



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

September 2021 to September 2022

Our IFtL Family

At IFtL, we are committed to developing a family of schools who inspire all of our futures through learning. Schools within our Trust share the same values and ethos; our teams are constantly in the pursuit of development and excellence everyday. We open doors to opportunity and unlock the potential of both our children and our adults so that we all develop the confidence to achieve both our independent and collective ambitions. At IFtL, we are never alone. We know we are stronger together – one united family striving for excellence for all, in everything we do.

IFtL is a trust established by educationalists, with education and improving outcomes for children at the heart of all we do.



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Nominated Governor:	



Vision Statement

Our aim is for all to belong to a safe and happy community which celebrates our diversity and differences. Our children will be well prepared for the next step of their journey as responsible citizens.
We aspire for all to flourish.

Every child is a gift from God – Psalm 127:3

Our Christian Values

Responsibility

Love

Thankfulness

Wisdom

Kindness



Introduction

In St Mary and St Giles School (SMSG), RE plays an important role in expressing the Christian vision of the school. RE reflects the ethos and values that are held and promotes understanding of people of all faiths and none. RE has the same high status as any other subject and contributes to the overall development of our pupils from all backgrounds and traditions. Our aim is for all to belong to a safe and happy community which celebrates our diversity and differences. Our children will be well prepared for the next step of their journey as responsible citizens. We aspire for all to flourish.

The Legal Position

Every maintained school in England must provide a basic curriculum (RE, sex and relationship education and the National Curriculum). This includes provision for RE for all registered pupils at the school, except for those withdrawn by their parents (see paragraph below). The school, in accordance with its Trust Deed, provides religious education for all pupils registered at the school. Following advice from the Oxford Diocesan Board of Education, the governors decided that religious education in our school should be based upon the Locally Agreed Syllabus (Milton Keynes Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2017) while also reflecting the requirements of the Statement of Entitlement for Religious Education published by the Education Office of the Church of England in February 2019. The statutory section 48 (SIAMS) inspection will evaluate RE and the way that it expresses the Christian vision of the school and look for evidence of progress and attainment. Religious education has the same status and importance as any other subject and, as such, the same high standards are applied to this as to other subjects.

Purpose and Aims of RE

The purpose of RE is to teach children about the religious and non-religious world-views that they will encounter in modern Britain and enable them to engage in meaningful and considered dialogue with those of all faiths and none. This is religious literacy.

Therefore, the aims of RE in our school are:

- To know about and understand Christianity as a diverse global living faith through the exploration of core beliefs using an approach that critically engages with biblical text.
- To gain knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews appreciating diversity, continuity and change within the religions and worldviews being studied.
- To engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose raised by human existence and experience.



- To recognise the concept of religion and its continuing influence on Britain's cultural heritage and in the lives of individuals and societies in different times, cultures and places.
- To explore their own religious, spiritual and philosophical ways living, believing and thinking.

Curriculum and Time Allocation

The RE curriculum at SMSG, has been approved by the governors. Christianity is taught in every year group, with key concepts revisited on a spiral curriculum. At least 50% of the time is devoted to Christianity. Other religions are covered according to the Milton Keynes Agreed syllabus; i.e Judaism in Key Stage 1 and Hinduism and Islam in Key Stage 2. (Years 3 and 5 will study Hinduism and Years 4 and 6 will study Islam.) We use the Oxford Diocese Scheme of Work and the Understanding Christianity resource. Children in Reception will study units from Discovery RE.

The total time for RE is between 5% and 10%, and it is taught in dedicated lessons/blocks/cross-curricular settings as appropriate. The time dedicated to RE is separate from the time given to Collective Worship.

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

RE is taught using an enquiry-based approach which is challenging and robust. Each unit of work is focussed on a Big Question which is investigated and debated throughout the topic. Learning will be organised to encourage the development of attitudes such as self-awareness, respect for all, open-mindedness, appreciation and wonder, as well as providing opportunities to engage appropriately with Fundamental British Values. All faiths are treated respectfully, and opportunities will be made to engage in age-appropriate, meaningful discussion. Where possible pupils will encounter believers and visit places of worship.

A variety of resources, styles, and techniques will be used as appropriate to enable all children to make progress in RE regardless of their starting points, ability or background. (Refer to SEND policy).

Assessment procedures will be robust and in line with the assessment procedures and feedback policy of the school, meeting the requirements of the syllabus or scheme that has been adopted. Students will engage in a variety of activities which will also enable teachers to assess what they have learnt. Teachers will gather information about pupils' experiences and judgements about their attainment and progress.

Links with local churches including St Mary and St Giles Church are to be fostered where appropriate, as there are opportunities to develop relationships with holy places of other faiths in the community.



Monitoring and Evaluation

The RE leads and the SLT will monitor teaching and learning in RE in accordance with school policy. The RE leads will observe teaching, conduct book and planning reviews and pupil interviews when appropriate to assess the quality of teaching and learning. The headteacher and governors will ensure that adequate monitoring takes place and that the impact of such activity is assessed.

Resources

The RE leads will ensure that RE resources are kept up-to-date and that staff are informed when new resources are purchased or made available electronically. Resources will include source materials (e.g. Holy Scriptures, visitors and artefacts) where appropriate and be treated with respect by all staff and children.

The Right of Withdrawal

Pupils may be withdrawn from RE or part of RE by a parent or guardian (or withdrawing themselves if they are aged 18 or over) in accordance with Schedule 19 to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998; teachers can exercise their right to withdraw from teaching the subject. However, we hope that all parents and teachers will feel comfortable with the type of religious education being taught at this school. Parents who wish to withdraw their children must provide written notification to this effect and provide suitable activities for their children. The school will keep pupils safe but will not provide any work or reading material for pupils who have been withdrawn.

Links to other policies:

- Collective Worship
- PSHE
- Anti-bullying
- SEND
- Equal Opportunities
- Behaviour

Policy Review

This policy should be reviewed regularly in line with schools' procedures. An annual review is recommended if possible, but review must be done within a 3-year period.

