

St John's C of E VC Infants' School  
& Jumping Johns Nursery  
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## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Version	Date created /amended	Created By	Approved By	Date for Review
VI	November 2019	Senior Management Team	E&W Committee	November 2021

### Our school vision...

'Those who are wise will shine as bright as the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever'. (Daniel 12v3)

### 'A School where every child can shine'

As a school community we believe that the ethos of the school should be built on a foundation of values. At St. John's we seek to promote our School Christian Values, of **Love, Perseverance and Respect**.

As a community of learners at St. John's C of E Infants' we value the joy of learning, recognise and cherish the uniqueness of each individual and endeavour to realise everyone's full potential.

Our Christian Ethos nurtures personal beliefs and attitudes, which **enables all to seek meaning through life's journey**.

This statement should be used as part of St John's Church of England VC Infants School and Jumping Johns Nursery's overall strategy and implemented within the context of our vision, instrument of government aims and values as a Church of England School.



## Policy for Religious Education (RE)

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### **St. John's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infants' School**

Last Updated November 2019.

In our school our Christian vision shapes all we do. We strive to provide a caring and happy environment in which every child may reach their full potential, gain in self-confidence and respect for the people and the environment around them as well as preparing each child for an exciting journey of new experiences and life-long learning. St. John's C of E VC Infants' School is committed to Christian values where children, parents/carers and our community know us by our actions.

#### **Within a Christian ethos we aim to:**

- Promote a positive attitude to life-long learning, nurturing the development of self-esteem; leading to independent learners that are prepared to be challenged and take risks in a diverse and ever changing world.
- Provide the children with valuable experiences and opportunities, through a broad, balanced and exciting curriculum, where learning is purposeful and engaging.
- Use a variety of teaching strategies and resources effectively and creatively; encouraging each child to make good progress, in relation to their age and ability.
- Demonstrate and foster respect for ourselves and others within the school, local community and global community.
- Respect the belief of others and celebrate cultural diversity.
- Encourage spiritual and moral values.
- Value each child as an individual within the school and respect personal beliefs.

'Religious education in a Church school should enable every child to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate for dignity and respect encouraging all to live life well together.'

RE Statement of Entitlement from the Church of England Education Office Feb 2019.

#### **Policy Statement**

Religious Education (RE) has a very high profile within the St. John's curriculum and makes a significant contribution to preparing pupils for life in modern Britain. Learning activities provide fully for the needs of all learners. Pupils will be inspired by the subject and develop a wide range of skills such as enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection, to deepen their understanding of the impact of religion on the world. Christianity is taught as a living and diverse faith, focused on the teachings of Jesus and the Church, alongside a range of religions and worldviews. Religious Education encourages pupils to learn from different religions, beliefs, values and traditions while creating a safe space for them to explore their own beliefs and questions of meaning.



## Legal Requirements

As a Voluntary Controlled (VC) School, at St. John's we are required to follow the locally agreed syllabus, 'Awareness, Mystery and Value 2019' [www.amvsomerset.org.uk/](http://www.amvsomerset.org.uk/) drawn up by the standing Advisory Council for Religious Education [SACRE].

Section 48 of the 2005 Education Act requires the inspection of religious education in schools which have a religious character. This is the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS)

## Manging the right to withdraw

We are an inclusive community but recognise that parents have a right by law to withdraw their children from the Religious Education curriculum. In this event, we will undertake responsibility for their supervision with regard to health and safety. Information on these arrangements are clear on our website. There will always be opportunity for parents to discuss the contents of the RE curriculum should they have concerns.

## Aims of RE

- To enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living faith that influences the lives of people worldwide and as the religion that has most shaped British culture and heritage.
- To enable pupils to know about and understand other major world religions and world views, their impact on society, culture and the wider world, and to appreciate the diversity, continuity and change within those religions and world views
- To engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose
- To contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own beliefs and values.

## Teaching and Learning

In line with the Church of England RE Statement of Entitlement [2019] at St. John's we aim to provide:

- A curriculum that enables pupils to acquire a rich, deep knowledge and understanding of Christian belief and practice
- A curriculum that draws on the richness and diversity of religious experience worldwide
- The opportunity for pupils to deepen their understanding of the religion and world views as lived by believers
- A pedagogy that instils respect for different views and interpretations; and, in which real dialogue and theological enquiry takes place
- Engaging and varied learning activities and teaching methods including art, music, discussion, the development of thinking skills, drama, the use of artefacts, pictures and stories that provide for the needs of all learners.
- The opportunity for pupils to develop a wide range of skills including enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection
- RE that makes a positive contribution to SMSC development and also to pupils' understanding of British values



- An assessment process which has rigour and demonstrates progression based on knowledge and understanding of core religious concepts

### **Implementation**

- Religious education may be taught in a 'whole class' setting but with flexibility to allow for discussion, questioning and reflection in small groups and individually
- Visits to local churches and other places of worship are encouraged
- A variety of teaching approaches are encouraged:
- Teacher presentations, role play, drama and story telling
- Questions and answer sessions, discussions and debates
- Individual and group research
- Photographs, pictures and maps; works of art and music
- IT, film, podcasts, radio, websites, to research and communicate ideas.

### **Curriculum balance and time**

Reflecting St. John's School's trust deed, Christianity should be the majority religion studied and sufficient dedicated curriculum time, meeting explicitly RE objectives, should be given to RE. This should aim to be close to 10% but no less than 5% in key stage 1.

### **Resources**

These include:

- Understanding Christianity materials,
- Artefacts
- On-line resources e.g Understanding Christianity website
- Resources for different religions, stored in boxes in the school resources cupboard.
- A variety of story books relating to the units of study, which are stored by teachers in their classrooms.

### **Monitoring, Evaluation, Assessment, Recording, Reporting**

- Governors have responsibility for monitoring how the RE in the school reflects its Christian vision
- The headteacher has overall responsibility for monitoring and evaluation.
- The RE subject leader will assist the headteacher by monitoring long term and medium term plans.
- The RE subject leader will assist the headteacher by monitoring RE through work scrutinies
- The subject leader will keep a file of examples of work to demonstrate continuity and progression.
- The subject leader will manage resources.
- The subject leader will endeavour to keep up to date with information, initiatives and developments in religious education and disseminate this as appropriate.
- The subject leader will be aware of staff development needs and encourage continuing professional development.
- The subject leader will facilitate the sharing of good practice.
- The subject leader will be responsible for drawing up an action plan for religious education. Generally this will be an annual plan and should be informed by this policy.
- The subject leader will liaise with the Diocesan adviser with responsibility for Religious Education



**Date of last review:**

**Headteacher signed:**

**Date:**

**Chair of *Governors* signed:**

**Date:**