



Lilliput CE Infant School

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Reviewed by: _____
(Headteacher)

Date: _____

Approved by: _____
(Curriculum Committee)

Date: _____

Ratified by: _____
(Chair, Governing Body)

Date: _____

REVIEWED: June 2023

¹NEXT REVIEW DATE: June 2025

Lilliput Infant School

Policy for Religious Education

2023

Our vision:

Loving one another, respecting one another, serving one another.

'Love one another warmly as Christians, and be eager to show respect for one another.

Serve the Lord with a heart full of devotion.'

Romans 12:10

Our key values:

Respect, Courage, Creativity, Friendship, Thankfulness

Subject Background:

Religious Education is unique in the school curriculum in that it is neither a core subject nor a foundation subject. However, 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.' RE's place in the curriculum will be strong if it's role and importance are communicated effectively and widely understood.

Overview:

Our RE curriculum aims to engage pupils in relevant questioning and exploration of their own and others' beliefs, ethics, religions and world views. We encourage the progression of pupils' critical thinking skills, as well as their spiritual and moral development which in turn will help them to have respect for themselves and others. The secure knowledge and the experiences that they gain throughout their time at Lilliput will help them to become more confident individuals and conscientious global citizens. We will also help the children to develop their British values and to show respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs and to celebrate diversity.

Lilliput Infant School

Lilliput is a Church of England Infant School. We deliver RE through the *Discovery RE* framework alongside the *Understanding Christianity* resources to really develop the children's knowledge and progression. This framework provides lesson plans and assessment tools which supports teachers. The planning model used in *Discovery* is aligned to that recommended in the BCP agreed syllabus for RE.

This syllabus links with the school's 'Values for life' and promotes the teaching of Christian values by developing children's social, moral, spiritual and cultural knowledge and understanding. *Discovery RE* supports our curriculum with enquiry-based modules on Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism and Sikhism. Religious Education makes a distinctive

contribution to the school curriculum and we encourage all pupils to explore, understand and express their own response to spiritual and religious approaches to life through the study of Christian and other principal religions.

'Big questions in religious education (RE) challenge pupils' thinking of the way Christian concepts have a relevance for their lives. This deepens their understanding of the vision and provides examples of how they can live. Pupils use higher order thinking skills creatively, making informed links with previous learning. They articulate ideas showing a depth of knowledge of religious ideas far beyond expectations for their age group. Staff research identifies experiences which are making a transformational difference to pupils' thinking ensuring these are shared. Different faiths and beliefs are explored enabling pupils to make comparisons which extend their understanding. Religious education has a very high profile in the life of the school.'
(2019 SIAMS inspection)

The aims of our RE teaching;

By following *Discovery RE* and *Understanding Christianity* at Lilliput Infant school, we intend that Religious Education will:

- Adopt an enquiry- based approach as recommended by Ofsted, beginning with children's own life experience before moving into learning about and from religion. Each enquiry follows the 4-step model of Engagement, Investigation, Evaluation and Expression
- Provoke challenging questions about the meaning and purpose of life, beliefs, the self and issues of right and wrong, commitment and belonging.
- Developing children's knowledge and understanding of Christianity, other religions and traditions that examine such questions, fostering personal reflection and spiritual development.
- To encourage pupils to explore their own beliefs (religious or non-religious). In light of what they learn, as they examine issues of religious belief and faith and how these impact on personal, institutional and social ethics; and to express their responses.
- To enable pupils to build on their sense of identity and belonging, which helps them flourish within their communities and as citizens in a diverse society.
- Teaching pupils to develop respect for others, including people with different faiths, beliefs, non-religious world views and help to challenge prejudice.
- Prompting pupils to consider their responsibilities to themselves and others, and to explore how they might contribute to their communities and to wider society. It encourages empathy, generosity and compassion.
- To develop a sense of awe, wonder and mystery.
- Nurture children's own spiritual development.

Religious Education at Lilliput will provide opportunities to promote:

- Spiritual development
- Moral development

- Social development
- Cultural development
- Emotional development
- Citizenship

The Values for Life are:

- Courage
- Creativity
- Peace
- Forgiveness
- Trust
- Generosity
- Thankfulness
- Respect and Reverence
- Friendship
- Hope
- Truthfulness
- Responsibility

The promotion of 'British Values'

RE provides opportunities to promote the 'British Values' of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty & mutual respect. *Discovery RE* includes related links to British Values for teachers to incorporate into their lesson plans and through Collective Worship.

Approaches to teaching RE

- In order to make religious education a lively, active subject we employ a variety of teaching methods including art, music, discussion, the development of thinking skills, drama, the use of artefacts, pictures, stories, and the use of periods of stillness and reflection.
- Class RE Big Books - all pupils contribute to the class portfolio which evidences a range of RE work; such as, images from drama activities, discussion based responses, art work based on religious stimulus, etc.
- Written RE work - pupil's evidence their understanding through written work recorded inside their RE Big Books as well as work recorded in their English books.
- The children attend Collective Worship in the hall each day. This is a time for reflection, extra input to support an RE focus or a chance to read and listen to bible stories linked to the current termly 'value for life'.
- With close links to the Church of the Holy Angels church visitors and the local vicar also help to lead worships in school on a regular basis.
- Each class has their own 'Reflection Time' during the week when the children can think about our recent collective worships, our current values and have time to listen to calming music, share prayers and enhance their spiritual development.
- Where possible we give our pupils opportunities to encounter local faith communities through visits to local places of worship or be visited by members of local faith communities.

Discovery RE

Discovery RE is a comprehensive, medium-term lesson planning resource for Religious Education and covers all year groups. The enquiry based approach makes RE exciting and engaging for both teachers and children alike.

Understanding Christianity

Christianity is taught in every year group, with Christmas and Easter given particular focus each year, developing children's learning in a progressive way.

Curriculum Planning in RE

RE is taught for an hour each week.

	Reception (EYFS)	Year 1	Year 2
Autumn 1	Christianity Special People (God)	Christianity The Creation Story (God/Creation)	Christianity The teachings of Jesus (Gospel)
Autumn 2	Christianity Christmas- Was Jesus a special baby? (Incarnation)	Christianity The Christmas Story (Incarnation)	Christianity Christmas Jesus is a gift from God (Incarnation)
Spring 1	Christianity/Hinduism Celebrations	Christianity Jesus as a friend (Incarnation)	Judaism Prayer at home/Passover
Spring 2	Christianity Easter (Salvation)	Christianity Easter - Palm Sunday (Salvation)	Christianity Easter- Resurrection (Salvation)
Summer 1	Sikhism Story Time	Judaism Shabbat	Islam Community and belonging
Summer 2	Special places Judaism, Islam	Judaism Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur	Islam Hajj

Assessment Arrangements in R.E

At the end of each unit the children are assessed by their teacher. The Key Questions and must-have objectives form the basis for the teacher assessments. From this assessment the class teacher determines whether a child is working towards age related expectation or at age related expectation. The subject leader monitors Religious Education within the

school through analysis of assessment information, observations, scrutiny of work and pupil voice.

Inclusion Arrangements in R.E:

At Lilliput Infant school, we strive to be an inclusive community and Religious Education can make a significant contribution to inclusion, particularly as it promotes respect for all. It is our intention to help children develop personal moral values, respect for religious values and understanding of other races, religions and other ways of life. All children at this school are taught Religious Education whatever their ability, race or gender. We promote experiences that will build on and enrich by the differing experiences pupils bring to Religious Education. We strive to meet all pupils' learning needs, differentiating to allow all to achieve, building self-esteem and fulfilling our aim to give all pupils the opportunity to experience success in learning and to achieve as high a standard as possible.

The Right of Withdrawal from Religious Education:

We recognise that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from religious education if requested in writing. However, we would ask any parent considering withdrawing their child/children to contact the head teacher in the first instance to discuss any concerns or anxieties about the policy, provision and practice of religious education at Lilliput School. The school does not support selective withdrawal from R.E.