



Bishop Cornish CEVA Primary School Religious Education Policy

Date Reviewed: October 2024

Next Review: September 2025

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Head Teacher

Tim Parkman

Chair of Governors

Our Mission Statement: To inspire through faith and love, that all may flourish.

*Those who do what is right will flourish like a palm tree,
they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon;
¹³ planted in the house of the Lord,
they will flourish in the courts of our God.
¹⁴ They will still bear fruit in old age,
they will stay fresh and green,
¹⁵ proclaiming, "The Lord is upright;
he is my Rock, and there is no *wrong* in him." Psalm 92 12:15*

The Christian values that we hold as a school permeate throughout all areas of school life.

Friendship, Perseverance, Respect, Compassion, Trust, Justice

Philosophy

Religious education is a legal entitlement for every pupil and enables children to investigate and reflect on some of the most fundamental questions which life presents. At Bishop Cornish CEVA Primary School, we offer an explicitly and implicitly Christian philosophy which affirms the importance of the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental, emotional and physical development of all pupils. Spiritual and moral development are central to the life of our school with our vision, 'To inspire through faith and love that all may flourish' underpinning the school's RE Policy. We regard Religious Education as a particular area of the curriculum where our values of friendship, perseverance, respect, compassion, trust, justice and our school ethos 'come alive' in the classroom. It is our aim to build confidence, raise self-esteem and for every child to feel safe and nurtured throughout our school in order that they flourish.

Through Christian worship and Christian teaching, we want every child to make sense of the world around them. RE is taught in such a way that it inspires pupils to explore, develop and affirm their own faith and values. To develop their knowledge of other faiths and to develop world-wide views and understanding and awareness of beliefs, values and traditions of other individuals, societies, communities and cultures.

We encourage our pupils to ask big questions about the world, to reflect on their beliefs, values and experiences being confident to challenge and stand up for what they believe is right and supported to aspire to make a positive difference now and, in their future lives. Much of the work in RE begins with children's own experiences and emphasis is placed on how special and unique they are.

The Governors and staff of our school promote the knowledge of God's loving care for each individual. This will be realised through the day to day management of the school. We aim to provide an environment where pupils share experiences which allow them to grow in truth, love, security and forgiveness.

Legal Framework

In a Voluntary Aided (VA) School the Governors determine the RE policy and syllabus in consultation with the Headteacher, teaching staff and Diocesan Board of Education. Parents have a legal right to withdraw their children from religious education lessons, but as RE is central to the life and identity of Bishop Cornish CEVA Primary School, we would ask parents to discuss with the headteacher any reasons they might have for doing this.

RE is unique in the school curriculum, in that it is neither a core subject nor a foundation subject but the 1988 Education Act states that 'Religious Education has equal standing in relation to core subjects of the National Curriculum' in that it is compulsory for all registered pupils. It is recommended that a minimum of 5% of curriculum time to be spent on RE. Section 48 of the 2005 Education Act requires inspection of religious education in schools which have a religious character. This is the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS).

Aims

The aims and objectives of RE at Bishops Cornish CEVA Primary School are to esteem and educate every child and help children to:

- Evoke a sense of beauty, awe and wonder,
- Provide opportunities for reflection, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality,

- Engage with a range of provoking questions about the meaning of God, what is right and wrong and what it is to be human,
- Acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and to gain some experience of what it is like to be a Christian,
- To develop an awareness of the worldwide Anglican church,
- Provide an experience of worship which will offer opportunities for those present to respond to the presence, power and peace of God,
- Have the ability to ask significant and highly reflective questions about religion and demonstrate an excellent understanding of issues related to the nature, truth and value of religion,
- Develop an awareness about religions and moral issues to develop lively, enquiring minds,
- Develop independence, offer opportunities for themselves, evaluating ideas and working constructively with others in order to combat prejudice,
- Have an understanding and knowledge of the beliefs and practices of other principal religions: Judaism, Islam and Hinduism,
- To build a sense of our multicultural society in Britain today and our place in the world, having respect and positive attitude for others regardless of their beliefs, race or social status,
- To fulfil our role as a Church of England Voluntary Aided School.

Requirement

In our Church School, RE must be taught in accordance with the teaching of the Church of England (reflecting our foundation). The Governors, have a responsibility to see that the RE reflects the Anglican tradition of the school. In addition, to time spent in collective worship, 36 hours per year are taught in KS1 and 45 hours per year in KS2. 50% of the teaching is Christian based, 50% of the teaching is on world religions.

Teaching and Learning

Our school uses the Cornwall Agreed Syllabus 2020-2025, it was created for SACRE and adopted by Cornwall Council. In December 2016, the school began to use the Understanding Christianity resources and it is used alongside the Cornwall Agreed Syllabus. The use of both of these resources ensures full coverage of the RE curriculum. This result is the basis for all our work and teaching.

1. The scheme of work for RE will maintain a balance between learning about religions and learning from religions.
2. There will be clear learning outcomes for all units of work. These are listed in more detail in the School's RE Progression Document.
3. Following the Progression Document will ensure continuity and progression for pupils and offer opportunities for assessment.
4. A range of teaching and learning activities will ensure that pupils learn effectively and with interest.
5. Pupil progress and attainment in RE will be tracked.
6. RE will be taught either as a discrete subject and where appropriate as part of a cross curricular approach.
7. Where possible, visitors will be invited to support the teaching of RE, and where appropriate, there will be planned visits to places of worship.
8. Strong connections are made with literacy, the Arts, Humanities and spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC). Christian teaching also continues throughout the year as part of Collective Worship.
9. KS1 children will record their learning in Big Books and The Big Question Book and KS2 will record their learning in individual RE books with class Big Books showcasing class progression.

10. We will aim to dedicate 10% of curriculum time to RE (inclusive of collective worship) and not less than 5%.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Planning in RE is a process in which all teachers are involved. The foundation for RE planning is the Understanding Christianity document and Cornwall Agreed syllabus 2020-2025. Planning will be informed by the School's RE Progression Document. Formative assessment strategies are embedded in teaching and learning in RE as in all subjects. Teachers will use a range of formative assessment strategies and informal tasks and tests to assess pupil learning and to inform further teaching. Teachers use evidence from formative assessments conducted throughout the year to make a summative judgement of pupil attainment at the end of each year. Data will be uploaded into the School's data monitoring system (at present Pupil Asset), using below expectation, at expected and working at greater depth. RE attainment is also reported in the Annual School Report for parents.

The Chair of Governors and other Governors (including the Parish Priest) monitor and evaluate, through their frequent visits and attendance at events, both in school and further afield.

The role of the Subject Leader

The RE coordinator has the responsibility to take a lead in developing religious education across the school within the school's improvement plan, monitoring the effectiveness of teaching and learning and the use of resources.

They will arrange for relevant advice and information from courses to be disseminated and, where appropriate, to be included in improvement planning and turned into practice. They will arrange for whole school training where appropriate.

The RE subject leader will liaise with the Link Governor for RE. The Governor responsible for RE will meet regularly with the Head Teacher and discussions relating to work in RE will be discussed at Governor meetings.

Supported by the Head Teacher, the role of the subject leader will be to monitor and evaluate the teaching and learning in RE by:

- Observing teaching and learning in RE,
- Analysing assessment data in order to plan whole school improvement in RE,
- Conducting 'book looks' to inform evaluation of progress,
- Listening to 'pupil voice'.

Success Criteria

Evaluating success is a vital part of the teaching and learning process. RE in our school will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Pupils are gaining an understanding of, and insight into religious beliefs and practices, especially in the Christian faith, which will help them form their own beliefs,
- Full recognition is given to the church's year and to the major festivals of the Christian church within the Anglican tradition,
- Pupils have direct, first hand experiences of religion,
- RE in school is helping to create the capacity for tolerance and empathy through which people are encouraged to express their own ideas and respond from their own experiences,

- There is adequate provision of resources for implementation of the syllabus in terms of staff, space, time, equipment and materials,
- Where RFE forms part of a topic, the RE element is adequately and clearly understood and is related to the aims and objectives of the syllabus and topic.
There is a coordinated approach to RE in the school,
- Use is made of resources offered by parish churches and the worshipping community. Pupils are familiar with the local churches and know the parish priests, the Bishop and senior Diocesan staff,
- Pupils are set appropriate tasks according to their age and ability, and their work is assessed regularly through outcomes of tasks.

School and Community

Links between the school and community include:

- Visits by the children to parish churches, eg Harvest Festivals, Christmas, Easter, Leavers' Service,
- Visits from clergy and outside speakers to school (local, national and international),
- Visits from ecumenical lay workers,
- Our termly communion service which is open to the children's' families and friends and the local congregation,
- Confirmation classes in class,
- Baptism and confirmation services in school,
- Support of local charities,
- Regular participation in Diocesan events.

Equal Opportunities

All children have equal access to the RE curriculum. It is through our RE policy that the aims of the school are realised by the value placed on each individual child.