



Religious Education (RE) Policy

“Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs”

(Psalm 100:2)

Review Cycle	Date of Current Policy	Author(s) of Current Policy	Review Date
Annually	October 2024	Joanna Jolliffe (RE Lead)	October 2024

Ratification

Role	Name	Signature	Date
Chair of Governors	Janis Dean	Janis Dean	October 2024
Head Teacher	Kate Lewis	Kate Lewis	October 2024

This policy is based on a model policy from the Diocese of Bath and Wells

In our schools our theologically rooted Christian vision shapes all we do.

Together, Let us Love, Encourage, Achieve and Flourish

Our school vision is theologically rooted and underpins and is interwoven into all aspect of school life. It is through this vision that we model our school culture, values and ethos. Our school vision drives our work and enables the schools to live up to their foundations as church schools. It reflects the needs of the schools and communities and through embedding and living out this vision we hope to deepen the relationship between the schools, families, churches and communities.

The purpose of our school vision is to lay out who we are; Why we are here; and therefore How we live our lives. When exploring this we considered our 5 core values:

Generosity Optimism Determination Curiosity Courage

We also explored what is special about us 'Crowcombe and Stogumber C of E Primary Schools' and the importance we place on being together and ensuring everyone in our schools and communities feel valued, included and that they belong. During our exploration we found a passage from the Old Testament that reflected our core message.

'And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another - and all the more as you see the day approaching'
(Hebrews 10:24-25)

This resonated with us and highlighted key words that we believe reflect our vision for the schools. These words formed our vision:

Together, Let us Love, Encourage, Achieve and Flourish

We actively explore these words with the children through classroom teaching and collective worship. We explore the importance of us being together through friendship, and of showing love and generosity by loving our neighbour as ourselves. We explore encouraging others as well as persevering ourselves and showing determination. We explore having the courage and curiosity to achieve throughout all aspects of our lives, and how with optimism we can all flourish together.

Policy Statement

'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)

Religious Education (RE) has a very high profile within the **Crowcombe and Stogumber Church of England Primary Schools'** curriculum and makes a significant contribution to preparing pupils for life. 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

Stogumber Church of England Primary School is a Voluntary Controlled (VC) School. Therefore we are required to follow the locally agreed syllabus 'Awareness, Mystery and Value' drawn up by the local standing Advisory Council for Religious Education [SACRE]

Crowcombe Church of England Primary School is a Voluntary Aided School. Therefore 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 Somerset locally agreed syllabus 'Awareness, Mystery and Value' which is enhanced through the use of the resource 'Understanding 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 **Crowcombe and Stogumber Church of England Primary Schools** 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 values
- An assessment process which has rigour and demonstrates progression based on knowledge and understanding of core religious concepts

Implementation

We implement our RE curriculum through:

- Religious education being 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
- A variety of teaching approaches to engage and bring the curriculum to life
- 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 the trust deeds of **Crowcombe Church of England VA Primary School** and **Stogumber Church of England VC Primary School**, Christianity should be the majority religion studied and should be at least 50% of curriculum time. Sufficient dedicated curriculum time, meeting explicitly RE objectives, is given to RE. This should aim to be close to 10% but no less than 5% in key stages 1 and 2

Resources

We use the locally agreement syllabus 'Awareness, Mystery and Value' which can be found in this [link](#)

To support this we use the resource 'Understanding Christianity' and Jigse RE

We have a subscription from Resources for Learning (School Library Service) where we can access a wide range of resources and books.

We have close links with our local churches, which we visit often and use to support our RE curriculum.

Monitoring, Evaluation, Assessment, Recording, Reporting

- Governors have responsibility for monitoring how the RE curriculum 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 and lesson visits
- 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

Policy review

We ensure that this policy is known to all staff, governors, parents and carers and, as appropriate, to all pupils. This policy is available on our school website.

This policy will be reviewed **annually** by the headteacher, RE Lead, ethos committee and collective worship ambassadors.