



Be Strong and Courageous

## Religious Education Policy

The principal aim for RE at St Issey C of E School (our intent):

The principal aim of religious education is to explore what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live, so that pupils can gain the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to handle questions raised by religion and belief, reflecting on their own ideas and ways of living.

A child-friendly version:

RE explores big questions about life, finds out what they believe and what difference this makes to their lives. RE helps children to make sense of religion and belief, reflecting on their own ideas, questions and ways of living.

### Rationale

This policy has been created to ensure consistency and progression in the school's approach to Religious Education, enabling children to develop their understanding of Christianity, non-religious worldviews and the other major world religions in order that they develop tolerance and understanding of the local, national and global communities in which they live.

Religious Education is unique in the church school curriculum in that it is a core subject but is not part of the National Curriculum; the 1988 Education Act states that 'Religious Education has equal standing in relation to core subjects of the National Curriculum in that it is compulsory for all registered pupils'.

St. Issey C of E Primary School provides RE in accordance with the Diocese of Truro and as a Voluntary Aided Church of England School has set its own curriculum drawing from Understanding Christianity and the locally agreed syllabus for Cornish Schools.

## School Aims

At St. Issey C of E Primary School we aim to provide pupils with a safe, caring environment where every pupil is encouraged to reach their full potential in all aspects of school life.

We work hard to develop every pupil's confidence so that they become self-motivated, keen, articulate and caring young people.

The children are central to our community and we strive to give them the academic and life skills needed to become good citizens and role models for the future. To do this we work closely with parents and value their opinions and support in nurturing the next generation of young pupils.

### **Church of England - Vision for Education**

Vision Statement - '***Be strong and courageous***' Joshua 1:9

*"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."*

Core Christian Values - **Wisdom, Hope, Community and Dignity**

### **School Vision**

Jesus said "***Be strong and courageous***"

**The Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)** underpins our vision by demonstrating the strength and courage of both the Samaritan and the Jew. One for offering to care for someone he should distrust, the other for accepting care from someone he'd normally consider an enemy.

### **Our Christian Values**

**The Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)** also links to our school values of :

- **Wisdom** We have more in common than that which divides us.
- **Hope** We hope for a future when we care for each other & treat people different from us with respect.
- **Community** The dignity of all, not just our own kind.
- **Dignity** A practical example of human solidarity.

## Policy Aims

Through the provision of Religious Education at our school, we aim to:

- provoke challenging questions about the purpose of life, beliefs, the self, issues of right and wrong, and what it means to be human.
- foster personal reflection and spiritual development. Encourage pupils to explore their own beliefs, (whether they are religious or non-religious), and to express their responses.
- enable pupils to build their sense of identity and belonging, which helps them flourish within their communities and as citizens in a diverse society.
- teach pupils to develop respect for others, including people with different faiths and beliefs, and to help challenge prejudice.
- prompt pupils to consider their responsibilities to themselves and to others, and to explore how they might contribute to the communities and to wider society.
- develop a sense of awe and wonder in the world in which our children live.

## The Contribution R.E. makes to other areas of the curriculum

Personal development and Well-Being: RE plays an important role in preparing pupils for adult life, employment and lifelong learning. It helps children and young people become successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens. RE gives children the opportunities to discuss and reflect upon the big questions of meaning and truth such as the origins of the universe, life after death and beliefs about God. At St Issey C of E Primary School we aim to ensure that our curriculum intent offers children the opportunities to find out about these areas with respect to different faiths and non-religious worldviews so that they are able to enter the world with a level of understanding of 'what makes me, me and you'.

## The Teaching of RE

As a school we follow 'Understanding Christianity' and use the locally agreed syllabus for the teaching of other major world religions and non-religious worldviews.

## Assessment and Recording of RE

In line with the school's policy for assessment, record keeping and reporting, each teacher is expected to take responsibility for the regular assessment of RE; this is done through teacher marking against specific learning intentions as well as through pupil reflection. Each term, teachers are expected to make a judgment for each child's RE attainment. An annual overall judgement is made by the class teacher as to whether the child is below the expected standard, at the expected standards or

whether they are working at greater depth. The annual report to parents indicates the effort and attainment made by pupils over the course of the year.

## Staff Development

This takes place through staff meetings, INSET and planned CPD opportunities. The school attends Truro Diocese meetings and training. We have also become an associate member of St. Barnabas MAT's Christian Distinctiveness Group. The R.E. co-ordinator and Head of School oversees the R.E. provision throughout the school and feeds back any new information to the rest of the staff.

## The Right to Withdrawal

Parents/carers may make a request, in writing, to the Headteacher, that their child be withdrawn from Religious Education. However, it should be noted that requests for withdrawal are often based on a misunderstanding of the nature and purpose of R.E. and discussion of this is vital before a decision to withdraw can be made.

## Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed as part of the cycle of Policy review in January 2022.