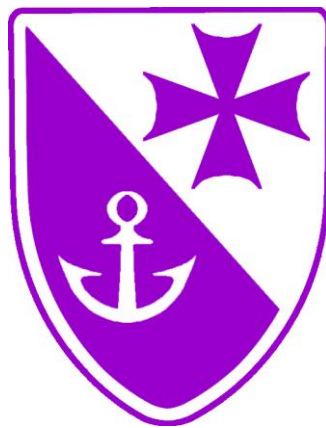


St Clement's and St John's Infant CE School



“I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord...
”plans to give you a future and a hope.”
Jeremiah 29:11

Religious Education Policy

RE Policy	Date created: October 2022
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	Author: Debbie Burns
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Statement of Intent

St Clement's School is a Church of England VA School with its foundation and history rooted in the Anglican church. Through effective curriculum planning, our Religious Education (RE) provision reflects the Church of England Statement of Entitlement, develops religious literacy and meets statutory obligations.

Our children are central to our vision and hopes for Religious Education at St Clement's and St John's CE Infant School. For a school with a high English as an Additional Language (EAL) intake and with a number of disadvantaged pupils, Religious Education (RE) provides a rich exploration of faiths, cultures and beliefs. With more than 25 different languages spoken, RE lays the foundations for a deep understanding of our multi-cultural and diverse context. It also provides opportunity to relate the learning to our 4C living values of confidence, compassion, creativity, and curiosity. It seeks to prepare each child for their next steps both within education and beyond:

'For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord... plans to give you a hope and a future.' Jeremiah 29:11

RE is concerned with:

- developing skills to help them 'think theologically', from the 'Big Picture' of the Bible, looking in depth at Creation, Incarnation, Gospel and Salvation. It explores Christian belief and practice, making connections and understanding the impact on and contribution to our society.
- developing knowledge and understanding of other major world religions and world views and their impact on society and culture, encouraging respect for those holding different beliefs,
- fostering a sense of reflection, deep thinking and curiosity,
- promoting spiritual, moral, cultural and mental development.
- Enabling children to discover, clarify and develop their own beliefs and values. and to form their own reasoned and informed judgements about faith.

Religious Education provides, within the curriculum, a reminder that education concerns the whole person; body, mind and spirit. It asks teachers and pupils basic questions about God and humanity, good and evil, forgiveness and salvation, life and death and especially about meaning and purpose.

RE has a particular part to play in pupils' spiritual development. We see spiritual development in terms of pupils' capacity to reflect on fundamental aspects of life and relationship. This is set within RE and Collective Worship, and other subjects should also contribute to pupils' spiritual development. St Clement's school RE is provided under the terms of the Bournemouth and Poole Syllabus. We endorse the view of R.E. stated in the Agreed Syllabus and the statement that the principal aim of R.E. is to support teachers to plan and deliver high quality RE that engages pupils in relevant questioning and exploration of their own and others' beliefs.

R.E. and Collective Worship are legally distinct. However, the two are purposefully linked to enhance the pupils' educational growth, spiritual development and the affirmation and celebration of the Christian faith.

Purpose and Aims

At St Clement's we weave our 4C values throughout our RE teaching and learning.

- **Confidence**: To encourage the pupils to be Confident in questioning and expressing their own developing beliefs.
- **Compassion**: To develop attitudes of understanding, respect and harmony, and find lots of opportunities to be able to show compassion as Jesus did, personally and corporately.
- **Creativity**: To develop an appreciation of the natural world with its wonder and complexity, and explore their own creativity in relation to this.
- **Curiosity**: to help pupils explore life's Big Questions, encouraging deeper thinking.

We promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and belief. We develop cultural capital which is defined by Ofsted

as “the essential knowledge that children need to be educated citizens” (*Ofsted EY Inspection Handbook 2019, p31*), and to prepare them for future success. R.E especially develops spiritual and emotional awareness, health and growth.

Teaching and Learning

RE is taught by class teachers, using Understanding Christianity and the Discovery programme. These models are adapted to find the best learning and enquiry questions for the current cohort and context. The experiential, creative, artistic and practical approach is especially pertinent to our pupils.

- Lessons are structured with the Rosenshine principles, of reviewing previous learning, sequencing concepts and modelling, questioning, and stages of practice. It seeks to develop the progression of pupils’ thinking skills, such as enquiring, questioning, analysing and interpreting, and through empathising and reflecting, promoting respect for themselves and others alongside spiritual and moral development,

Ways in and differentiation are carefully planned for our pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and EAL, so that all can derive some understanding, irrespective of their own level of understanding and faith background.

In line with the legal requirements, teachers will devote two thirds of the RE curriculum allocated time to content relating to Christianity. Children study aspects of major world faiths alongside Christianity, in Year 1, Judaism, and in Year 2, Islam.

RE is generally taught as a discreet subject. The Church of England states a requirement of between 5- 10% teaching time for RE at Key Stage 1. This may be taught in weekly sessions, or blocked for an immersive experience. It is also enriched and deepened through, for example Nativity performances. This is in addition to Act of Worship times.

The Bournemouth agreed syllabus ‘Any Questions’ says that 5% is the equivalent of at least 36 hours per year in KS1. While there is no official guidance for EYFS, at St Clement’s and St John’s, R.E is a valued part of their curriculum.

Our RE teaching richly benefits from our close ties with LoveChurch, St Clement’s and other local churches for RE visits and visitors.

The school will respect the legal right of parents to withdraw their child from R.E. Parents should inform the head teacher if they wish to exercise this right. Alternative arrangements will be made to ensure the welfare of these children during the time when R.E. is taught.

Key purpose of the ‘Understanding Christianity’ resource.

To support pupils in developing their understanding of Christianity, as a contribution to their understanding of the world and their own experience within it.

Central teaching:

- Christianity as a living world faith, exploring core theological concepts.
- Knowledge and skills development, making sense of Biblical texts and understanding their impact in the lives of Christians
- Connect, critically reflect upon, evaluate and apply their learning to their own growing understanding of Christianity, of religion and belief more widely, of themselves, the world and human experience.

Key purpose of the Discovery Resource

An enquiry based model, which covers religions such as Islam and Judaism, and supports the teacher to deliver engaging and challenging RE lessons with confidence.

Central teaching:

- Critical thinking development, knowledge and understanding of, and empathy with people and their beliefs.
- Encouraging children to be free to make their own choices and decisions regarding religion and belief, informing and developing the skills to evaluate and decide for themselves.

Teachers will seek to deliver some cross-curricular themes through the subject. Religious Education has a particularly important part to play in subjects such as Personal, Social, and Health Education (PSHE). We aim to have a variety of visitors and visits to enrich learning during their time at school. The conduct of these trips will be in compliance with guidelines on school visits.

Assessment

All parents in KS1 will receive information of their child's RE attainment. Statements of attainment will reflect the understanding of their knowledge, skills and attitudes, not on pupils' own religious beliefs or their spiritual development. Assessment and monitoring is regularly recorded and monitored, including lesson observations, work scrutiny and staff and pupil audits.

Monitoring and Reviewing

Monitoring of RE is undertaken through:

- Twice yearly pupil interviews from range of children.
- Termly assessment data.
- Annual staff audit.
- Annual drop in observations
- Governor conferences/ reports.

Carried out by the RE lead with support from the SLE SLT Spirituality Lead. The findings are used to inform RE school improvement.

Inclusion & Equal Opportunities

At St Clement's School we believe every child should experience success in learning and achieve as high a standard as possible. We aim to provide effective learning opportunities for all pupils through 'Ways in', differentiation and a well planned curriculum to meet pupil's learning needs. All pupil contributions will be respected and valued.

As a school which has high proportion of Pupils who speak English as an additional language, and some who have social, emotional or behavioural challenges, we believe RE has an important part to play in developing self-esteem, acceptance and a knowledge of being known and valued by a loving God and that everyone can make a positive contribution to the life of the school.

Health and Safety

All staff are familiar with the contents of the School's Health and Safety Policy. Children are taught to handle resources carefully. Close adult supervision is given to children using equipment when appropriate.