understanding through the use of distinctive language, listening and empathy.
- Reflect on, analyse and evaluate their beliefs, values and practices and communicate their responses.
- Develop their understanding of why certain things are held to be right or wrong.
- Relate to moral and religious issues.
- Develop respect for evidence and critically evaluate ideas that may or may not fit the evidence available.
- Identify high level questions and suggest answers.
- To formulate their own sense of purpose in life and to embark upon a personal search for a faith by which to live.
- To learn something of the religious experiences of others.
- To develop their own beliefs, values and ideals in the light of their experiences.
- To develop respect for other people, their beliefs and their life-styles.
- To develop an enquiring attitude towards religion.

Implementation

RE at our school is innovative, invitational, and impressive. It is taught in an objective, critical and pluralistic manner and learning experiences are planned within a safe, stimulating learning environment.

As we are a Voluntary Controlled school with, religious character, we teach in line with the locally agreed syllabus.

We have a 2-year rolling programme for KS1 and a four-year rolling programme for KS2. This means despite mixed age groups that we can ensure all children receive a broad and balanced curriculum and have learning experiences to ensure depth and coverage of the local agreed syllabus.

We use the resource 'Understanding Christianity' to enhance and support our curriculum.

Lessons are planned to ensure children explore religion through the three disciplines - theology, philosophy and the human and social sciences.

Teachers will create a safe space to explore their own religious, spiritual and/or philosophical ways of seeing, living and thinking, believing and belonging. Pupils will record collective, discussion and experience based work in their big books and will throughout units record personal responses and assessment pieces in their own RE books.

After each unit, teachers will use the children's collective work, their personal responses and their assessment piece to provide an overall judgement of the children's progress within a concept.

We have a huge focus on children developing a deep understanding of the foundational concepts within Christianity as well as their understanding of the 'Big Story', encouraging the children to learn about and from the Bible.

This is done through-

- Critically engaging with biblical stories the children
- Regular visits to local churches/places of worship
- Talks from Reverend Jim and visits from members of local congregations
- Knitted Bible Experience to develop a deeper understanding of 'The Big Story.'
- Bible Comics Time in Key Stage 2

We have identified that there were some gaps due to previously not having a secure, progressive curriculum. To address this, we have considered some extra parts that need to be added into each key stage as essential pre-knowledge for some year groups eg Year 6 has added creation to ensure they have building blocks to unpick key concepts like the fall/sin. We start the units with a "fundamental five" which are key questions to gauge prior learning so we can fill in any gaps from previous key stages. We have planned enrichment days to fill in gaps – Big Story boxes, knitted bible day to ensure all children have a foundation to build upon.

Impact

The impact of our vision for RE, our curriculum and how it is implemented will ensure we -

- Equip pupils with systematic knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and beliefs, enabling them to develop their ideas, values and identities.
- Pupils should gain and deploy the skills needed to understand, interpret and evaluate texts, sources of wisdom and authority and other evidence. Pupils should learn to articulate clearly and coherently their personal beliefs, ideas, values and experiences while respecting the right of others to differ.

- Engage with asking and responding to challenging questions about meaning and purpose in life, beliefs about God, ultimate reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human.
- Gain an aptitude for dialogue so that they can participate positively in our society, with diverse religions and beliefs.
- To weigh up the value of wisdom from different sources, to develop and express their insights in response and to agree or disagree respectfully.