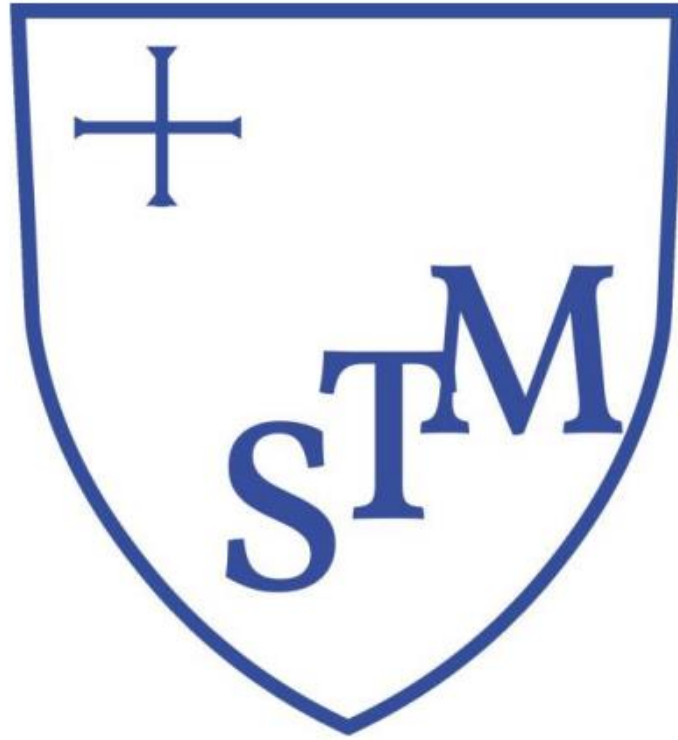


St Martin's C of E Primary School



Religious Education Policy

October 2023

R.E Policy

Vision

At St Martin's, religious education plays an important role in defining the school's distinctive Christian character. As a school we recognise that spiritual development lies at the heart of the curriculum. All members of our school community will experience a rich and varied syllabus through the life of the school, as well as through the taught curriculum, where diversity of thought, belief and culture is celebrated.

Our school vision aims to enable pupils to:

- Experience an effective and high-quality teaching of religious education.
- Provide opportunities for all pupils to learn and to achieve.
- Understand and appreciate a diverse range of religions and beliefs.
- Share their views, opinions and experiences on different topics.
- Respect others whose faith and beliefs differ from their own.
- Challenge questions about life and contribute to meaningful discussions.
- Take part in active learning with activities and opportunities to solve 'real world' problems.
- Build their sense of identity and belonging.
- Experience visits to places of worship to promote tolerance

Scheme and Enrichment:

In R.E, we follow the Understanding Christianity and 'The Sandwell agreed syllabus for Religious Education.'

For our Christianity topics, the Understanding Christianity scheme allows us to support pupils in developing their own thinking and their understanding of Christianity, as a contribution to their understanding of the world and their own experience within it. It aims to see pupils leave school with a coherent understanding of Christian belief and practice.

In addition to this, we also supplement our teaching of Christianity with content about a range of religions through 'The Sandwell agreed syllabus for Religious Education'. The syllabus explains the value and purposes of RE for all pupils and specifies what shall be taught in each age group. It provides a coherent framework for setting high standards of learning in RE and enabling pupils to reach their full potential in the subject. The scheme is of a broad and balanced education and is a focal point in our curriculum for work on Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development and British Values. It equips pupils with systematic knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and beliefs, enabling them to develop their ideas, values and identities.

Adaptations:

At St. Martin's, we provide learning opportunities for all children. We tailor our planning to meet the needs of all children in the class, to ensure progress in RE is made. The RE learning outcomes can be used to check and review progress to see whether a child needs more support or further challenges. RE allows children to develop awareness of themselves, their feelings and emotions. In our classrooms, we acknowledge the importance of a calm and peaceful space, which enables children to take time to reflect and enjoy their RE time individually.

Activities are designed to support connections, including through comparing and contrasting, organising information and empathising with people from different cultures and faiths.

Teaching and Learning strategies:

St Martin's is a Church of England school and its Religious Education teaching reflects its overall Christian ethos. The pupils at our school are from a wide range of religious backgrounds. St Martin's has a rich, cultural diversity of which we are very proud.

The faiths studied at St. Martin's include Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism and Islam, with Christianity taking priority.

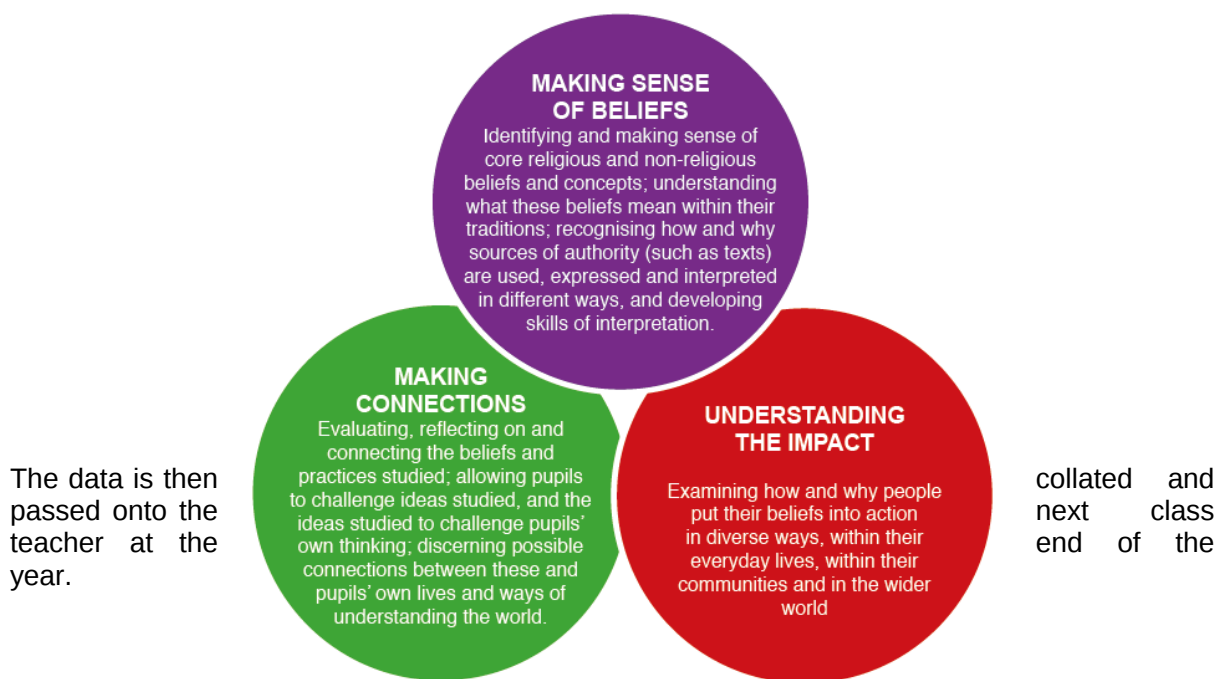
We base our teaching and learning style in RE on the key principle that high-quality teaching in RE allows children both to learn about religious tradition and to reflect on what the religious ideas and concepts mean to them. Our teaching enables children to develop and express their own values and promotes their spiritual growth and development. We encourage children to think about their own views and values in relation to the themes and topics studied in the RE curriculum. We use pupils' own experiences at religious festivals such as Easter, Diwali and Eid to develop religious thinking. We invite representatives of local religious groups to come in to school and talk to the children, as well as organise visits to local places of worship.

We recognise the importance of religious vocabulary and the teaching of this to the children. We provide children with the suitable scaffolding to ensure vocabulary words are being used correctly. At St. Martin's, we use a whole class teaching approach to encourage children to ask and answer questions about the world around them. Our lessons involve discussions and debates about important topics and issues. A Flashback 4 approach is used at the beginning of each lesson to check prior knowledge and to identify and address any misconceptions.

Assessment:

We assess the children's work in RE through making formative judgements during our lessons. We use formative assessment strategies, whereby any gaps or misconceptions are addressed through a Flashback 4 approach (as above). Our assessment consists of three elements that are key to assessing children against the learning outcomes.

- Making sense of beliefs
- Understanding the impact of religions
- Making connections to religions



EYFS:

In EYFS, we also follow the 'Understanding Christianity' programme and 'The Sandwell agreed syllabus for Religious Education'. We believe activities children engage in during their early years provide the foundation for later development. Children are provided with lots of hands-on activities and experiences.

Children in EYFS encounter religious education through special people, books, places, objects and by inviting representatives of local religious groups to come into school to talk to the children. They listen to and talk about stories, including key stories from different religions. Children are introduced to key vocabulary words and use all their senses to explore beliefs, practices and forms

of expression. Children are encouraged to ask questions and reflect on their own feelings and experiences. They use their imagination and curiosity to develop their appreciation of the world around them.

Cross-curricular links:

RE is at the heart of our school and links in with many subjects that we teach. RE contributes significantly to our teaching in PSHE. Through both subjects, we recognise the importance in regards to the growth of the whole person. Children are given the opportunity to develop their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, thus resulting in responsible and respectful citizens. RE also has strong links with the teaching and learning of English. Through whole class discussions, debates and role-play, speaking and listening skills are used throughout our lessons. In History, we are able to identify and recognise key dates, linking past events to current topics. Where appropriate, we use computing in RE to research and discover past events. Children have the opportunity to use iPads and laptops to record activities and present their findings. RE enables children to learn to think about British values and the values of different religions and world views. It offers an opportunity to build an accurate knowledge base about religions and beliefs in relation to values. RE emphasises the importance of respect and tolerance, so we at St. Martin's can all celebrate diversity.

Resources:

Resources can be found in classrooms, as well as our resource base which is located near the Reception classroom.