

St Peter's CE Junior School Policy for Religious Education

INTRODUCTION

St Peter's Junior is a Voluntary Aided Church of England School.

The RE is taught within the whole schools cross curricular topics whenever it is appropriate. The topics are specified in the long term school plan.

Each term the children will look at stories from the Bible, either from the Old Testament or the New Testament or both.

In line with the Hampshire guidelines on RE, the children will also study other religions of the world. Children at St Peter's study Hinduism and Judaism as part of their RE teaching, as well as Christianity.

Collective Worship

The school has a policy for Collective worship which can be read alongside this policy. Each day the children will participate in school assemblies. Each day the act of worship will be led by a teacher, a visiting speaker, children or the local vicar.

Withdrawal Rights

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from RE lessons or from the Act of Collective Worship.

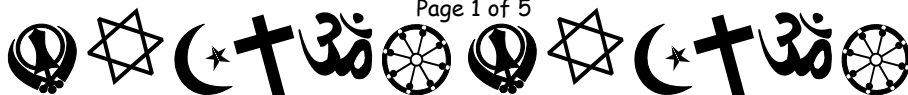
Children with Special Educational Needs

Some children in our care may have special educational needs, these could be because of medical reasons, learning difficulties or behavioural problems.

Where there is a concern over a pupils' attainment in RE, they will be supported in line with the guidance given in the Special Educational Needs (SEN) Code of Practice:

RATIONALE

"Religious education should enable pupils to consider and respond to important questions related to their own spiritual development, the development of values and attitudes and fundamental questions concerning the meaning and purpose of life."
(QCA 1999)



Religious education can provide a rich and wide range of experiences inside and outside the classroom which give children/pupils/students opportunities to develop concepts and skills that will help them to make sense of their own experiences and beliefs, and to understand the beliefs and practices of members of faith communities.

It is a statutory requirement that schools teach religious education as prescribed by the locally agreed syllabus. In this school this means the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education for Hampshire, 'Living Difference'

"Indoctrination and conversion are not part of the educational process and therefore have no place in religious education. Religious education is an educational subject in its own right, taught within an educational framework."

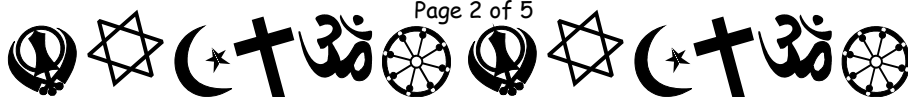
(Diocesan Guidelines 2000)

Religious education in this Church of England Aided school is firmly rooted in the basic tenets of Christianity. Whilst the diocesan guidelines for religious education are incorporated into the schemes of work, our approach is ecumenical and children of all faiths and no faith are encouraged to reflect on what might be learnt from religion in the light of their own beliefs and experiences.

As our school has a comparatively limited ethnic mix, it is an important part of religious education to encourage tolerance and respect for other cultures and faiths.

AIMS

- To enable pupils to understand the nature of Christian beliefs and practices and the beliefs and practices of other world faiths and cultures;
- To teach tolerance and challenge prejudice towards people of different faiths through providing opportunities to develop an understanding of the value of living in a multicultural, multi-faith and multi-lingual society;
- To help pupils reflect upon their own needs, experiences and questions and to confront what are sometimes referred to as 'ultimate questions';
- To encourage pupils to develop open minds to new and different concepts and to form their own opinions based on evidence and argument;
- To maintain close links with local churches and other religious communities;
- To learn from religions in addition to gaining knowledge and understanding about religions.
- To enable children to consider the effects religion has on people's lives



- To broaden children's views of the world through provision of a wide range of encounters that children can apply their own life experiences to.

Our RE teaching recognises their rights as a child in conjunction with the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child, particularly articles 12,14 and 30 which state that:

Article 12 - Children have the right to say what they think should happen, when adults are making decisions that affect them, and to have their opinions taken into account.

Article 14 - Children have the right to think and feel what they want, and to practise their religion as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights. Parents should guide their children on these matters.

Article 30 - Children have a right to learn and use the customs and language of their families, whether these are shared by the majority of people in the country or not.

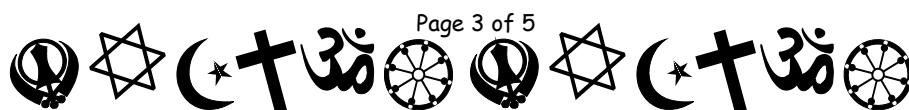
PROCESS OF LEARNING

RE is taught within the framework of our school's policy on teaching and learning:

At St. Peter's we want children to feel happy, secure and confident in their learning. Every child is entitled to a broad and balanced curriculum and at this school we want this to be provided in a way which inspires, motivates and makes learning fun. As part of the children's journey of learning, we look for evidence of what they have achieved and interpret this , so that we can decide where the children are, where they need to go and how best to get there.

The programme of study follows a sequence for learning and teaching which enables pupils to engage with their own and others experiences. It provides a model for a sequence of enquiry and skills that reflects the principles of the school learning policy.

We aim to develop the children's ability to ask and pursue questions and aim to use a range of resources including religious stories, festivals, artefacts, places of worship, rituals and belief, visits and visitors.



Some further principles for learning and teaching:

- Children's questions will be dealt with sensitively and no teacher will impose specific answers to questions about the mysteries of life.
- Parents have the right to withdraw their child from religious education; they will need to inform the Head Teacher in writing. Children withdrawn from lessons will be given other work to do outside of the classroom for the period of the lesson.
- Wherever possible first hand experiences will be used as a stimulus for learning and cross curricular links with other subjects, including the use of information technology, will be made.
- Planning and delivery of religious education will be carried out in accordance with other policies, specifically health and safety, equal opportunity and special needs.
- Assessment procedures for Religious Education are in line with the assessment and marking policy and a portfolio of assessed evidence in line with agreed attainment targets is kept to inform progress and planning.

RESOURCES

- Topic boxes for each year group contain a range of resources specific to studied religion.
- The library contains fiction and non-fiction books relevant to Religious Education.
- Borrowing from the Religious Education Centre in Winchester.

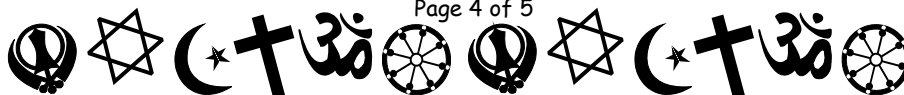
TIMINGS

Religious Education in St Peter's CE Junior School is taught in accordance with the legal requirements of the Agreed syllabus for Hampshire and follows the recommended annual time allocation of 45 hours of Religious Education in Key stage 2.

LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Under the 1988 Education Reform Act the Headteacher is required to secure that:-

- i) All pupils take part in daily collective worship.
- ii) RE is given to all such pupils in accordance with the provision in the school's basic curriculum.



The Governing Body must:

- i) Review the provision made for RE and collective worship.

Governors must ensure that RE will conform with any arrangements made at the request of parents that it be in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus and reflect the fact that St Peter's is a distinctively and recognizably Christian institution.

This RE Policy was approved on behalf of the Governing Body by:

Chair of Curriculum Committee:

Date: 16th March 2006

Review Date: March 2008

