

**St James Church of England Primary School, Handsworth**  
**Religious Education Policy**  
**March 2017**

**Background**

St James CE Primary School is a voluntary controlled Church of England school in the area of Handsworth and in the parish of St James Church.

Families and carers who send their children to this school are in the main from a Christian, Sikh or Muslim background with Hinduism, Rastafarianism and Buddhism also represented.

RE is concerned with learning from religion and learning about religion. The faith background of staff and children is respected at all times.

At St. James RE is seen as a crucial opportunity for children to grow in their knowledge, understanding and tolerance of other faiths, heritages and cultures and an opportunity to build a harmonious community of the future.

**Aims of Religious Education**

In our school we believe that RE both supports and strengthens our aims in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos and value which we place on the development of the whole child (spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually) is reflected in the RE curriculum.

**Religious Education and the National Curriculum**

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires the RE syllabus to reflect 'the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian whilst taking account of the teachings and practices of other principal religions represented in Great Britain.

RE is not a National Curriculum subject but must be taught to all pupils as part of the basic curriculum. The RE Curriculum at St James is based upon the Birmingham Agreed Syllabus and its supporting schemes of work.

**Withdrawal**

All parents have the right to withdraw their child from all or any part of RE and arrangements will be made for any parent wishing to do so.

A parent should express their wishes in writing, together with their reasons.

A senior leader will arrange to discuss the parent / carer's reasons with them, before the parent / carer makes their final decision.

**Foundation Stage**

In the Foundation Stage the teaching of religious education has an important contribution to make in the achievement of the following learning goals:

- personal, social and emotional development
- communication, language and literacy
- knowledge and understanding of the world
- creative development

### **Key Stages One and Two**

Pupils will follow the twenty-four Dispositions, clustered into Contemplation, Commitment, Community, Choice, Compassion and Creativity. Each Disposition will be visited three times during the school life of the child at St James, focussing on different aspects at each visit; Yrs 1/2, Yrs 3/4 and Yrs 5/6.

### **Time Allocation**

The time allocation for RE is as follows:

Key Stage One: 1 hour

Key Stage Two: 1 hour

The time allocation for Collective Worship is required to be separate from that allocated to RE.

### **Planning**

Planning in RE is supported by the Birmingham Agreed Syllabus. The scheme of work taught ensures that our aims are met at each key stage. This is through the twenty-four Dispositions following a spiral learning model.

### **Religious Education and the Whole Curriculum**

RE teaching and learning will access wider cross-curricular themes and dimensions. There are opportunities to:

- explore multicultural and equal opportunity issues
- consider environmental concerns
- examine moral questions raised
- promote a sense of citizenship

The RE curriculum will also compliment elements of Personal, Social and Health Education and encourage children to make informed decisions and develop life skills. Links will be maintained with people and communities within the local area.

### **Cross-curricular Links**

Cross-curricular links will be identified between RE and other subjects.

### **Equal Opportunities**

All children will be given access to the RE curriculum regardless of gender, ability, ethnic origin and social circumstances and, through differentiation, be given opportunities to make the greatest possible progress.

### **Special Educational Needs**

The school will ensure that the children with SEN have full access to the RE curriculum at their own level of achievement.

### **Resource Management**

It is the responsibility of the RE Co-ordinator to ensure that adequate resources are available for the successful implementation of the scheme of work for RE in the school.

### **Educational Visits to Places of Worship**

Each year a calendar of visits to places of worship is organised including our Christian parish church and St. Phillip's Anglican cathedral, a Hindu temple, a Jewish synagogue, a Muslim mosque and a Sikh gurdwara.

During their lives at St. James we hope that each child will have the experience of visiting a place of worship of each of the world's major religions with the aim of growing in their knowledge, understanding and tolerance of other faiths, heritages and cultures.

We urge parents and carers to encourage their children's participation in these visits. Any parent / carer considering withdrawing their child is urged to, first, discuss their thinking with a senior leader, before they make a final decision. (See "Withdrawal" above).

### **Health and Safety**

We aim to provide a safe working environment for the children, staff and visitors at all times. Out of school visits will be organised with an awareness of Health and Safety issues.

### **Assessment, Recording and Reporting**

All assessment, recording and reporting takes place within the context of the School Assessment Policy. The legal requirement to report to parents once a year about RE will be fulfilled in the annual report written on each pupil.

### **Curriculum Monitoring and Policy Review**

The RE Co-ordinator will work in conjunction with the Head Teacher to support the teaching and learning of RE. Reference should be made to the relevant sections of the Curriculum Monitoring Policy.

### **Policy Review**

This policy will be reviewed as required or annually by the co-ordinator. It is subject to review in accordance with school development planning.

Policy Written: September 2009

Last Policy Review: Mark Lanyon (Head Teacher) March 2017