

Mission Statement

Religious Education at St. Michaels promotes religious literacy among all pupils and contributes to the healthy development of people who live in a diverse society where we all need to learn to get on together in order to live well. Lessons engage, inspire and challenge pupils, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to take their place in the world.

It asks the 'big' questions about life and offers choices about the way we choose to live. It focus' upon sacred teachings, people of faith and teaches stories to engage and inspire.

Progress is measured within a framework of age-related expectations.

Programmes of study involve an in-depth study of the narrative, beliefs and practices at the heart of Christianity. Alongside Christianity, Islam and Judaism feature throughout the curriculum. This is in line with our pyramid schools. Other faiths are also taught where these are of benefit to the pupils and / or reflect the school and local community.

Aims and Objectives

Aims - Exploring, Engaging, Reflecting (taken from the new curriculum)	
1) Beliefs, teachings and sources.	
2) Practices and ways of life.	
3) Expressing meaning.	
4) Identity, diversity and belonging.	
5) Meaning, purpose and truth.	
6) Values and commitments.	

Role of the Subject Leader

The role of the subject leader is to:

- Support quality teaching, planning and assessment
- Planning and leading staff meetings
- To inform parents as appropriate
- Provide quality resources - replenish year group and central stocks when needed and upload planning and resources onto the shared area
- Collect evidence across all year groups and abilities
- To keep knowledge and skills up to date in line with changes to the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus and with guidance from Lichfield diocese (Church School status)
- Support other staff in school including NQTs and RQTs

Religious Education Curriculum Planning

RE is taught as required in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus (this has been determined locally through the Agreed Syllabus conference).

It takes account of the New National Curriculum Programmes of study (2013) and the 2013 non-statutory National Curriculum Framework for RE published by the Religious Education Council. The Agreed Syllabus sets out the statutory requirements for religious education in Staffordshire.

RE is taught as one lesson per week across all age groups. Children learn with their peers and teachers use the agreed 'school year overview' to plan and deliver lessons and assess children's learning. Additional planning content is also taken from 'Understanding Christianity' a resource produced by the Lichfield diocese in partnership with 'RE Today' publications.

In addition children have the opportunity to experience RE themed days -

- 'Christmas' Day - all ages
- 'Easter' Day - all ages

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- 'Faith & Culture' Days - all ages
- 'Open Door' at St. Michaels - Year 3
- 'Inspire' - visits to Lichfield Cathedral - Year 4

Teaching and Learning Style

The school uses a variety of teaching and learning styles in RE lessons. This includes whole-class teaching, group discussion and reflection, individual, paired and group work. Lessons involve art, music, dance, drama, hot-seating, stilling, godly play, puppets, role play, story- telling, artefacts, food tasting, news reports as well as inviting visitors in school.

Learning is recorded in exercise books which start in Reception (Early Years) and continue through to year 4 so that the pupils RE learning journey and progress can be seen in one place. In addition some classes, including Nursery may use 'sketch or scrap books' or have larger pieces of work of a collaborative nature where children take part together to produce an outcome.

Children have differing abilities in this subject. Suitable learning opportunities and objectives are provided by the class teacher, as with any other subject in school. Often children who are less able in other subjects enjoy the freedom of RE lessons where their contribution is seen as equal to those of their peers. There are 'no wrong answers' only ideas to be explored. Such children are also supported with -

- Differentiated work
- Additional resources
- Support to explain their thinking and beliefs

Resources

We have a wide range of resources to support the teaching of RE across the school. Resources are kept by the subject leader. Resource books are also available to staff along with lesson ideas and background information for planning. It is the duty of the subject leader to ensure that all resources are up to date and replenished as needed and that teachers have the resources they need to ensure high quality teaching and learning. All classes have a selection of Bibles. Year 3 have a class set of 'Good News' Bibles that can be used for RE lessons and also for Guided Reading sessions.

Health and Safety

Teachers always bear in mind the safety of pupils during lessons in accordance with the school's Health and Safety Policy.

Differentiation and Inclusion

We teach RE to all children, whatever their ability unless asked to remove them from lessons by a parent or carer. RE supports the provision of a broad and balanced education for all children.

Teachers work towards removing barriers to learning and participation. RE lessons and activities may be adapted to allow access through means such as ICT and provision of different materials including art materials and musical instruments.

Equal Opportunities

It is vital that all children feel able to participate, contribute and achieve in RE lessons. This is ensured by:

- Avoiding stereotyping in relation to the gender, ethnic or religious background of people within a chosen study focus
- Making a positive effort to celebrate religious and cultural diversity

Special Educational Needs and More able

Teachers provide learning opportunities and objectives that are matched to the age related expectations of the 'spiral' curriculum. Where children exceed these expectations, they should be encouraged to share their thinking with their peers, enhancing the learning in the classroom and also in the wider community of the school (as in times of Worship).

Assessment

Assessment is conducted in a variety of ways:

- Observation
- Class/group/individual discussion - asking and answering questions
- Written work by the children
- Self- assessment

Teachers make a final assessment of each child's progress in the subject at the end of the school year and comment upon this in their annual reports, sent out to parents/carers.

The subject leader keeps a portfolio of planning and examples of children's work across all year groups.

Monitoring and Review

Monitoring of the standards of children's work and the quality of teaching in RE is undertaken by the subject leader. It also involves supporting colleagues in the teaching of RE; informing staff about current developments in the subject and providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject. The RE subject leader regularly reviews their action plan and discusses this with the Head Teacher, indicating progress and areas for further improvement

Community Links

The school has very close links with clergy and strives to involve and interact with the congregations of St Michael and St Wulfad and also St. Saviours Aston

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by Stone as well as with parents and the local community as much as possible in Religious Education. We have a designated governor for RE (Foundation Governor -Mrs. Sheila Howells) and also a diocesan governor representative (Mr. Chris Melia).

Community links are achieved through:

- Children joining in the regular Thursday Holy Communion services
- Special services i.e. Harvest (and Welcome service), Christmas (Christingle and also KS2 Carol service), Mothering Sunday, Easter, End of year service
- Worship times in school.
- Church and community volunteers for special RE days
- Adventurers after school Christian club (Wednesdays)

British Values

British values will be taught within the ethos of the school, Christian worship and planned RE lessons. This will sometimes be done in a direct and obvious way, sometimes less so. This will be the responsibility of all staff, by their teaching, their expectations of behaviour and by their example.

Pupils also have the opportunity to become 'Unicef Ambassadors' where they will pass on the 'articles of rights' to the rest of the school.

Themes for the 'ambassadors' will link to Worship planning - Christian Values - 'Roots and Fruits'.