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## Croscombe C of E and Stoke St Michael Nursery and Primary Federation



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# Religious Education Policy

<b>Updated Last by:</b>	William Moore
<b>Date of Last Review:</b>	January 2022
<b>Next Review Due:</b>	January 2024

This policy is monitored by the governing body and will be reviewed every two years or before if necessary.

<b>Approved and Signed on Behalf of the Governing Body:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	



## Croscombe C of E and Stoke St Michael Nursery and Primary Federation



### Croscombe Church of England (V.A.) Primary School

#### Religious Education Policy

**We are a Church of England Primary School and this policy has been written with reference to our Christian foundation.**

#### **Mission Statement:- Let your light shine**

It is our Federation mission that each child will have the opportunity to develop their own unique 'light', recognising and valuing their individual starting point and abilities, through the fulfilment of our mission aims which are:

- Provide an inclusive environment in which pupils and staff can feel happy, valued and secure.
- Nurture open minded, imaginative, curious and confident individuals who are well-prepared for their next stage in life.
- Develop each child's esteem, self-discipline and awareness of the opinions and values of others.
- Foster in each child an appreciation of their role within their community and the wider world, including their responsibility to care for the environment.
- Provide a curriculum to enable each child to achieve their academic potential and access and enjoy a variety of creative and cultural experiences.
- Foster partnerships with parents and the wider community to ensure the children are supported to achieve their potential and 'shine' at home and within their local community

**Our vision for Croscombe Church of England school** is 'let your light shine', underpinned by our Christian foundation and ethos. This is taken from Jesus' words in Matthew's gospel:

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. 15 No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

Our vision encourages each child to achieve their full potential and to be a shining light in their community demonstrating: compassion, respect, forgiveness, friendship and advocacy towards others.

#### **Our Ethos at Croscombe**

'Recognizing its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England Voluntary Aided schools and in partnership with the churches at parish and diocesan level. The school aims to serve its community by providing



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an education that enables each child to develop their own unique light and God given talent, within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.'

Croscombe Church of England School fosters this ethos and enables each child to 'let their light shine', throughout their school days. The outcome encouraged is that each child develops good Christian habits to support them in their relationship with God and their life ahead. This is underpinned by Croscombe Church of England's RE curriculum, SMSC policy and practiced within the collective worship activities and the development of behaviours through Gem Powers, detailed within those documents.

The Governors, Co-Head teacher and Staff at Croscombe Church of England Primary School believe that Christian values should permeate the life and work of the school.

### Aims and objectives of Religious Education

Religious education enables children to investigate and reflect on some of the most fundamental questions asked by people. At Croscombe Church of England School we expect children to develop a sound knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other world faiths. Children reflect on what it means to have a faith and to develop their own spiritual knowledge and understanding. We see the importance of learning from religions as well as about religions.

Our aims of Religious Education are to help children:

- develop an awareness of spiritual and moral issues in life experiences through personal reflection
- develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other world faiths
- develop an understanding of a commitment to a religious faith
- develop an understanding of religious traditions and to appreciate the cultural differences in Britain today
- have respect for other peoples' views
- to reflect on experiences and to develop a personal response to the fundamental questions of life
- develop investigative and research skills, including the use of ICT to enable discussions about religious issues

### The legal position of Religious Education

RE has an important part to play as part of a broad, balanced and coherent curriculum to which all pupils are entitled. Our school curriculum for religious education meets the legal requirements of

- Education Reform Act 1988
- Education Act 2002
- School Standards and Framework Act 1998

In addition, it is in line with guidance in



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- Religious Education in English Schools: Non-statutory Guidance 2010

While the statutory requirement for RE does not extend to children under compulsory school age, RE forms a valuable part of the educational experience of our children in the Early Years Foundation Stage.

### The right to withdraw

If parents wish to withdraw their child from religious education, written notice should be given to the school governors.

### Teaching and learning

The Religious Education curriculum forms an important part of our school's Spiritual, Moral and Social teaching (Cross reference SMSC Policy) and promotes education for citizenship. Our school RE curriculum is planned in accordance with the Bath and Wells Diocesan Syllabus 'Awareness, Mystery and Value'.

We aim to develop our children's sense of awe and wonder about their world and knowledge of the major faiths. In addition, we enable children to extend their own sense of values and promote spiritual growth. Children are encouraged to explore and debate through active learning. Trips to local places of worship and visits from faith group representatives enrich their understanding. As a school we aim to take opportunities to enrich our children's experience of different faiths, traditions and cultures.

We believe that RE is an important curriculum subject in its own right and also makes a unique contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and supports wider community cohesion.

### Curriculum planning in religious education

The long-term planning follows a 1, 2 or 3 year rolling programme according to the needs of the children.

### EYFS

We teach Religious Education to all age groups. Religious education is an integral part of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Religious Education aspects of the children's learning are related to the objectives set out in the Early Learning Goals, contributing particularly to

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Knowledge and Understanding of the World
- Communication, Language and Literacy



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**Characteristics of Learning;** Throughout the foundation stage, children are introduced to the world of religion and belief. They learn to recognise that religion is important to some people in their local community. They reflect on what is important to themselves and others. They engage with RE through a range of resources. They reflect on and share their own feelings and become aware of the feelings of others.

### **Assessment and recording**

We assess learning and attainment in Religious Education by making informal judgements as observed during lessons. End of unit assessments are also used. Levelled ‘I can’ statements are highlighted on each child’s individual attainment sheet. These grids are passed on as each child progresses through the school. Comments are made and questions asked as necessary to assist children in their learning.

### **Resources**

There is on-going development of resources to support the teaching of Religious Education.

### **The RE subject leader's responsibilities**

- Supporting colleagues in the planning, teaching and assessment of R E
- Monitoring RE throughout the school including collection of data of levels of attainment
- Being informed about current developments in RE
- Producing a RE Action Plan in order to provide a strategic lead and direction for the subject in the school
- Reviewing the RE policy in light of changes and development
- Signed.....Rev. C.J. Butler ..... Federation Governing Body: Ethos Committee

Signed.....Mr. William Moore ..... Federation Co-Head Teacher

This RE Policy has been revised by the Ethos Committee (July 2021), to ensure it incorporates the new vision, aims and ethos signed off by the Federation FGB and teaching teams in April.