

Policy for Religious Education (RE)

Policy Statement

Religious Education (RE) within our curriculum at Parc Eglos makes a significant contribution to preparing pupils for life in modern Britain. Learning activities provide for the needs of all learners. Pupils will be inspired by the subject and develop a wide range of skills such as enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection, to deepen their understanding of the impact of religion and beliefs on the world. Christianity is taught as a living and diverse faith, focused on the teachings of Jesus and the Church, alongside a range of other religious and non-religious worldviews. Religious Education encourages pupils to learn from different religions, beliefs, values and traditions while creating a safe space for them to explore their own beliefs and questions of meaning.

Legal Requirements

As an academy school at Parc Eglos, we are independent of the local authority and not required to follow the national curriculum or the local RE syllabus. However, our curriculum must reflect ‘that religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, whilst taking account of the teachings and practices of the other principle religious traditions present in Great Britain.’[Education Reform Act 1988]. Therefore the school has decided to teach Religious Education according to the Cornwall Agreed Syllabus 2020 - 2025.

Aims of RE

- To enable pupils to know, learn about and understand Christianity as a living faith that influences the lives of people worldwide and as the religion that has most shaped British culture and heritage.
To enable our children to have the freedom to explore their own behaviour, practices and outlook within their own religion or belief system, and those of others.
- To enable pupils to know about and understand diverse religious and non-religious worldviews, their impact on society, culture and the wider world, and to appreciate the diversity, continuity and change within them.
- To engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose.
- To contribute to the development of pupils’ own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own beliefs and values.

Teaching and Learning

We aim to provide:

- A curriculum that enables pupils to acquire a rich, deep knowledge and understanding of Christian belief and practice.
- A curriculum that draws on the richness and diversity of religious experience worldwide, as well as locally and nationally.
- A curriculum that provides opportunities for children to develop knowledge and skills through interpretation and analysis of a range of religious texts and understanding the impact on belief.
- The opportunity for pupils to deepen their understanding of the religious and non-religious worldviews as lived by believers.
- A pedagogy that instils respect for different views and interpretations; and, in which real dialogue and theological enquiry takes place.
 - To develop pupils’ abilities to connect, critically reflect upon, evaluate and apply their learning to their own growing understanding of religion and belief (particularly Christianity), of themselves, the world and human experience.
- Engaging and varied learning activities that provide for the needs of all learners, supported by high quality resources.
- The opportunity for pupils to develop a wide range of skills including enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection

- RE that makes a positive contribution to SMSC development and also to pupils' understanding of British values.
- An assessment process which has rigour and demonstrates progression based on knowledge and understanding of core religious concepts and themes.

Implementation

Pupils experience opportunities to learn and express themselves through an enquiry-based style of learning by:

- Experiencing variety of teaching and learning approaches.
- Engaging with teacher presentations, role play, drama and story telling.
- Making their own presentations.
- Posing and discussing 'big' and challenging questions.
- Reading and critically analysing texts.
- Interpreting information from different sources.
- Researching information for themselves in libraries and on computers.
- Listening to and discussing with the teacher and other pupils.
- Engaging in pair and group work.
- Exploring a range of media such as stories, artefacts, pictures, photographs and music.
 - Experiencing visits and visitors to connect with diverse faith and belief communities.
- Taking part in outdoor learning.
- Taking time for listening, reflection and dialogue.

Curriculum balance and time

Teaching in RE challenges stereotypes, misinformation and misconceptions about race, gender and religion. Lessons seek to present religions and world views in all their richness and diversity in terms of beliefs, traditions, customs and lifestyle in a sensitive and accurate way in order to encourage a positive attitude towards diversity. Questions, views and opinions are treated with sensitivity and respect. Teaching enables pupils to gain something of personal value from their study of religious belief and practice, for example, the way that they might apply insights gained from religious stories to their own lives.

Curriculum balance and time

RE is delivered as a discrete subject and accounts for 5% of curriculum time. Of this curriculum time, in accordance with the structure of the Cornwall Agreed Syllabus, we have agreed 60% will be focused on Christianity.

Resources

Our key resource for teaching Christianity, as indicated in the Cornwall Agreed Syllabus in the Understanding Christianity materials. Alongside this, the RE Today Agreed Syllabus for RE support 4 materials are used as a resource for teaching non-Christian religions. The school also holds a range of books and authentic or replica artefacts to enhance the teaching of Religious Education.

Assessment

Assessment in religious education will:

- Involve identifying suitable opportunities at the conclusion of each half-term.
- Be directly related to the expectations of the Cornwall Agreed Syllabus 2020 – 2025.
- Seek to identify development in the different areas of learning in the subject and not only in the acquisition of factual knowledge.
- Recognise the range of skills and attitudes which the subject seeks to develop.
- Employ well defined criteria for marking and assessment which identify progress and achievement as well as effort, following the school's marking policy.
- Enable effective tracking of pupil progress to identify areas for development in pupil's knowledge and understanding, as well as whole school areas for development.

Monitoring, Evaluation, Assessment, Recording, Reporting

- Governors have responsibility for monitoring RE in the school.
- The headteacher has overall responsibility for monitoring and evaluation.
- The RE subject leader will assist the headteacher by monitoring long term and medium-term plans.
- The RE subject leader will assist the headteacher by monitoring RE through focused work scrutiny.
- The subject leader will keep a file of examples of work to demonstrate continuity and progression.
- The subject leader will manage resources.
- The subject leader will endeavour to keep up to date with information, initiatives and developments in religious education and disseminate this as appropriate.
- The subject leader will provide or organise CPD as appropriate.
- The subject leader will facilitate the sharing of good practice.

Staff training and development

All staff have access to RE CPD in line with the subject leader's identified areas for development. This is either 'in house' or through diocesan or other support. The RE subject leader attends local network meetings.

Managing the right to withdraw from RE

At Parc Eglos School, RE is taught as an engaging, inclusive and enquiry-led subject, open to all and at the centre of the curriculum, and we would hope that all parents would understand the value of this for all children. However, parents do have a right by law to withdraw their children from Religious Education lessons. In this event, we will undertake responsibility for their supervision with regard to health and safety. The school follows the guidance offered by NATRE and we always encourage parents to discuss any concerns they may have about the RE curriculum with the Head Teacher before making a final decision. Requests for full or partial withdrawal need to be made to the Head Teacher in writing. 5 Parents have a right by law to withdraw their children from the Religious Education curriculum. In this event, we will undertake responsibility for their supervision regarding health and safety. If a pupil is withdrawn from RE, provision will be made for them to be supervised within another classroom where possible, or alongside another group outside of the classroom for the duration of the lesson. Pupils withdrawn from RE may be asked to complete activities related to their own religion or other curriculum learning activities. There will always be opportunity for parents to discuss the contents of the RE curriculum should they have concerns.