



St Bartholomew's
Primary Academy



Religious Education (RE) Policy

**"They will soar on wings like eagles"
– Isaiah 40:31**

Policy Date: February 2022

Review Date: February 2024

St Bartholomew's Primary Academy

The Rosary

Royal Wootton Bassett

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Herson



'Hand in hand we learn, we grow, we soar'



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Our Mission

At St Bartholomew's, our mission is to provide the best education for each individual child within a Christian environment. We will do this by providing a firm spiritual foundation, based on Christian values, beliefs and principles, and by equipping all pupils with the skills and enthusiasm for learning which will serve them throughout their school lives and beyond.

We provide a safe and secure, caring and happy, welcoming, innovative and inspiring environment, with an enriched curriculum, where children will recognise and achieve their fullest potential, enabling them to grow as responsible citizens.

Our aspiration is that children will leave our school with:

A set of spiritual and Christian values –courage, kindness, perseverance, trust, respect and love.

A variety of skills - linguistic, mathematical, scientific, artistic, physical and social.

An enquiring and discriminating mind with a desire for knowledge and a life-long love of learning.

Strong self-esteem and high personal expectations.

Understanding and respect for others.

We value the partnership that exists between school, parents, church and community and the part that it plays in realising this vision.

Through our school mission, vision, ethos, agreed rules and principles and through our curriculum and in all that we say and do, we promote positive, kind and caring relationships and value such skills as the ability to listen, communicate, recognise and respond to the needs and feelings of others, as well as trying to understand each other's behaviour, offering forgiveness and reconciliation when things go wrong.

We value diversity and encourage an understanding and respect for people of different faith and of no faith. We recognise, support and celebrate different cultures and lifestyles.

Our curriculum promotes British values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths, and provides opportunities for children to experience and reflect on the work, worth and worship of our school and its community.

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We actively challenge children and adults whose views are 'extreme' and at odds with our Christian and British values.

We value hard work, perseverance, cooperation, honesty and courage. Through our words, actions and influence, we offer our school community inspiring and enriching experiences, empowering them to make a positive contribution to their school, the wider community and throughout their lives in modern Britain.

Our Vision and Values

Our vision and values are at the core of everything we do. They underpin our teaching and learning, and provide an environment which prepares our pupils as confident, happy citizens. Our vision statement is -

Hand in hand we learn, we grow, we soar

The word 'soar' not only has connotations of reaching heights you never imagined, but also celebrates each of our classes being named after British birds.

We have 6 core values which are at the heart of all we do and underpin this vision.

Perseverance

'I don't give up and I bounce back from my mistakes.'

Respect

'I treat others how I would like to be treated.'

Kindness

'I am friendly and caring in my words and actions.'

Trust

'I am honest and helpful and make the right choices.'

Courage

'I rise to a challenge and I am brave.'

Love

'I have love for myself, for others and for God.'

Each of these values has a focus throughout the year, taking one value each term, in Collective Worship and in reflection areas in classrooms. Our values

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are also reflected on during class worship and when using our reflection books to guide our thoughts and discussions.

Statutory requirements for the provision of Religious Education

The national curriculum states the legal requirement that:

'Every state-funded school must offer a curriculum which is balanced and broadly based, and which:

- promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils; and
- prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

All state schools ... must teach religious education ... All schools must publish their curriculum by subject and academic year online'.

(National Curriculum in England: Framework Document, DfE, September 2013, p.4)

Religious education must be taught to all registered pupils in maintained schools, including those in the sixth form, except to those withdrawn by their parents.

Academies and free schools must teach RE within the requirements for a locally agreed syllabus, set out in section 375 (3) of the Education Act 1996 and paragraph (5) of Schedule 19 to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The requirements are that a syllabus must 'reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are, in the main, Christian while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain'.

At St Bartholomew's, RE is taught in accordance with the Wiltshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education using the Emmanuel scheme of work and Understanding Christianity. At St Bartholomew's Primary Academy, we study Christianity as the principal focus, Judaism as the major focus, introduced in KS1. Also in Key Stage One, children study a unit introducing Islam. In Key Stage Two, children continue to study Christianity, Judaism and Islam. Across the school other faiths such as Hinduism and Sikhism are also studied. Where possible we include cross curricular links. Festivals are celebrated, acknowledging the different faiths and cultural diversity of children in our school and within Great Britain.

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Where appropriate, we enable our pupils to have opportunities to encounter local faith communities through visits to local places of worship or visits from members of faith communities to our school. Strong links with St Bartholomew's Church enable off site visits and visits to school on a regular basis to support the teaching of Christianity.

Early Years and Religious Education

At St Bartholomew's School we follow the non-statutory guidance for under-fives in the Agreed Syllabus using the Emmanuel scheme of work and Understanding Christianity to support teaching and learning. Themes include; being special, special people, special times and special places. These are linked to the Early Learning Goals.

Skills

In RE we aim to develop the distinctive RE skills, such as enquiring, questioning, analysing and interpreting, as well as empathising and reflecting.

The Teaching Context

The Agreed Syllabus states the assumptions from DfES circular 1/94 that the following minimum hours should be devoted to R.E: The equivalent of 36 hours per year (1 hour per week) at KS1 and 45 hours per year (1¼ hours per week) at KS2.

Assessment

Class teachers assess pupils' attainment. Assessment is an integral part of the teaching and learning. The outcome of these assessment tasks is recorded on record sheets which are analysed by the R.E. leader. The children's books or folders also provide a record of their progress. Class floor books, displays, assemblies performed to parents are all records of pupil progress and attainment. An end of year assessment is recorded.

Annual reports to parents on attainment and progress in R.E. are based on teacher judgement and assessment tasks.

Monitoring

The subject leader monitors the teaching and learning in the school by observing lessons, talking to pupils, sampling work and analysing data.

Right of withdrawal from R.E.

Parents have a right to withdraw their child from all or part of the RE curriculum. It would be appreciated if this were discussed with the Headteacher before coming to a final decision.

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