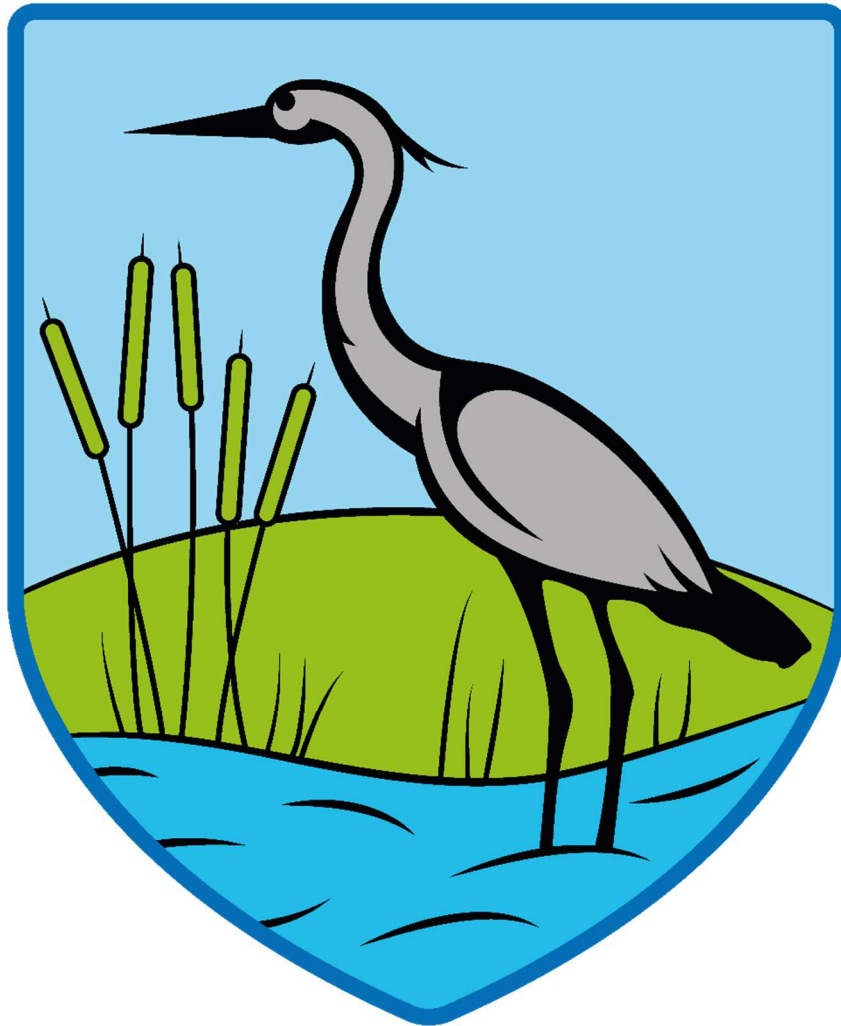




RE Policy



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Introduction

We create a love of learning where everyone is respected and encouraged to reach their full potential. The biblical link to our vision is “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” Philippians 4:13. Just as Paul gained comfort from trusting and believing God, with support, strength and love of God we too can thrive and succeed.



Religious education in a Church school should enable every child to flourish and to live life in all its fullness (John 10:10). It will help educate for dignity and respect encouraging all to live life well together. RE statement of Entitlement from the Church of England Education Office February 2019.

Policy Statement

Religious Education (RE) has a very high profile within Mark First & Preschool Academy curriculum and makes a significant contribution to preparing pupils for life in modern Britain. Learning activities provide fully for the needs of all learners. Pupils will be inspired by the subject and develop a wide range of skills such as enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection to deepen their understanding of the impact of religion on the world. Christianity is taught as a living and diverse faith focussed on the teaching of Jesus and the Church, alongside a range of religions and worldviews. Religious Education encourages pupils to learn from different religious, beliefs, values and traditions while creating a safe space for them to explore their own beliefs and questions of meaning.

Legal Requirements

As an academy we are independent of the local authority and not required to follow the national curriculum or the local RE syllabus. However, in line with the Church of England Statement of Entitlement (2019), the RE curriculum reflects:

“that religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, whilst taking into account of the teachings and practices of the other principle religious traditions present in Great Britain” (Education Reform Act 1988). The school teaches religious education according to the Somerset/Somerset North/Bath and North East Somerset agreed syllabus, with additional teaching on Christianity.

Section 48 of the 2005 Education Act required the inspection of religious education in schools which have a religious character. This is the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS).

Managing the Right to Withdraw

Parents have the right by law to withdraw their children from Religious Education curriculum. In this event we will undertake responsibility for their supervision with regards to health and safety. There will always be the opportunity for parents to discuss contents of the RE curriculum should they have concerns.

Aims of RE

- To enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living faith that influences the lives of people worldwide and as the religion that has most shaped British culture and heritage.
- To enable pupils to know about and understand other major world religions and world views, their impact on society, culture and the wider world, enabling pupils to express ideas and insights.
- To show an informed and respectful attitude to religions and worldviews.
- To engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose.
- To contribute to the development of children's own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own beliefs and values.

Teaching & Learning

In line with the Church of England RE Statement of Entitlement (2019) at Mark First & Preschool Academy we aim to provide:

- A curriculum that enables pupils to acquire a rich, deep knowledge and understanding of Christian belief and practice.
- A curriculum that draws on the richness and diversity of religious experience worldwide.
- The opportunity for pupils to deepen their understanding of the religion and work views as lived by believers.
- A pedagogy that instils respect for different views and interpretations; and in which real dialogue and theological enquiry takes place.
- Engaging and varied learning activities that provide for the needs of all learners, supported by high quality resources.
- The opportunity for pupils to develop a wide range of skills including enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection.
- RE that makes a positive contribution to SMSC development progression based on knowledge and understanding of core religious concepts.

Implementation

Religious education may be taught in a 'whole class' setting but with flexibility to allow for discussion, questioning and reflection in small groups and individually.

A variety of teaching approaches are encouraged:

- Visits from local vicar and other localities
- Teacher presentations, role play, drama and storytelling
- Questions and answer session, discussion and debates
- Individual and group research
- Photographs, pictures and maps
- Use of IT, websites to research and communicate ideas
- Use of outdoor classroom

Curriculum Balance & Time

Reflecting Mark First and Preschool Academy funding agreement, Christianity should be the majority religion studied and should be at least 50% of the curriculum time. Sufficient dedicated curriculum time, meeting explicitly RE objectives, should be given to RE. This should aim to be close to 10% but no less than 5% in key stages 1 and 2.

Resources

- AMV
- Understanding Christianity
- RE Quest
- SACRE
- RE Today
- BBC Bitesize
- Twinkl
- Roots and Fruits
- Share school artefacts, books and posters

Monitoring, Evaluation, Assessment, Recording, Reporting

- Local Partners have responsibility for monitoring how the RE in school reflects its Christian vision.
- The headteacher has overall responsibility for monitoring and evaluation.
- The RE subject leader will assist the headteacher by monitoring long-term and medium-term plans as well as completing book look scrutiny.
- The subject leader will keep examples of work to demonstrate continuity and progression.
- The subject leader will manage resources.
- The subject leader will endeavour to keep up to date with information, initiatives and developments in religious education and disseminate this as appropriate.

- The subject leader will be aware of staff development needs and encourage continuing professional development.
- The subject leader will facilitate the sharing of good practice
- The subject leader will be responsible for drawing up an action plan for religious education. Generally, this will be an annual plan and should be informed by this policy.
- The subject leader will liaise with the Diocesan adviser with responsibility for religious education.