



Shiplake C.E. Primary School
Memorial Avenue
Shiplake, Oxon
RG9 4DN
0118 940 2024
office.3810@shiplake.oxon.sch.uk

'I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you' Psalm 32.8

Shiplake Church of England Primary School Religious Education Policy

Introduction

Shiplake CE Primary is a Voluntary Aided Church school in the Diocese of Oxford. We maintain very close links with the Shiplake Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, the Diocese and the local community. The Christian ethos of the school encourages co-operation and caring throughout the school community, with the schools Christian Vision and Values underpinning all aspects of school life. The Christian and moral culture fostered by the school values mutual respect, self-discipline and good behaviour in all our pupils. The school is a happy, friendly community and each child is encouraged to fulfil his or her own potential both academically and spiritually.

Legal Requirements

Religious Education must be provided for all registered pupils in full time education from Foundation Stage to Year 6, except those withdrawn at their parents' request. The governors at this school have decided that the R.E. taught at Shiplake must adhere to the Oxfordshire Agreed Syllabus 2023-2028. The Syllabus reflects the requirements of the Education Acts of 1996, 1998 and 2002. It states in the Forward to the Agreed Syllabus: "It encourages children and young people to be curious in relation to religious faiths and other world views and encourages exploration and reflection. It also provides links to wider learning in Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development and aims to promote community cohesion" (K Gordon. Challenging RE. The Oxfordshire Agreed Syllabus 2023-2028). This is reflected in the curriculum that is delivered at Shiplake CE Primary School.



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Provision in RE is compliant with the Church of England's Statement of Entitlement for RE. A link to this document is below:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-02/re-statement-of-entitlement-for-church-schools.pdf>

The Importance of Religious Education

Religious Education should provoke challenging questions about the meaning and purpose of life, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human, through knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other principal religions and worldviews. Religious Education should challenge pupils to reflect, analyse and evaluate issues of truth, belief, faith and ethics and to communicate their responses. It should offer opportunities for personal reflection and spiritual development and encourage pupils to develop their sense of identity and belonging enabling them to flourish as individuals within the school as well as the wider community. RE should play an important role in preparing pupils for adult life enabling them to develop respect and sensitivity to others particularly those who hold beliefs different from their own. As it asserts on page 5 of the Oxfordshire Agreed syllabus 2023 - 2028: "The syllabus sets out a learning process in which pupils explore the themes and issues raised by religions and other worldviews through key stage enquiries and concepts in the light of the pupils' own experience and questions".

The contribution of Religious Education to the whole school curriculum

Religious Education promotes values such as truth, justice and respect. It contributes to the Every Child Matters Outcomes, to children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. It plays a significant role in promoting citizenship and P.S.H.E. as well as giving all children the chance to develop key skills. Every child is entitled to be taught R.E. in a fair and accessible way. Some children with particular education needs will need work to be differentiated to allow them to develop the skills that can be learned through studying R.E. The British Values agenda is actively encouraged when considering different faiths



and beliefs (mutual respect as well as respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs).

The Aims of Religious Education

The aims of the RE curriculum at Shiplake CE Primary School are very much in line with those outlined in the Oxfordshire Agreed Syllabus 2023 – 2028 and are as follows:

“The Agreed Syllabus has four aims for RE. To enable pupils to:

- understand the nature, role and influence of religions and other worldviews, locally, nationally and globally.
- reflect on questions of meaning, purpose and value.
- formulate reasoned opinion and argument.
- enter into meaningful dialogue with people of different beliefs, worldviews, and backgrounds.” (Page 7 The Oxfordshire Agreed Syllabus. 2023 – 2028).

Breadth of Study

During the Foundation Stage children receive their entitlement in Religious Education through a range of activities with a specific R.E. focus, relating to the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. The breadth of study in The Foundation Stage encompasses Religions and Beliefs, Themes, and Experiences and Opportunities. The content is drawn primarily from Christianity, but also from other religions particularly those represented amongst the pupils.

In KS1 and KS2 teachers use the Oxford Diocese Long Term Planning documents to consider key questions of faith and belief. These encourage the children to consider how different religions approach a given theme as well as considering their own feelings and responses. It is a sequential and broad



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curriculum, which develops skills such as enquiry, analysis, and reasoning at an age-appropriate level.

The Diocesan scheme of work fully covers the requirements of the Agreed Syllabus for RE 2023-2028.

The school also uses 'Understanding Christianity' (Church of England Education Office, 2019) to further develop a deep understanding of Christianity. This is used in conjunction with the Diocesan 'Key Questions' documents to ensure a balance is sought between learning **about** and **from** a range of religions.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

As with all other subjects, teachers assess pupils' work in R.E. in both (AT1) Learning **about** Religion and (AT2) Learning **from** Religion. Where appropriate, pupils' work is recorded in exercise books, on displays or photographed providing evidence of their attainment and progress. An annual report is written for parents which contains comments on progress within R.E. At the beginning of each unit of work, children complete a Knowledge organiser to baseline their initial understanding and knowledge of what the focus is, and again at the end - demonstrating their learning through the unit of work.

Role of the Subject Leader

The subject leader works closely with both KS1 and KS2 Leaders on ensuring consistency across the school. The subject is carefully monitored through book looks, learning walks, lesson observations, as well as leading pupil voice groups. Subject Knowledge Organisers are monitored too in order to assess progress within the subject. Training for the subject is ongoing, whereby all class teachers are encouraged to attend RE Network Meetings on a half termly basis through the Oxford Diocese. Any other training opportunities are signposted to staff as appropriate. The Governor with specific responsibility for RE meets with the RE Leader through each academic year as part of the Governor monitoring schedule. Joint learning walks and book looks enable monitoring of the standards of RE, together with conversations with pupils. Regular visits to



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collective worship and church services are also completed as part of the monitoring processes.

Resources

The resources used for planning R.E. lessons at Shiplake CE Primary School include the Oxfordshire Agreed Syllabus and the Oxford Diocese Long Term Planning through Key Questions. There are many resources in school to support the pupils learning such as books, posters. All teaching staff are encouraged to attend the Diocesan RE Network Meetings to ensure resources and staff knowledge is up to date and accurate.

We have access to visiting speakers and make visits to various places of worship, in order to widen pupils' experiences of religions.

Inclusion and Special Educational Needs

The RE curriculum at Shiplake CE Primary School is fully inclusive, with all class teachers ensuring that RE provision is adapted/modified for all pupils to access appropriately.

Class teachers are knowledgeable and sensitive to the children's backgrounds and experiences in their class, so are well equipped to ensure the curriculum is delivered in an appropriate way for all children.

Reviewed and updated October 2023 – 3 year cycle