

St John and St Francis Church School

RE POLICY

SCHOOL ETHOS

Our Church school is part of the Bath and Wells Multi Academy Trust. As such it shares the same aims, ethos and values as the MAT as a whole.

Church schools are integral to the ministry and mission of the Church and can offer a genuine witness to the incarnation and the creative, redemptive and transforming purposes of God. They do this by loving and valuing all humanity equally; by proclaiming the Gospel through all of their words, and actions, and the quality of the community life and concern for individuals. Church schools are called to bring fullness of life to their pupils, whatever the beliefs of the children and young people or their families.

We are committed to celebrating the local context and purpose of the school. Our vision is for our school to equip children with the knowledge and skills to thrive in later life and to meet the needs of the community in which we serve. Our vision is for our school to become something in which children, parents, staff and the community are proud of.

VISION STATEMENT



At St John and St Francis Church School we aim to create lifelong learners who are confident and caring, have wisdom and respect for themselves and others with faith to follow their chosen path.

Our Flock Code weaves our vision and Christian values together and are shared by our whole school community. It also underpins our school aims of being ready, respectful and safe.



The Bath and Wells Multi Academy Trust has a vision that is shared across MAT schools which is laid out below.

The purpose of the MAT is to secure the rapid and sustained improvement of all its academies. The MAT will enable schools to work together, share expertise and maximise resources. Our vision is for a family of Bath & Wells academies that offers a great learning experience for every child.

We seek to ensure the best possible educational outcome for every child. The MAT believes that every child has the right to a good education, and this will be achieved within a distinctively Christian context, valuing each child as an individual and enabling them to discover and develop their God given gifts.

As academies within the MAT grow and develop, they will be expected and required to share their journey, skills and expertise with other Bath & Wells academies. The MAT will encourage and nurture the dissemination of good practice, fostering a self-sustaining culture of aspiration for educational excellence across all schools and exemplifying Christian values in every area.

We are part of a wider MAT vision based on John 10:10

‘That they may have life, life in all its fullness’

The school has adopted six core Christian values which are shared with children. These are displayed around the school and in each classroom. These values underpin our collective worship programme and relate closely to behaviour and learning. They are:

- Friendship
- Compassion
- Forgiveness
- Peace
- Perseverance
- Thankfulness

Introduction

As a Church school we believe religion is at the heart of the curriculum and permeates all aspects of school life. It has a unique contribution to make towards the spiritual, moral, social and cultural education of each pupil. Our aim is to build our school and our curriculum on Christian principles and practices; promoting moral and social responsibility, a concern for the environment and a respect for other faiths and cultures. A fundamental part of that is delivery of high quality, explicit RE teaching.

St John and St Francis School is a Bath and Wells Academy School and as such we foster strong links with the local community in working together to provide rich learning opportunities for our pupils. The ethos of our school provides a welcoming, secure and stimulating environment and is reflected in a religious education programme that is inclusive and relevant to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all our pupils.

RE at our school is based on the Somerset Agreed Syllabus, 'Awareness, Mystery and Values' (AMV) which is used for multi faith teaching and Understanding Christianity for our Christian teaching.

As outlined in our school prospectus, parents have a legal right to withdraw their children from religious education, though we hope that any who may wish to do so will contact the school to discuss any matters of concern before making such a decision.

Aims

In RE at our school we aim to enable pupils to:

- 1) Investigate religious and non-religious world views
- 2) Have a secure knowledge and understanding of Christianity
- 3) Have knowledge and understanding of religions or world views other than Christianity.

Objectives

- To stimulate the imagination of the child in order to foster in them a sense of awe, wonder and reverence for creation through a variety of teaching strategies;
- To encourage in the children spiritual and moral values such as love, respect, tolerance and forgiveness;
- To promote familiarity with and understanding of the Bible, with particular emphasis on the sovereignty of God, the life and teachings of Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit;
- To share different aspects of the Christian faith, including prayer, worship, symbolism and celebration with examples drawn from men and women of faith;
- To develop an awareness of and respect for other religions and faiths as well as explore other moral codes.

Planning and Teaching

The school has chosen to develop an RE scheme based on recommendations by Somerset SACRE - Awareness, Mystery and Values (AMV) – as this scheme offers a balance between content, concepts, skills and attitudes in RE with progression in learning from Foundation Stage Year 6. (see appendix 1)

We also supplement this by using the resource 'Understanding Christianity' to help teachers deliver high quality Christianity teaching across the school. The long-term plan for this can be seen in appendix 2.

A cross curricular approach is encouraged, where appropriate and a long-term plan in RE provides an overview of when the syllabus units of study are to be covered throughout the school. It also determines the general theme for each unit of study and the focus religions.

We aim to use a variety of teaching and learning methods to engage and challenge pupils of all abilities and to meet the various learning styles of the children, including - story telling, drama and role play, music, singing, raps, art, visits and local walks, discussion and circle time, prayer times and times for quiet reflection, learning texts from The Bible, questioning, human resources, slides and film clips, writing about feelings, investigating and interpreting, ICT, etc.

Links are made, when appropriate, with assemblies, local and national events, anniversaries or celebrations.

The Foundation Stage

Our long-term planning for the subject includes our reception class in the coverage of units of study from the Somerset Agreed Syllabus for RE and Understanding Christianity resource. The AMV units of study are planned to integrate with the foundation curriculum and the way that it is developed throughout this reception year. RE makes a significant contribution to children's knowledge and understanding of the world and their personal and social and spiritual development. RE in the foundation stage provides opportunities for children to investigate their feelings and relationships and to explore and wonder at the world around them. There are opportunities for them to think about how the choices they make and the things they do affect themselves and others. Stories, pictures, DVDs and artefacts help to provide insights into the beliefs, practices and lifestyles of different people.

Teaching Religious Education to pupils with special needs

All pupils have an entitlement to high quality RE, whatever their ability. It is part of the school curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced education for all pupils. We aim to provide learning opportunities that are matched to the needs of specific groups of pupils. Teachers support learning by selecting and developing practical, interactive and visual strategies and materials.

Monitoring and review

Monitoring of the standards of pupils' work and of the quality of teaching in RE is the responsibility of the headteacher along with the RE subject leader. This is done through learning walks and book scrutinies during staff meetings. The work of the subject leader also involves supporting colleagues in the teaching of RE, being informed about current developments in the subject, and providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in the school.

The subject leader develops a yearly action plan for this subject, clearly indicating the areas for future development. These areas are identified through monitoring of teaching and learning and scrutiny of pupils' work and whole school identification of need. The governor with responsibility for RE meets with the subject leader once a year to discuss progress and to watch a lesson as part of the monitoring functions of the Governing Body.

Assessment and recording

In RE we use the AMV and Understanding Christianity 'Standards' and 'Can do statements' to inform planning and assessment.

We use our Multi-Academy Trust agreed assessment grids for each phase to track coverage of the standards. At the end of each half term, it is expected that teachers will record the level their child is working at (below, at, or above age-related expectations) using this assessment grid and supply examples of children's work as evidence. This will be reported to the RE leads and the next teacher of that class at the end of the academic year for their information and monitoring.

School and Classroom Environment

Each class maintains a corner for spiritual reflection and prayer. The frames around the school reflect the whole school's curriculum, including examples of work from RE. The display boards in the school hall and foyer are updated regularly to reflect the Christian Values and how our school shows them on a daily basis.

There is a resources cupboard for RE which can be found near the hall that contains a range of multi-faith artefacts and information that may be of use for teachers.

Time allocation

RE lessons contribute to the spiritual development of pupils, an essential part of the education provided by St John and St Francis as a church school. Throughout the school in the Foundation stage and both KS1 and KS2 there will be a dedicated session of explicit RE every week. Additionally, there are visits to places of worship, both locally and further afield, and visitors from different faith groups are invited to the school to talk to the children about their faith and experiences.

Equal Opportunities

Our teaching and assemblies reflect our Christian principles and focus on the school's six core values. In addition, we aim to give children a broader view of religion, for example by exploring other faith traditions and through visitors to school and assemblies.

Resources

The teacher's resource area is the responsibility of the RE lead and contains a variety of resources and artefacts stored in labelled boxes for Christianity, Judaism, Sikhism, Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam. These resources are regularly monitored and updated, when necessary, by the RE leads.

A set of Good News Bibles and other (Bible) translations are stored centrally in the library.

The RE resource shelves contain materials for use in assemblies and classes alongside useful books and publications.

Other resources may be borrowed from the Museum Service, SACRE (resource boxes), Library Service and the Diocesan Resources Centre.

We make the most of the valuable resources offered in the local community, forging close links with our local church and the Bridgwater community, inviting visitors into school and taking part in event. Pupils visit places of worship such as St. Francis Church, Exeter Mosque, Wells and Exeter Cathedrals, to support their learning and visitors are invited to talk to classes or the whole school when appropriate.

Appendix 1

AMV 2019 Suggested Long Term Plan KS1 - Featured Religions: Christianity and Judaism

	Autumn		Spring		Summer	
Reception	Unit 1: Special me - Who are we? _	Unit 2: Special times - Christmas & Hannukah.	Unit 3: Special places - Church building & Synagogue.	Unit 4: Special times - Easter & Passover.	Unit 5: Special stories - God/creation.	Unit 6: Special stories - Jesus.
Year 1	Unit 2: What do Christians believe about Jesus? (incarnation) Link with Christmas.		Unit 1: What do Christians believe about God?		Unit 5: What do Jewish people believe about God and the Covenant?	
Year 2	Unit 6: What do Jewish people believe about Torah?		Unit 4: What do Christians believe about forgiveness? Link with Easter.		Unit 3: What do Christians believe about love? (Agape)	

KS2 - Featured Religions: Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism

	Autumn	Spring	Summer
Year 3	Unit 5: What do Christians believe about God & Incarnation? (Links with Christmas)	Unit 1: What do Jewish people believe about G-d and the Covenant and Torah? (Links with Passover)	Unit 2: What do Moslem people believe about Islam and Iman?
Year 4	Unit 3: What do Hindu people believe about Dharma, Deity and Atman?	Unit 4: What do Christians believe about Salvation? (Links with Easter)	Unit 6: What do Christians believe about Agape?
Year 5	Unit 11: What do Christians believe about God & Incarnation? (Links with Christmas)	Unit 7: What do Jewish people believe about G-d and the Covenant and Torah? (Links with Passover)	Unit 8: What do Moslem people believe about Islam and Iman?
Year 6	Unit 9: What do Hindu people believe about Dharma, Deity and Atman?	Unit 10: What do Christians believe about Salvation? (Links with Easter)	Unit 12: What do Christians believe about Agape?

Appendix 2

Red = Multi faith work (to be planned by teachers using Understanding Christianity ideas as a guide).

Blue – whole school focus

US = Understanding Christianity scheme

Green = Whole school focus days/weeks

Understanding Christianity Coverage:

Years 1, 3 and 5 to cover Core work

Year 2, 4 and 6 to cover Digging Deeper work

Term/Christian Value	1 - Friendship	2 – Kindness Festival of Light	3 – Perseverance	4 – Forgiveness Easter Week	5 - Peace	6 – Thankfulness Faith through Art
Foundation Stage		Diwali US - Incarnation		US - Salvation	US – God/Creation	Moving on/Journeys
Year 1	Thank you prayers in Judaism US - Creation	Christingle US - Incarnation	Charity in the Wider World US - Gospel	US - Salvation	US - God	Moving on/Journeys
Year 2	Shabbat US – Creation	Hanukkah US - Incarnation	Charity in the Wider World US - Gospel	US - Salvation	Jewish Festivals US - God	Moving on/Journeys
Year 3	US – Creation/Fall	Diwali US – Incarnation/God	US – People of God	Bilal - Islam US - Salvation	US – Kingdom of God	Moving on/Journeys
Year 4	Muslim Stories US – Gospel	Christingle US – Incarnation/God	Moses in Judaism US – People of God	US - Salvation	US – Kingdom of God	Moving on/Journeys
Year 5	US – Creation/Fall	Hanukkah US - Incarnation	Judaism - Exodus US – People of God	US – Salvation (5)	Islamic Charities US - Gospel	Moving on/Journeys
Year 6	US - God	Diwali US - Incarnation	Moses in Islam US - People of God	Humanist Funerals US - Salvation	US – Kingdom of God	Moving on/Journeys