

# Leigh St Peter's CE Primary School



## Religious Education Policy

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# Leigh St Peter's CE Primary School

Religious Education Policy



**Our Christian Vision is:**

*"Let Your LIGHT Shine" Matthew 5:16*

## **Vision & Values:**

*Our Christian Vision is to provide a happy, safe, and caring high quality learning environment where all members of the school community have the opportunity to flourish; 'living life in all its fullness'. Our Christian Values have been developed in line with everyone who is invested in our school community: its pupils, parents', staff, and governors and we aim to ensure that these Christian Values are at the heart of everything we do at Leigh St Peter's CE Primary School.*

## **Our Aims and Key Principles**

- To aid pupils in their spiritual life by encouraging them to develop an awareness and respect for God.
- To assist in the search of the meaning of life.
- To have the opportunity to grow in self-awareness and feel valued as a person.
- To have a positive response to people and the world around us.
- To experience awe and wonder.
- To develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other major world religions and value systems found in Britain today.
- To introduce pupils to the knowledge of the major faiths of the world - so they can describe, explain and analyse their beliefs, teaching practices and effects – recognising the diversity which exists within and between communities and among individuals.
- To introduce ethical and moral issues such as an understanding of good and evil.
- To develop an awareness of spiritual and moral issues in life experiences.
- To help pupils recognise that religion should be an integral part of life.
- To develop an understanding of religious traditions and to appreciate the cultural differences in Britain today.
- To allow pupils to explore Spirituality through the exploration of our school Vision and Christian Values.

## **Legal Requirement**

Religious Education at Leigh St Peter's C.E. Primary School will meet legal requirements by:

- Its inclusion in the curriculum of all registered pupils. In primary school, this is a requirement for all pupils
- In Reception to Year 6 but does not include pupils in nursery classes. However, at Leigh St Peter's C.E Primary School pupils in nursery also take part in Religious Education.
- Reflecting the fact that religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religious traditions represented in Great Britain.
- Teaching Religious Education in accordance with locally agreed diocesan guidelines – at least 5% of curriculum time will be spent on Religious Education

## Content and Delivery of RE

A detailed syllabus is available for teachers and other interested people alongside this policy. It has been written in the light of the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education (NATRE) curriculum.

EYFS themes emerging from the EYFS Framework - Pupils will encounter Christianity and other faiths, as part of their growing sense of self, their own community and their place within it.
KS1 Christianity, Judaism and Islam
Lower KS2 Christianity, Judaism, Islam and Hinduism
Upper KS2 Christianity, Judaism, Islam and Hinduism

The syllabus uses an approach where lessons explore a **big question**. The questions open up the content to be studied. The syllabus gives **key questions** which we use to deliver the statutory Programmes of Study. These are followed by detailed unit outlines for each question. These enable our teachers to deliver high-quality, ambitious RE curriculum that is coherently sequenced towards cumulatively sufficient knowledge which builds skills for future learning and progression. The materials provided through the scheme include:

- Learning Pathways
- Knowledge Organisers
- Classroom Ready PowerPoints
- Assessment Materials
- Sticky Knowledge Quizzes
- Key Vocabulary

## Spirituality

Spirituality is the gateway into education, and RE provides an abundance of openings for spiritual opportunities (WOW moments/awe and wonder/consideration for something greater than ourselves) and spiritual development (having spiritual literacy/being guided by our beliefs and values of how we should live). At Leigh St. Peter's C.E Primary School, imagery is a central vehicle for pupils being able to access spiritual moments, which is why visual aids are used in abundance within RE lessons as well as worship. Opportunities for spirituality include, but are not limited to:

- Awe and Wonder
- Connection with nature
- Emotion evoking
- Questioning
- Visualisation

All staff undertake training in spirituality so that they know what spiritual opportunities look like and which are better suited to specific areas of learning or situations.

## Teaching and Learning Strategies

The teaching approaches used are varied and engaging, with a mix of individual learning as well as group work taking place each session. Lessons may include:

- hearing religious stories and stories about the natural world
- discussion and writing
- exploring and observing
- visiting places of worship
- visiting speakers
- personal experiences
- drama and role play

- artwork and artefacts
- celebration of festivals
- dance and music
- valuing family backgrounds

### **Matching Work to Pupil's Needs**

Our whole school inclusion, English as an Additional Language (EAL) and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) policies apply to Religious Education. Teachers are aware that pupils who have barriers to learning in other areas may have a strong interest in and aptitude for RE. All pupils should be encouraged to progress to their full potential and a variety of teaching methods (e.g. use of art, drama, ICT) should be employed to ensure that this is possible. Pupils with special educational needs will receive help from support staff according to the nature of the task. All work is successfully adapted, designed or developed to be ambitious and meet the needs of pupils with SEND, developing their knowledge, skills and abilities to apply what they know and can do with increasing fluency and independence. All pupils are given equal opportunities in all aspects of work arising from the RE curriculum. Our teaching is of an informative rather than experiential nature so that beliefs are not imposed on any child.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Pupils access many different opportunities to develop their RE knowledge and understanding. Included within each unit of work are formative assessment opportunities in addition to low stake retrieval quizzes, which are used both at the beginning of lessons and at the end of units. Additionally, through pupil voice opportunities, leaders are able to monitor the impact of the RE curriculum. During learning walks and book scrutiny, leaders often look to identify if teachers are promoting effective opportunities for spirituality and RE.

### **Collective Worship**

Daily acts of collective worship at our school are a time for worship, reflection, meditation and exploration. It is not a time to promote beliefs, but a time to promote values. At Leigh St. Peter's C.E. Primary School, Collective Worship provides the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of it or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce what it means to be a decent human being. At our school, collective worship enables pupils and adults to flourish spiritually through a widening exposure to spiritual opportunities daily.

### **Visits and visitors**

We can visit places of worship in the immediate vicinity of the school, where faith leaders and other members of the community are willing to meet with pupils and be involved in the teaching of Religious Education. We aim to use this valuable resource for all classes. All pupils have the opportunity to visit a place of worship and participate in the visit of a representative to them in class.

### **Right of withdrawal**

Pupil's families and faith communities have the right to encourage religious nurture of the pupils, fostering their faith. It is the responsibility of the school to provide Religious Education for all its pupils.

Parents have the right to withdraw their pupils either partly or wholly from RE. Our approach to RE, however, has been constructed in the hope that parents will rarely, if ever, wish to exercise their right of withdrawal.

As stated in our school prospectus and on our school website, those parents who wish to withdraw their child from RE lessons should inform the Headteacher in writing/contact the school office at their earliest convenience.

This policy has been adopted by the governors in consultation with the RE Subject Leader and teaching staff.