



Religious Education Policy

St Benedict's C. of E. VA Junior School

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Headteacher: Mr P. Ranger

Dream, Believe, Achieve.

Agreed by:		
NAME/ROLE	SIGNED	DATE
P Ranger - Headteacher	<i>P Ranger</i>	06/12/23
H Roper – Chair of Ethos Committee	<i>H Roper</i>	06/12/23

Next review due on or before:	December 2025
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Review Date: December 2025

Vision and Values

'Religious education in a Church school should enable every child to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate for dignity and respect encouraging all to live life well together.' *RE Statement of Entitlement from the Church of England Education Office Feb 2019*

In our school our Christian vision shapes all we do.

At St. Benedict's, we strive to prepare children for life – 'life in all its fullness' (John 10:10). As a fully inclusive Church school, we aim to cater to our diverse, eclectic community, ensuring that those of all faiths and none receive a warm, hospitable welcome in keeping with the example set by St. Benedict himself.

Our vision arises from Jesus' selfless offer that 'I have come that you may have life in all its fullness' (John 10:10). He calls us to a full life in mind, body, heart and spirit and we aim to convey this to our pupils and wider school community through not just our RE delivery but through our wider school offer; with an emphasis on mental and physical wellbeing and explicit links to our church and wider community.

Our School Values are Community, Kindness and Resilience and these are interwoven into pupils' learning throughout the curriculum, including links to RE and Collective Worship.

Policy Statement

Religious Education (RE) has a very high profile within the St. Benedict's curriculum and makes a significant contribution to preparing pupils for life in modern Britain. Learning activities provide fully 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 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 religions and 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 a Voluntary Aided School, at St. Benedict's our governing body determines our RE curriculum, which is in accordance with the school's trust deed and is discussed with the diocese. The school teaches religious education according to the locally agreed syllabus: Awareness, Mystery and Value, The Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education in Somerset

<http://www.amvsomerset.org.uk/> drawn up by the standing Advisory Council for Religious Education [SACRE], with additional teaching on Christianity Section 48 of the 2005 Education Act requires the inspection of religious education in schools which have a religious character. This is the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS).

Managing the right to withdraw

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 with regard to health and safety. There will always be opportunity for parents to discuss the contents of the RE curriculum should they have concerns.

Aims of RE

- To enable pupils to know 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 pupils to know about and understand other major world religions and world views, their impact on society, culture and the wider world, and to appreciate the diversity, continuity and change within those religions and world views,
- 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

In line with the Church of England RE Statement of Entitlement [2019] at St. Benedict's 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,
- The opportunity for pupils to deepen their understanding of the religion and world views as lived by believers,
- A pedagogy that instils respect for different views and interpretations; and, in which real dialogue and theological enquiry takes place,
- 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 value
- An assessment process which has rigour and demonstrates progression based on knowledge and understanding of core religious concepts.

Implementation

- Religious education may be taught in a 'whole class' setting but with flexibility to allow for discussion, questioning and reflection in small groups and individually
- Visits to local churches and other places of worship are encouraged. A variety of teaching approaches are encouraged. Including:

- Teacher presentations, role play, drama and story-telling,
- Questions and answer sessions, discussions and debates,
- Individual and group research,
- Photographs, pictures and maps,
- IT, film, podcasts, radio, websites, to research and communicate ideas.

Curriculum balance and time

Reflecting St Benedict's School's trust deed, Christianity should be the majority religion studied and should be at least 50% of RE curriculum time.

Resources

- "Understanding Christianity" – R.E. Today Resource File. Stored in the main Staff Room.
- A.M.V. "Awareness, Mystery and Value" <https://www.amvsomerset.org.uk/> (The Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education in Somerset)

Monitoring, Evaluation, Assessment, Recording, Reporting

- Governors have responsibility for monitoring how the RE in the school reflects its Christian vision
- 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 work scrutinies.
- 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 be aware of staff development needs and encourage continuing professional development.
- The subject leader will facilitate the sharing of good practice.
- The subject leader will be responsible for drawing up an action plan for religious education. Generally, this will be an annual plan and should be informed by this policy.
- The subject leader will liaise with the Diocesan adviser with responsibility for Religious Education.