



St Matthew CE Primary School

POLICY FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Background

St Matthew's is a Church of England Primary school situated in Hillingdon on the outskirts of London. It is a two-form entry school and shares the site with St. Matthew's Church.

Aims of the school

At St. Matthew's we aim to create a caring, secure and stimulating environment for all children. All pupils are encouraged to develop intellectually, spiritually, morally, socially, and physically to gain an understanding of the diverse cultural society in which they live.

Specifically, we aim to:

- Encourage all children to take responsibility for their own actions and to conduct themselves in a caring, considerate manner both to children and adults.
- Promote a philosophy whereby children are encouraged to take pride in their achievements and are valued for themselves; where challenge and high expectation are used to raise standards.
- Ensure that all children experience a broad and balanced programme which incorporates Literacy, Numeracy, Science, ICT, Religious Education, Music and the other foundation subjects of the National Curriculum.
- Ensure that all children are presented with equal opportunities within the curriculum which takes full account of their individual needs.
- Provide a rich and well-resourced environment for the whole school and community, which will broaden their experiences of life.
- Make school a positive experience for all those involved with an aspect of school life.

Aims of Religious Education

In the light of the Christian foundation of St. Matthew's primary school our aims are to:

- Help children develop and express their own religious beliefs and values while encouraging them to understand the religious beliefs, attitudes and customs of other people;
- Foster children's feeling of awe, wonder, respect, delight, joy, mystery and to extend their natural curiosity;
- Encourage in children a recognition of their value and importance as individuals, a sense of responsibility and interrelatedness with other people;
- Help children explore other fundamental issues such as fear, suffering, death, unhappiness, pain, moral issues such as right and wrong, honesty and establish their own personal responses and search for meaning;
- Help children foster a reflective approach to life in the context of understanding the experience, beliefs and religious practices of mankind;
- Introduce children to that Biblical, historical and theological knowledge which form the basis of Christian faith and practice.

Teaching and Learning

Religious Education at St. Matthew's is a combination of learning about religion and learning from religion. This is reflected in the scheme of work (taken from the LDBS), and the medium and short term planning. However, there are many aspects which are ongoing that are part of the children's normal development and will be visited on numerous occasions, either in planned ways or incidentally, thus enabling children to clarify their responses in an appropriate manner.

Although St. Matthew's is a church school, we serve the local community where there are a variety of faiths and some of these are reflected in our school community. It is therefore important that the children are given an insight into other religious cultures to enable them to develop knowledge of how others worship and put their faith into practice so that understanding and tolerance are encouraged and developed. To this end, our medium term planning includes teaching about and from other world religions, including Islam, Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh and Judaism. The current scheme of work includes references to 'Godly Play lessons' to support in the teaching of knowledge and understanding, skills and attitudes. The children are encouraged to reflect and respond in their own individual way based on input from the teacher. In the Foundation Stage, children work through topics that link with Early Learning goals, generally through stories.

Resources

The aim of St. Matthew's is to provide children with a wide variety of resources and experiences to help them in the development of their spiritual insight and religious understanding as well as factual knowledge. These will include artefacts, pictures, icons, music, dance, drama,

stories, poetry, ICT visits to different places of worship and meeting people with different faith experiences to their own. An inventory of resources is available from the RE co-ordinator. This includes a wide range of Godly Play resources and special craft resources.

There are supportive clergy and a welcoming church attached to the school. All these have a very important part to play in the development of the children's understanding, knowledge and faith.

Assessment

RE can be assessed continuously against levels shown in the Hillingdon Agreed Syllabus. Recommended statements and levels are highlighted on the schemes for each year group regarding 'learning about' and 'learning from' religion. Books, work and teacher's lesson plans are monitored by the co-ordinator to ensure continuity and progression. Assessment of skills and attitudes are clear learning objectives on the medium term planning. Assessment can be carried out through discussion, observations and the work produced on a topic.

In Key Stage 1 and 2, children reflect upon their learning through self-assessment in the form of success criteria and next steps, including opportunities to ask questions. Work should be marked thoroughly and thoughtfully, with reference to success criteria and next steps, including thought provoking questions which intend to extend children's thinking. Teachers assess children's levels using classroom monitor at least once per term (three times per year), and through completion of a summative assessment in May, which should be levelled and moderated. Self-assessment sheets can be used at the end of a unit or term, to assess children's understanding (these can be found in medium term planning folders). In the Foundation stage the teachers assess based on their criteria set and Early Learning Goals.

Special Educational Needs

Throughout the delivery of the Religious Education curriculum every effort will be made to ensure that the requirements of children with special educational needs are carefully considered and met, and that all children will have equal opportunity of experience provided. There is support with the key vocabulary in each topic being made aware to every child and appropriate differentiation with challenge.

Withdrawal

It is the policy at St. Matthew's Primary School that Collective Worship and Religious Education are for all. Children should not be withdrawn, unless at the request of parents on religious grounds, by a letter to the Head of School.