



 RE Policy	
Approved	October 2022 (Ethos Committee)
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## Religious Education at St Stephen's

### Our Mission Statement

**A centre of excellence** where everyone is included whatever their personality or how they learn. We create opportunities for every child to see themselves as unique, courageous and resilient global citizens.

**A community** where Christianity, all faiths and those of no faith are welcomed and our relationships are based on understanding each others' feelings.

**An environment** where everybody's needs are met and differences, gifts and talents are recognised, appreciated and respected. We celebrate the diversity of our wonderful school and encourage all pupils to be active upstanders for fairness and equity.

**A safe place** where childhood is celebrated.

**A boost** to our future, as all are built up in love and learning.

**1 Thessalonians 5:11 - *Encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.***

### Religious Education at St Stephen's

The main aim of RE is to enable our children and young people to be religiously literate. Through our teaching of RE at St Stephen's, we aim to enable children to hold balanced and well informed conversations about religion and world views. In order for in-depth conversations to take place, we aim at St Stephen's to engage children with challenging questions of meaning and purpose raised by human existence and to recognise the concept of religion. Children will leave St. Stephen's in year 6 with the ability to hold well informed

conversations along with a great awareness of the world we live in. Pupils throughout their school journey at St-Stephens will thrive in their ability to develop their own views and opinions based on knowledge and understanding with a respect that others will think differently to them. This will instill the confidence in the next generation to understand, respect and show kindness towards everyone.

### **Working closely with St Stephen's Church**

Through RE and Collective Worship lessons, children are given the opportunity to build up a knowledge and understanding of Christianity as a living and diverse faith. We also encourage and empower pupils to make close links with our school values to instill a sense of belonging within the St Stephen's community. We work closely with the Parish Church of St Stephen's to integrate the church's vision to help all children to flourish spiritually. We endeavor to use retrieval in class worship to reflect and discuss the church assembly to support with building pupil's confidence with being religiously literate. As well as the team from St Stephen's church coming into school on a weekly basis to lead a collective worship assembly, the children's pastor works closely with the RE lead to support with the planning, delivery and execution of lessons. We ensure this through half termly meetings in which we plan the outcomes of each lesson for each year group based on the Topic question. This meeting enables teachers to deepen their understanding and knowledge before delivering the lessons. It also allows opportunity for teachers to share best practice tips when reflecting upon teaching the lessons the previous year. We also work together to celebrate pupil's work through pupil voice and book looks. This also enables us to identify opportunities to enhance pupil's learning. At St Stephen's, we make sure to hold RE days to celebrate our faith and learning in school. We work closely with St Stephen's church who lead the worship for this special day and also plan RE related activities to support pupils with their understanding of the theme for the day.

### **RE lessons**

During RE lessons at St Stephen's, we aim to ensure all pupils are able to describe, explain and analyse beliefs and practices, recognising the diversity which exists within and between communities and amongst individuals. We encourage children to debate their views as well as share their 'big' questions about God. Our lessons will inspire pupils to appreciate and appraise nature, the significance and impact of different ways of life and ways of expressing meaning. To enrich their experiences of RE, children are able to use a range of high quality resources, use Biblical and foundation texts, explore a range of religious artifacts and visit places of worship.

As we are a Church school we devote a greater amount of time in the curriculum to the study of Christianity. We also cover a range of religions and world views- Judaism, Sikhism, Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism as well as Humanism, Secularism and Athesim- fostering respect for others. We teach respect for any personal view to understand the living world. Each year group will focus on a different world faith and this learning is very much enriched by guest speakers from the local and school community as well as the children themselves. We work closely with class teachers to identify opportunities to make cross curricular links with RE. For example in the past Year 3 have studied Islam in RE, they have read a text in guided reading relating to the Muslim culture and wrote a speech in English about

Islamophobia. We embrace these opportunities to empower children to learn more about the diverse planet in which they live on.

### **Links with our school values**

Our school values of friendship, thankfulness, kindness, forgiveness, respect (for the environment), service and peace underpins all that we do at St Stephen's. We ensure to link our school values in our lesson outcomes where applicable to support with deepening pupils' knowledge of how to use these values in the world around us. In our lessons, we take great pride in connecting our school values with the work of Jesus so that the pupils are able to retrieve key events securely.

### **Curriculum, planning and assessment**

At Stephen's we follow the LDBS syllabus to ensure teaching is of high quality, sequential with clear progression. Teachers and children have a clear understanding of the curriculum vision and its purpose. Units of work have been allocated to year groups by the RE lead. The units of work must be followed by class teachers and are not subject to change. It is the responsibility of the class teacher to plan according to the syllabus, to ensure the correct pitch for their year group and ensure that RE skills are incorporated into each lesson. Teachers will demonstrate secure subject knowledge through support from half termly meetings with the Church representative. Class teachers ensure to display the 'Big questions' instead of learning objectives on stickers and have key religious vocabulary displayed on word mats to support pupils becoming religiously literate.

It is the responsibility of the class teacher to keep accurate and up to date assessments of the children's progress and attainment. All teachers are expected to complete the LDBS assessment sheet.

### **RE Expectations**

- RE must be taught by the class teacher
- RE is a protected subject and it must be taught on a weekly basis for a minimum of one hour and 30 minutes.
- RE is considered an academic subject where attainment is tracked through answering the big question.
- All work in RE books must be of a high standard and must be comparable to work in Literacy books
- All members of staff are to attend school, class and church worship
- Work in RE books must be marked according to the school policy. I can statements should be highlighted and misspelling of any religious vocabulary must be corrected
- We encourage music, art and drama to enhance the learning of RE in our school. To evidence more practical lessons, photos and quotes should be added to the class RE book and videos saved as evidence.
- All year groups should attend one RE based trip per year. This can include places of worship of other world faiths or workshops led by external agencies in school.

- Every class must have a prayer area. This should be inclusive to all and a working area. Prayer areas should include, an age related Bible, a wooden cross, a candle, class RE book, the Lord's Prayer, the school prayer and the mission statement
- Planning and moderating will occur with other schools.

### **Subject Knowledge Support**

We encourage subject specific professional development. If teachers require or desire development or support in their subject knowledge they should actively seek the support of the RE leader, who will be able to help with planning. The LDBS run many CPD courses, which the RE lead, can organise for staff. We are lucky to use the skills of others: we have support from the staff at St Stephen's church and class teachers are encouraged to involve the clergy in their lessons. We regularly contact St Stephen's church to interact in our class lessons and to support teachers with their CPD. During our half term meetings, teachers identify areas of knowledge in the RE curriculum which they may require support. This enables us to communicate with the Church areas of development and support which we may need to ensure high quality teaching and implementation is taking place. Both the RE lead and children's pastor have attended the Spirituality training session together to support us in ensuring this is incorporated through our daily school life or through worship. Pupils are also explicitly taught the differences between spirituality and faith.

Useful websites:

<https://www.ldbs.co.uk/> - our diocese website

<http://www.reonline.org.uk/knowning/what-re/> - Great for improving subject knowledge. Includes all faiths.

<https://www.retoday.org.uk/>

<https://www.prayerspacesinschools.com/> - ideas for prayer areas

<http://www.openbible.info/labs/kids-bible-stories/> - Bible stories, old and new testaments.

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/Interactive.aspx?cat=111> - Bible stories and some video about the sacraments

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zxnygk7> - A range of resources including videos

<http://www.crickweb.co.uk/ks1re.html> - IWB games

<http://www.rc.net/wcc/readings/parables.htm> - parables

