



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Checkendon Primary School is a dynamic Church of England school in which our Anglican Christian values of respect, courage, integrity, compassion and hope are at the heart of everything we do. We give every pupil the opportunity to develop their particular capabilities in our stimulating and caring environment where creative teaching and an inspiring curriculum lead to high-quality learning and outstanding achievement. We work in partnership with parents and the wider community to help every pupil make excellent progress, develop a lifelong love of learning and broaden their sense of citizenship, as they grow in mind, body and spirit.

What is Religious Education?

We believe that religious education encourages a spiritual approach to living. It fosters knowledge and understanding of religious beliefs and practices and the development of personal skills in forming reasoned opinions, based on evidence and argument.

Religious education is concerned with personal feelings and experiences, human relationships and the variety of human responses to life and the natural world. Religious practice is an important part of the human response to existence, and so religious education also deals with the major religions and their writings, festivals, buildings, beliefs and symbols.

Aims

Checkendon is a Church of England school and we believe that religious education is a cornerstone of the whole curriculum. We aim to provide children with a framework of Christian values on which to build their lives; to teach respect and tolerance for other religious beliefs and to develop an awareness of connections between different religions.

We uphold the importance of Religious Education as outlined in The Oxfordshire Agreed Syllabus¹. *It is the opportunity to explore major and distinctive dimensions of human experience, including:*

- *a sense of things having a transcendence or divine aspect that calls for reverence or worship;*
- *spiritual and religious experience and the different ways of interpreting this;*
- *a sense of belonging to something greater than oneself;*
- *the tendency to search for meaning, purpose and value in life;*
- *a sense of a shared humanity and the diverse cultural experiences and expressions of this.*

It offers pupils:

- *the chance to raise and reflect on perennial questions about life;*
- *insights into the development of different human cultures.*

The Oxfordshire Agreed Syllabus adopted by Checkendon School has two main educational purposes:

1. *For pupils to learn about religions and beliefs which have influenced the lives of millions of people and heavily influenced the development of different human cultures. Pupils apply*

¹ <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Oxford-Agreed-RE-Syllabus-2015-2020.pdf>

academic skills such as analysis and critical and creative thinking, approaching the study of religion with different disciplines as they mature.

- 2. For pupils to learn more about themselves and their place in the world from their increasingly academic and creative exploration of religions and beliefs.*

Teaching and Learning

EYFS

R.E. in the Reception Class supports the achievement of the Early Learning Goals through appropriate subject content, according to the needs of the pupils. Children have the opportunity to look at friendship, feelings and blessings through stories Jesus told. They learn about festivals celebrated by Christians and about other religious festivals.

Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2

Checkendon C.E. Primary School has adopted the Oxford Agreed Syllabus 2015-20, as the programme of study for R.E. The ODBE scheme of work for RE, revised during 2016-2017, covers the requirements of the Locally Agreed Syllabi in the Oxford Diocese, and is designed to meet the recommendations of the Church of England Education Office Statement of Entitlement for RE, published in 2016.

Christianity is the main religion taught, in accordance with the national guidelines *Religious Education in English Schools: Non Statutory Guidance 2010*.² *Understanding Christianity* is used by teachers to enhance their teaching of this religion. Alongside Christianity, Judaism is taught in KS1 and Hinduism and Sikhism covered in KS2; in addition there are units exploring Islam for pupils in Year 5 and Year 6. There is a focus on identifying links between religions and each unit is enhanced by a visit or visitor.

Each unit is based on a key *Big Question* and consists of an outline plan and an assessment sheet which is used as a starting point. There is a unit for each half term, for each year group. The background information for teachers included in each unit contains information to get teachers started and is a springboard for further research. Expectations for pupil achievement at three standards are included – at developing, expected and excelling.

The Engage, Enquire, Evaluate and Reflect model of teaching does not necessarily progress in a linear fashion, and may be revisited at any point during a unit of work. There is scope to leave the plans behind if the pupils' questioning and investigating opens up other interesting avenues for enquiry. Special events, such as the anniversary of WW1, may mean that units of work are adapted.

A range of resources including digital media, visits and visitors, drama, music and art and will be used to support teaching and learning.

Withdrawal from religious education

Parents may withdraw their children from all or part of religious education and teachers can exercise their right to withdraw from teaching the subject. However, we hope that all parents and teachers will feel comfortable with the way religious education is taught in this school. Parents who wish to withdraw their children must provide written notification to this effect.

This policy links to Assessment, Recording and Reporting Statement, Inclusive Education for Looked After Children Policy, SEN Policy, Single Equality Plan and SMSC Education Policy

Date of Adoption: October 2019

Next review due: March 2020

Chair of Governors

Headteacher

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/religious-education-guidance-in-english-schools-non-statutory-guidance-2010>