



Little Missenden CE Infant School

RE POLICY

AUTUMN 2023

Introduction

At Little Missenden Infant School, RE plays an important role in expressing the Christian vision of the school. RE reflects the ethos and values that are held and promotes understanding of people of all worldviews. RE has the same high status as any other subject and contributes to the overall development of our pupils from all backgrounds and traditions.

Our Christian vision to be “Rooted and grounded in love” means we need to value respect and have compassion for ourselves and one another. Our goal is for all to feel nurtured, to grow and to flourish into the individual they are meant to be. RE raises awareness of differences of beliefs and encourages respect, curiosity, tolerance and knowledgeable debate, values that we readily promote across the school through our vision.

As written in our statement of intent we aim for all pupils to be rooted and grounded in Christian values, knowing about, and respecting a range of worldviews.

The Legal Position

Every maintained school in England must provide a basic curriculum (RE, sex and relationship education and the National Curriculum). This includes provision for RE for all registered pupils at the school, except for those withdrawn by their parents (see paragraph below). The school, in accordance with its Trust Deed, provides religious education for all pupils registered at the school. Following advice from the Oxford Diocesan Board of Education, the governors decided that religious education in our school should be based upon the Locally Agreed Syllabus (<https://schoolsweb.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/school-improvement-and-equalities/buckinghamshire-agreed-syllabus-for-religious-education/a-model-for-religious-education>) while also reflecting the requirements of the Statement of Entitlement for Religious Education published by the Education Office of the Church of England in February 2019. The statutory section 48 (SIAMS) inspection will evaluate RE and the way that it expresses the Christian vision of the school and look for evidence of progress and attainment. Religious education has the same status and importance as any other subject and, as such, the same high standards are applied to this as to other subjects.

'Rooted and grounded in love' Ephesians 3:17
friendship, thankfulness, honesty, forgiveness, compassion and trust



Purpose and Aims of RE

The purpose of RE is to teach children about the religious and non-religious world-views that they will encounter in modern Britain and enable them to engage in meaningful and considered dialogue with those of all faiths and none. This is religious literacy.

Therefore, the aims of RE in our school are:

- 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 text
- To gain knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews appreciating diversity, continuity and change within the religions and worldviews being studied: Judaism, Christianity and non-religious world views
- 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
- To explore their own religious, spiritual and philosophical ways living, believing and thinking

Curriculum and Time Allocation

The RE curriculum at Little Missenden Infant school has been approved by the governors. Fifty percent of the time is devoted to Christianity, with key concepts revisited on a spiral curriculum. Other religions are covered according to the syllabus; eg *Judaism and non religious world views*.

Nursery and Reception are introduced to different worldviews through celebrations and festivals throughout the year. Reception and Key stage one have an RE lesson each week.

We follow the suggested scheme of work for Church Schools RE in the Diocese of Oxford. Using a mixture of units from Understanding Christianity and the Oxford Diocese team.

The total time for RE is between 5% and 10%, and it is taught in dedicated lessons/blocks/cross-curricular settings as appropriate. **The time dedicated to RE is separate from the time given to Collective Worship.** In KS1 this will amount to approximately 36 hours per year.

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

RE is taught using an enquiry based approach, that is challenging and robust. Learning will be organised to encourage the development of attitudes such as self-awareness, respect for all, open-mindedness, appreciation and wonder, as well as providing opportunities to engage appropriately with Fundamental British Values. All faiths are treated respectfully, and opportunities are made to engage in age-appropriate, meaningful discussion. Where possible, pupils will encounter believers and visit places of worship.

'Rooted and grounded in love' Ephesians 3:17
friendship, thankfulness, honesty, forgiveness, compassion and trust



The intrinsic values that our vision to be rooted and grounded in love promotes is evident in RE and across all subjects: we strive to enable all children to make progress in RE regardless of their starting points, ability, or background. A variety of resources, styles, and techniques will be used as appropriate to aid progress.

We endorse the Valuing all God's Children document which states:

“Church of England schools have at their heart a belief that all children are loved by God, are individually unique and that the school has a mission to help each pupil to fulfil their potential in all aspects of their personhood: physically, academically, socially, morally and spiritually. Our aim is that all may flourish and have an abundant life. Schools have a duty to try to remove any factor that might represent a hindrance to a child's fulfilment. We want all pupils to willingly engage in learning in a safe and welcoming environment”

Assessment procedures will be robust and in line with the assessment procedures and feedback policy of the school, meeting the requirements of the syllabus or scheme that has been adopted. Students will engage in a variety of activities which will also enable teachers to assess what they have learnt. Records kept will include information about pupils' experiences and judgements about their attainment and progress, as well as being used to inform planning.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The RE subject leader committee and SLT will monitor teaching and learning in RE in accordance with school policy. A member of the RE subject leader committee will observe teaching, conduct book and planning reviews and pupil interviews when appropriate to assess the quality of teaching and learning. The headteacher and governors will ensure that adequate monitoring takes place and that the impact of such activity is assessed.

Resources

The RE subject leader will ensure that RE resources are kept up-to-date and that staff are informed when new resources are purchased or made available electronically. Resources will include source materials (eg Bibles, visitors, artefacts) where appropriate and be treated with respect by all staff.

The Right of Withdrawal

Pupils may be withdrawn from RE or part of RE by a parent or guardian (or withdrawing themselves if they are aged 18 or over) in accordance with Schedule 19 to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998; teachers can exercise their right to withdraw from teaching the subject. However, we hope that all parents and teachers will feel comfortable with the type of religious education being taught at this school. Parents who wish to withdraw their children must provide written notification to this effect and provide suitable activities for their children. The school will keep pupils safe but will not provide any work or reading material for pupils who have been withdrawn.

'Rooted and grounded in love' Ephesians 3:17
friendship, thankfulness, honesty, forgiveness, compassion and trust



An enquiry-based approach is focused around Big Questions and an investigative approach, as recommended by the Oxford Diocesan Scheme of Work, Understanding Christianity and the Discovery RE Scheme of Work. It is recommended in the National Statement of Entitlement.



'Rooted and grounded in love' Ephesians 3:17
friendship, thankfulness, honesty, forgiveness, compassion and trust

