



## Newnham St Peter's C of E Primary School Religious Education Curriculum



### School Vision

Cherish Everyone ~ Flourish Together ~ Serve Others

### Newnham St Peter's School Intent Statement

We aim to work in partnership with parents, governors, the Church and the community to provide a broad and balanced curriculum that enables all our children to develop into well rounded individuals and life-long learners. As a church school our curriculum is built upon a strong Christian foundation, with our core values of hope, perseverance, respect, friendship, forgiveness and thankfulness at the heart of all we do.

Curiosity underpins lifelong learning. From pre-school up, our curriculum is based upon asking questions and exploring. Reading is the gateway to sustainable learning. We have a structured approach to reading to ensure children develop skills that are applied across the curriculum. Vocabulary is a key focus and our curriculum is designed to ensure children develop both rich creative and subject specific vocabulary.

To ensure knowledge is retained and learning 'sticks', our curriculum is carefully mapped out across all phases, providing continuity, supporting transition and revisiting / building on key concepts.

Our curriculum takes inspiration from our Forest of Dean setting by the River Severn whilst also ensuring that pupils are outward looking with planned opportunities to gain experience of the wider world.

We aim for children to leave our school not only achieving their full academic potential, but with the skills to keep themselves physically, mentally and spiritually fit. The confidence to push themselves outside of their comfort zone and the moral compass and drive to be active global citizens.

### Intent – What we want for the children

Our RE curriculum fulfils the requirements of the Gloucestershire Agreed RE syllabus and includes The Understanding Christianity resource. Through RE we want children to explore what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live, so that they can gain the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to handle questions raised by religion and belief, whilst reflecting on their own ideas and ways of living. Our RE lessons provide a safe space for pupils to discuss religious, spiritual and/or philosophical ideas.

We enable our children to explore and celebrate a range of religions and encourage them to respect all faiths and none. As a church school we model the impact that the Christian faith has on informing all aspects of our life together.

Our curriculum is based on curiosity and, in RE, we encourage children to ask and answer challenging questions and find out about the purpose of life. We explore theological ideas and use religious texts and the key skills of enquiry, critical analysis and interpretation are woven through our curriculum. Learning is designed to make sense of beliefs, make connections and understand the impact. We deliver a progressive and sequenced curriculum that builds on children's theological vocabulary alongside their understanding of key concepts. Our curriculum is supported by Knowledge Organisers.

We encourage children to reflect on their own beliefs, attitudes and values and to develop their own spirituality regardless of if this is faith based. We learn about religions and beliefs in local, national and global contexts. We appreciate the positive impact that local faith communities can have on pupils' experience in RE. Therefore, at Newnham St Peter's C of E School we encourage visits to places of worship from different faith systems. Our RE curriculum is further enhanced by the use of the local church and community.

As identified in the Statement of Entitlement, teaching and learning in RE at Newnham St Peter's will provide:

- A challenging and robust curriculum based on an accurate theological framework.
- An assessment process which has rigour and demonstrates progression based on knowledge and understanding of core religious concepts.
- A curriculum that draws on the richness and diversity of religious experience worldwide.
- A pedagogy that instils respect for different views and interpretations; and, in which real dialogue and theological enquiry takes place.
- The opportunity for pupils to deepen their understanding of the religion and world views as lived by believers.
- RE that makes a positive contribution to SMSC development.

See also: Newnham St Peter's Religious Education Curriculum overview

Newnham St Peter's Religious Education Progression map

### **Implementation – How it will be delivered**

There is no legal requirement to teach RE in pre-school however our youngest children are encouraged to explore RE through stories and I wonder questions. At least 36 hours per year (equivalent 60 minutes per week) is given to the teaching of RE in Reception and Key Stage One. At least 40 hours (equivalent to 75 minutes per week) is given to the teaching of RE in KS 2. In Reception, Key Stage One and Lower Key Stage Two units of work are blocked allowing children to build on knowledge and experiences from the previous day. In preparation for transition to secondary school RE is taught in a weekly timetable in Upper Key Stage Two.

In EYFS (Pre-school and Reception), RE is recorded in floor books giving children maximum opportunities to discover and explore RE whilst focusing on developing responses and vocabulary. For Year One children record RE in individual books alongside a whole class reflective journal. Not all RE is recorded and includes activities such as drama, dance art and discussion. The school uses the Understanding Christianity Resource and access staff training from Gloucestershire Diocese.

Schools must teach RE; however, parents can choose to withdraw their children for all or part of the lessons. Such a request must be made to the head teacher in writing. If a pupil is withdrawn from RE lessons, the school has a duty to always supervise them; however, there is no legally requirement to provide additional teaching or to incur extra costs.

### **Impact- What we want the outcomes to be**

- Have a good understanding of and respect for different religions and beliefs
- Be able to explore their own beliefs and how these will affect their lives
- Confidently ask questions and think critically for themselves so they can find out about the purpose of life.
- Have a good understanding of the Christian faith and know stories from the Bible

RE is assessed through end of unit objectives provided in the Agreed Syllabus.