

Religious Education Policy

St Margaret's CEVAP School



**Transforming lives by living and learning
together in God's love**

Approved by: Learning & Standards

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**Next review due
by:** Spring 2029



Religious Education Policy

At St. Margaret's we are;

Transforming lives by living and learning in God's love

Introduction

Our school is a Church of England Voluntary Aided School and the provision of RE must be in accordance with the Trust deed of the school i.e. the practices and principles of the Church of England. The Church of England 'Statement of Entitlement' for Religious Education 2019' underpins our provision and informs this policy.

We provide a religious education curriculum which is rich and varied and which enables learners to acquire both a thorough knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith and to find out about a broad range of other faiths and world views.

As a VA school, the content, teaching, learning and attainment of R.E. at St. Margaret's will be inspected as part of the SIAMS framework. The effectiveness of the R.E. curriculum is explored within Inspection Question 6, whereas Inspection Question 7 explores the quality of R.E.

As St. Margaret's is a CEVA Primary school, we consider RE to be of fundamental importance and as such it takes a high priority in the curriculum. The governing body of our school has adopted the Suffolk Agreed Syllabus as the basis of our RE syllabus. There is a very close link with St. Margaret's Church which enables pupils to see Christian life, worship and commitments at first hand and provides opportunities to mark the celebrations of the Christian year.

We recognise that while many of our pupils come from church -going families others come from a variety of religious and secular backgrounds and we welcome this diversity.

Aims

- to enable each child to explore the human experiences people share and the questions of meaning and purpose which arise from those experiences.
- to enable pupils to know about and understand the beliefs and practices of some of the great religions of the world, particularly those represented in Suffolk and the UK. Among these, Christianity has a particular place and is taught in each year of the primary phase.
- to promote respect, sensitivity and cultural awareness by teaching about the religions
- to affirm each child in his/her own family tradition, religious or secular.
- to provide opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Leadership and management

The RE subject leader is Mrs Julie Febvre. She works closely with the SLT to ensure RE is delivered effectively. The subject leader will develop the subject, support and mentor staff and monitor pupil progress and perceptions.

St Margaret's has a school governor with a responsibility for RE to support the Subject Leader. The governor is the Reverend Sarah Geileskey, who is also the vicar for our parish church, St Margaret's.

The subject leader will provide appropriate training, support and a good level of resourcing to do their job.

The subject leader will discuss progress in RE at least annually at staff/governing body meetings.

Staffing

Teachers are entitled to professional support and development in their careers. In church schools, priority should be given to staff to develop their expertise so pupils receive high quality experiences. The subject leader will ensure that staff are offered appropriate and ongoing professional development in Religious Education.

The subject leader will ensure that where HLTS's are used to cover RE, this is normally a part of a rotation of subjects to ensure broad professional development for both teacher and HLTA.

The Curriculum

Religious Education in church schools should contribute to the school's Christian character and teaching about Christianity, rooted in the person and work of Jesus Christ, is at its heart. However, as inclusive communities, church schools encourage learning about and learning from other religions and foster respect for different world views.

All the children receive a broad and balanced curriculum with a range of teaching styles, groupings and resources to allow all children to make progress in RE. At St Margaret's we enrich our curriculum with creative and varied teaching methods and a range of visits and visitors and aim to build a good bank of resources. We enrich our pupils learning in RE with additional whole school theme days on aspects of the Christian faith e.g. Advent or Easter.

The Emmanuel Project, a scheme of work for EYFS to Year 6, follows an enquiry-based approach looking at the key beliefs and concepts which are important in different faiths. The scheme closely matches the Suffolk Agreed Syllabus and allows for church schools to teach Christianity for 50% of their RE time. Other religions and worldviews make up the remaining 50%.

Assessment

Assessment in RE is an important tool by which teachers know that children are making good progress and which enables them to plan future work. Assessment is based on pupils' depth of knowledge and understanding related to the key questions addressed in the curriculum. Standards in RE should be equal to, or exceed, those of other curriculum subjects.

At St Margaret's staff ensure assessment tasks offer proper levels of challenge and assess children's knowledge and understanding in RE, rather than more general literacy skills.

Class teachers assess the work of their pupils and ensure that this is done in a variety of ways.

Pupils can use self-assessment to develop their own sense of progress and to evaluate their own knowledge and understanding.

The Emmanuel Project offers a range of tasks in each unit to ensure teachers can assess their pupils as they move through the unit. It also offers end-of unit tasks, linked to the unit's key question, to provide summative assessment upon completion of the unit.

Monitoring, Progress and Standards

Subject leaders in all schools are responsible, alongside the Headteacher and governing body, for monitoring and evaluating the provision and standards in RE subject.

The Headteacher will enable the RE subject Leader to monitor provisions and standards on a regular cycle.

The RE subject leader will monitor provision and standards in RE through observation, looking at work, talking to children and reviewing the curriculum regularly with staff.

The subject leader will report annually to the governing body on progress and standards in RE and contribute to the school's self-evaluation, in readiness for SIAMS.

The withdrawal clause

In all schools, parents have the right in law to withdraw their children from the RE provided.

This right does not extend to other areas of the curriculum where spontaneous questions may arise about religions or religious matters. Parents may arrange for their child to receive

Alternative Religious Education off-site if the school is satisfied it only affects the start or end of a school session.

St. Margaret's school will:

- clarify for parents the educational nature of RE and ensure there is a clear procedure for requesting withdrawal.
- discuss with parents the management of their request for a child's withdrawal, noting whether it is complete or partial withdrawal.

- provide supervision for a withdrawn child remaining on the premises, but not additional
- Teaching materials which incur cost.

Links with the Diocese, Cathedral and Parish Church

All schools are part of a Church of England parish and all children should have the opportunity to visit a local church as part of their R.E. In Church of England schools, this entitlement should be broadened to include an interactive relationship with the local church, growing connections with the Cathedral through the Learning Hub and an awareness of some Diocesan events.

At St. Margaret's we have close links with our parish church. The children take part in a weekly service on a Wednesday. We have a school chaplain who works closely with the vicar and the R.E. subject leader. There are opportunities for the children take part in events in the cathedral at Bury St Edmunds.

Review

This policy will be reviewed every three years.