



## **St Nicholas and St Laurence Church of England VA Primary School**

### **Religious Education Policy**

This policy was reviewed in May 2014

It was approved by the Governing Body.

It will be reviewed again in 2017

#### **Mission Statement**

Together we Love, Together we Hope, Together we Learn

Religious Education is unique in the school curriculum in that it is neither a core subject nor a foundation subject but the 1988 Education Act states that 'Religious Education has equal standing in relation to core subjects of the national Curriculum in that it is compulsory for all registered pupils.'

St Nicholas and St Laurence Church of England Primary School is a Church of England Voluntary Aided School therefore the provision of RE must be in accordance with the Trust Deed of the school. The Governors in consultation with the Head Teacher decided to adopt the Discovery RE Scheme Of Work which is in line with the Dorset agreed syllabus.

In Religious Education at St Nicholas and St Laurence Church of England VA Primary School we aim that pupils might:-

- Develop a knowledge and understanding of Christianity and its impact on our local community and on our society today
- Develop a knowledge and understanding of some of the other principal religious traditions represented in Great Britain today
- Develop a sense of respect for religious traditions, beliefs and practice.
- Grow in their spiritual development
- Develop a sense of awe and wonder and mystery
- Explore questions of meaning and consider how the world's religions have responded to them.
- Think about their own beliefs and values, including their response and contribution to our school core Christian values of Hope, Love and Learning underpinned by Caring, Courteous, Communicative, Confident, Co-operative, Considerate, Conscientious
- Have opportunities to quietly reflect on spiritual matters and questions that impact their personal lives

### **Approaches to the teaching of RE**

In order to make RE a lively creative subject, we employ a variety of teaching methods including art, music, discussion, questioning, sharing, role-play, hot-seating, use of artefacts, pictures, stories and quiet reflection.

Where possible we want our pupils to have opportunities to encounter local faith communities through visits to local places of worship or visits from members of local faith communities.

### **Planning**

The foundation stage uses the 'Handbook for Religious Education in the Foundation Stage (Solihull)'

KS1 and KS2 deliver RE through the Discovery R.E. S.O.W. which is in line with the Dorset Agreed Syllabus. This has 2 themes per term and major events in the Church calendar are included.

Foundation stage study Christianity and stories from other cultures

At KS1 pupils study Christianity, Islam and Judaism

At KS2 pupils study Christianity, Hinduism, Judaism, Sikhism and Islam

### **Resources**

A range of resources are organised into drawers for each class. There are also resources linked to major festivals. Artefacts relating to world religions are kept in boxes near the topic drawers as are a range of big books. ICT resources include 'Espresso' and staff are updated on new websites.

### **CPD**

The Chesil Partnership of schools work together using the Partnership Service agreement developed through the Salisbury Diocese.

### **Assessment and monitoring of RE**

In line with the school policy on assessment and monitoring it is expected that each teacher will be responsible for the regular assessment of his or her pupils through marking work set. Assessments are carried out at the end of each theme. Book scrutiny and focused 'Children's Chats' will also form part of the monitoring process alongside lesson observations and help with planning. The subject leader also uses informal interviews with staff to aid staff confidence.

### **The right of withdrawal from RE**

At St Nicholas and St Laurence Church of England VA Primary School we wish to be an inclusive community but recognise that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from Religious Education on the grounds of conscience. We would ask any parent considering this to contact the Head teacher to discuss any concerns or anxieties about the policy, provision and practice of RE at our school.