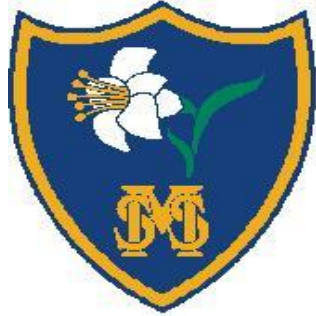


Haddenham St Mary's CE School



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

The Importance of Religious Education

RE is given high status as a subject. In addition to Christianity, pupils study major world faiths, enabling them to become well-equipped for living in a multi-cultural society.

Religious Education (RE) forms part of the statutory Basic Curriculum and should be accessed by all pupils unless parents exercise their right to withdraw their children.

RE has a key role to play in enabling pupils to achieve and preparing them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life. As such it underpins the school's Christian values and supports pupils in contributing to moral and ethical standards in society.

RE emphasises the emotions, a sense of mystery, a sense of wonder, questioning in depth and a whole view of life and personal commitments.

Religious education does not seek to urge religious beliefs upon pupils, nor compromise their own beliefs, religious or otherwise.

It is not the aim of the school to press for any conversion to a particular faith. As a Church of England School, Christianity is very important to us but we appreciate and celebrate similarities and differences between many religions, values and customs.

Pupils will be encouraged to develop a reflective approach to life in an atmosphere of openness, exploration and enquiry and encouraged to respect differences and understand other beliefs.

Pupils will extend their thinking and analytical skills and their creative, imaginative and emotional development.

Teaching and Learning Strategies

We follow the Buckinghamshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education Linked to 'Understanding Christianity' with half-termly units of planning set out in our whole school curriculum overview.

RE is taught through stories, cross-curricular themes, RE topics, festivals and whole school topics, discussion on specific ideas and spontaneous enquiries.

Teaching methods are stimulating and engaging, providing all students with access to religious education. Consideration is paid to different learning styles and the differing abilities so that all pupils make progress in their learning. A range of teaching and learning strategies are employed which include:

- class discussion
- media, artefacts, reference books
- drama and music eg celebrations of Nativity and Mothers Day
- visits to places of worship
- visitors to school

- cross-curricular learning
- collective worship

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

Parents are provided with teacher assessment information of their child's attainment in KS1, this is recorded on INSIGHT. They receive an overview of learning in EYFS. It is recognised that there are aspects of RE that cannot and should not be assessed.

Monitoring and Evaluating

Monitoring and evaluating are an important part of the teaching and learning process and inform future planning. The RE Curriculum will be monitored and evaluated by:

- class teachers as part of the teaching and learning within their class
- by the subject co-ordinator and Headteacher
- by Governors through focused visits and discussion with the subject co-ordinator

The RE co-ordinator supports the class teachers, monitors and coordinates planning throughout the school, developing the subject and communicating with stakeholders, including the Christian Values Group.

Faiths

Pupils will learn predominantly about the Christian faith, but will also learn about other faiths including Judaism and Islam. This will also depend on the faiths of the children who attend our school so that we can be inclusive in our approach.

We plan visits to others places of worship that are Christian and non Christian in faith. We strive to ensure that children have a tolerance and understanding and respect for others of different faiths to themselves.

Links

As a church school, we have strong links with St Mary's Church, and regularly welcome representatives from the 'Churches Together in Haddenham' to school.

The 'Open the Book' scheme is delivered by local Church representatives and shares stories and themes underpinning the school's RE planning.

Right of Withdrawal

Under the 1944 and 1988 and 1993 Acts parents have a right to withdraw their children from RE or parts of RE. Parents who wish to do this are encouraged to discuss this with the Headteacher.

Equal Opportunities

We are committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all pupils. Please see our Equality and Diversity policy.