

SPEEN C OF E SCHOOL

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE) POLICY



*May our roots go down deep into the soil of God's love and make us strong
Ephesians 3 v 17*

*Our vision is to be a happy, vibrant and caring school with deep roots in the Christian faith,
so all grow and flourish (spiritually, academically, socially and emotionally).*

SEEK, BELIEVE, ACHIEVE!

Make a tree good and its fruit will be good... for a tree is recognised by its fruit Matthew 12 v 33

Together we strive to

- *SEEK* knowledge about the amazing world around us and to understand God's teaching for our lives.
- *BELIEVE* that if we grow as a *family* together in our *care, courage, respect, honesty, and responsibility*, we will
- *ACHIEVE* our full potential, to be the best we can be

As a tree makes fruit, a good person brings life to others Proverbs 11 v 30

INTRODUCTION

"RE remains a vital academic subject for education in the 21st century. Studying RE gives young people the knowledge, understanding and motivation they need to understand important aspects of human experience, including the religious, spiritual, and moral. It gives insights into the arts, literature, history, and contemporary local and global social and political issues. It provides them with a space in the curriculum to reflect on their own worldview and to engage with others whose worldview may be different. The young people that we have spoken to have told us that RE enables them to have better friendships and to develop greater respect and empathy for others. RE is highly valued by many employers, who increasingly understand that in a globalised world, understanding others' worldviews and their impact on people's lives is essential to success."
Religious Education for all Sept 2017 by the Commission on Religious Education

The DCSF document *Religious education in English schools: Non-statutory guidance 2010* (DCSF-00114-2010) states "Religious Education has an important part to play as part of a broad, balanced and coherent curriculum to which all pupils are entitled". Should parents request that their child be withdrawn from Religious Education lessons and acts of worship, the child will be excused attendance and the child's parents/ carers should provide alternative work for the child to be engaged in during these sessions. However it should be recognised that Religious Education is not a subject that is just confined to the classroom. The spiritual and moral development of pupils as detailed above is affected by all aspects of school life, and the values, ideals and lifestyle choices that result from this, pervade the whole school community. It is therefore anticipated and encouraged that all pupils will be included in the RE curriculum as parents have opted to send their pupils to a church school.

OUR CHRISTIAN DISTINCTIVENESS

The Governors have adopted a statement on spirituality that recognises the Christian ethos on which the school is based. The teaching of RE respects individual beliefs, but also seeks to ensure that each pupil receives an understanding of Jesus Christ and the Christian teachings of the Bible. Christian principles will be modelled and taught in every aspect of school life, so that pupils emerge from the school's care with an understanding of universally-applicable values that they have seen worked out in practice. We provide an environment and atmosphere in which the acknowledgement and worship of God is fully integrated into daily living. We are committed to helping pupils, parents and all others involved in school life, to develop as spiritual people, aware that their life has a supernatural dimension with the scope to develop a relationship with God through prayer, worship, learning and companionship with others.

AIMS in developing pupils' religious literacy

- To enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a global, living faith that influences the lives of people across the world
- To enable pupils to know and understand about other major world religions and world views, encouraging respect and sensitivity to others

- To explore and enrich the development of pupils' own beliefs, values and moral choices with regards to how they think and live.
- To enable pupils to build a sense of identity and belonging
- To explore challenging questions of meaning and purpose raised by human experience.

CURRICULUM CONTENT

The RE curriculum is intrinsic to the outworking of Speen School's Christian vision in enabling all pupils to flourish and reach their potential. In Church schools religious education is considered an academic subject and will have a high profile. It is expected that progress in RE will be strong and attainment high. In a Church school parents can expect an RE curriculum that enables pupils to acquire a knowledge and understanding of Christian belief and practice. RE is taught in a coherent curriculum that enables progress through ordered and sequential learning, developing both knowledge and skills. Pupils will develop a wide range of skills including enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection. Pupils will have a safe space to explore their own religious, spiritual and/or philosophical ways of seeing, living and thinking, believing and belonging. They will have opportunities to engage in meaningful and informed dialogue with those of all religions and worldviews. Christianity is the main religion taught and is at least 70% of the RE scheme of work. 10% of the weekly timetable is given to RE (this is separate to the time given to collective worship each day).

The rich and varied RE curriculum will engage and challenge pupils through an exploration of core concepts and questions. It is and based on the Bucks Agreed Syllabus utilising aspects of the Oxford Diocese RE scheme of work. The units taught allow pupils to have an in depth understanding of Christianity as a living world faith. By exploring core theological concepts, the units enable pupils to develop knowledge and skills in making sense of biblical texts and understanding their impact in the lives of Christians. Pupils have opportunities to understand and make links between the beliefs, practices and value systems of the range of faiths and world views that they will study. In addition, the RE curriculum will contribute to British values and spiritual moral social and cultural development. The programme runs on a two year rolling programme, arranged to accommodate the three year groups within the school.

RECORD KEEPING, MARKING AND ASSESSMENT

Teachers will challenge pupils' ideas and beliefs by giving them the opportunities to reflect on 'big questions' linked to the learning objective. Medium term teaching plans are annotated following lessons taught. Teachers use assessment statements to monitor pupil progress. Pupils' attainment in RE is noted in the end of year report to parents.

The governing body will monitor standards in RE regularly. The effectiveness of RE in Church schools is evaluated during the statutory inspection of Anglican and Methodist schools (SIAMS) section 48 inspection. The SIAMS evaluation schedule assesses the way RE contributes to the outworking of church school's Christian vision. It highlights the responsibility of Church school leaders to ensure that pupils flourish academically through the provision of high-quality RE. In voluntary aided schools such as Speen, a judgement on standards in teaching and learning in RE is also included in the SIAMS report.

RESOURCES and the involvement of others

Practical resources are available to support classroom learning.

Church buildings, local ministers and other places of worship are used to support appropriate topics of the RE curriculum wherever possible. RE human resources also include the people involved within the school community, friends, families, church members, local Christian leaders and leaders of other faiths. Parents who have a commitment to a particular faith community are encouraged to visit the school as part of the RE curriculum. Foundation Governors visit the school regularly and actively seek opportunities to be involved in the RE curriculum.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR STAFF

RE teachers are expected to attend Diocesan training and network meetings regularly to enhance their skills. Opportunities are provided for staff to identify individual training needs on a yearly basis and relevant support is then planned.

KEY STAGE 1 – Different content will be covered using the same theme title for the unit topic as they are studied in half termly blocks.

		Autumn	Spring	Summer
Years R, 1 & 2	Half Term 1	1.1 What do Christians believe God is like? Belonging All About Me Islam	1.4 Why does Easter matter to Christians? Special People, Special Occasions Judaism Important places Ed visit	1.2 Why is the word 'God' so important to Christians? Special Stories Judaism – connections with Christianity
	Half Term 2	1.3 Why does Christmas matter to Christians? Our World All About me What makes some things Sacred? Who was Abraham?	1.5 What is the good news that Jesus brings? Special Occasions – Why does it not matter to others? Hanukah and Joseph Maccabee	F:1 Who made the world? Our World all about me. Who are important people in the church? What does a Rabbi and a vicar do?

GOOD RE WEBSITES

<http://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk/find/all/ideas/1/re/>

<http://www.reinspired.org.uk/schools>
<http://www.reinspired.org.uk/sessions>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zxnygk7>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/religion/>

<http://www.request.org.uk/unpacked/teachings>
<http://www.request.org.uk/main/festivals>
<http://www.request.org.uk/issues>

<http://www.reonline.org.uk/>

<http://www.stapleford-centre.org/>

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/>
<http://photography.nationalgeographic.com/photography/>
<http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/diwali-lights-festival>

<http://www.tes.co.uk/>

<http://www.godlyplay.org.uk/>