



St Michaels' CE Primary Academy

RE Policy

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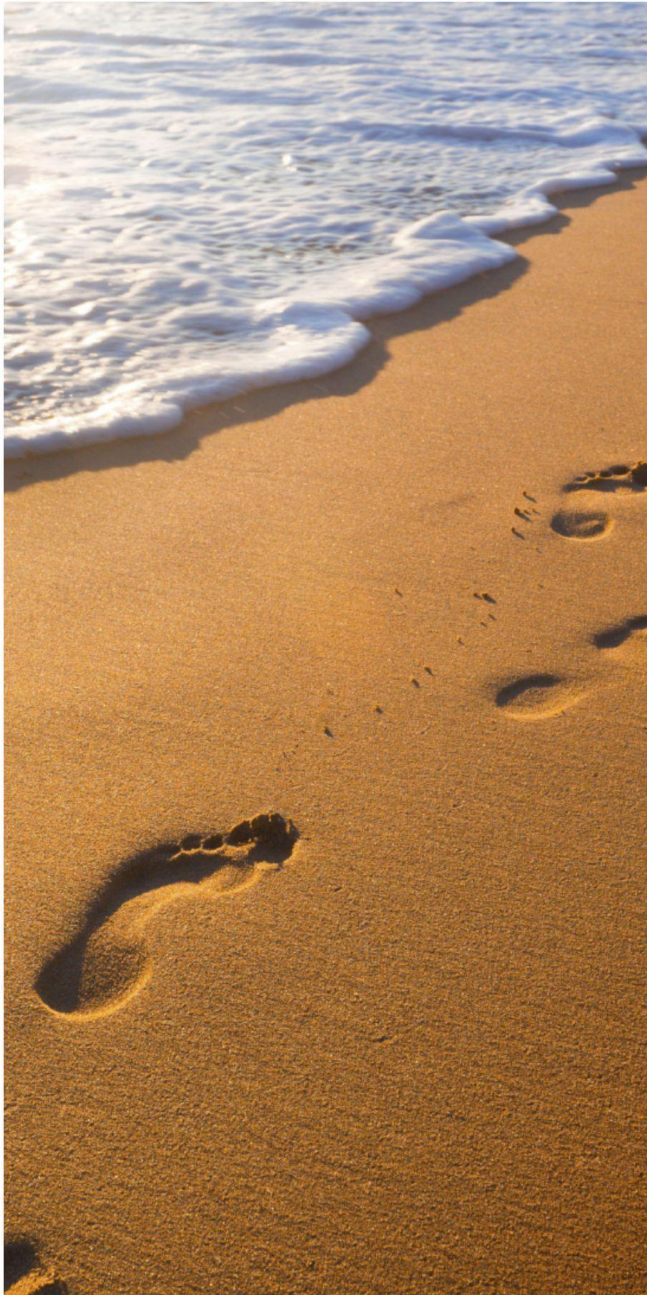
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Together, pursuing life in all its fullness

Aim statement

"We provide a safe, supportive Christian environment for all the community, where we work together to be successful learners."



Footprints in the Sand

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the LORD. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life.

For each scene he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand: one belonging to him, and the other to the LORD.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand.

He noticed that many times along the path of his life there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life.

This really bothered him and he questioned the LORD about it:

"LORD, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you most you would leave me."

The LORD replied:

"My son, my precious child, I love you and I would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

Mary Stevenson

The poem footprints in the sand draws inspiration from:

Deuteronomy 1:31: ... the Lord your God carried you as a father carries his son.

Isiah 46 : 4 – Even to your old age... I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.

How do we use our vision to guide our learners Religious Education?

The vision at St Michael's Church of England Academy is to provide an education of depth and quality within a Christian ethos, provided in a safe and secure, nurturing, and aspirational environment, so that our children can be the best they can be in all aspects of their development. The pupils and their families of our community are provided with an RE curriculum that enables children to acquire a rich, deep knowledge and understanding of Christian belief and practice using an approach that frequently engages with biblical text and theological ideas. We believe that Religious Education is important in helping our children to learn about the foundations of our Christian ethos and thus ensure that Christian values are the driving force of all of learning and day to day lived experiences. The RE curriculum is intrinsic to the outworking of St Michael's Christian vision in enabling all pupils to flourish as well as contributing to the understanding of British values and the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our learners.



What are the aims of our Religious Education Curriculum?

As a Church of England academy, the study of Christianity is a core part of our curriculum. The study of Christianity is supported by units of work from Understanding Christianity. Children also access teaching on all the major religions of the world, and examine spirituality and other world views, following the Coventry and Warwickshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education. Through this learning pupils develop a wide range of skills including enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection.

How do we utilise key documents to support our vision?

In keeping with the Church of England's Statement of Entitlement, the staff, local churches and community will collaboratively provide children with a high-quality RE curriculum, that

- explores a wide range of religions, allowing for breadth of study, as well as depth of study in Christianity.
- engages critically with significant questions that religions and worldviews address about life and how to lead it well, developing the understanding and skills needed to appreciate and evaluate varied responses to these questions, and formulate their own ideas.

- develop an awareness of the plurality of British life and global religious concerns, promoting community understanding and engagement, and supporting cohesion.
- nurture their own personal spiritual growth, philosophical outlook, and psychological well-being in a variety of ways.
- engage with the relevance of religion and world views in the modern world and how it affects people's lives locally, nationally and globally today.

We provide our learner with a safe space to explore their own religious, spiritual and/or philosophical ways of seeing, living and thinking, believing and belonging, providing opportunities to engage in meaningful and informed dialogue with those of all religions and worldviews, ensuring that our curriculum is suitably inspiring, inclusive and always invitational.

How is the teaching of Religious Education structured and taught?

Our Long-Term Plan for Religious Education is mapped out to ensure a cohesive and consistently taught curriculum, which makes links to previous learning explicit and builds successfully on children's prior knowledge.

This journey is shared with children and families to support understanding for all. Units from Understanding Christianity and the Warwickshire Agreed Syllabus form the basis of our planning at St Michael's so that pupils will acquire knowledge and understanding of people that follow the six principal world religions: Christians, Muslims, Jewish people, Sikhs, Hindus and Buddhists, as well as Humanists and people of no faith. Class teachers use the example resources provided by Understanding Christianity and Warwickshire SACRE as a basis for creating relevant, stimulating and creative learning opportunities for their pupils, ensuring that the principles and processes that support quality learning within a unit are not compromised.

How is the teaching of Religious Education taught in Early Years?

The Early Years Foundation Stage: RE is taught as part of in the Early Years Foundation Stage but also contributes to a child's personal and social development and understanding of the world. RE is planned as an integral part of the themes covered during the year and developing an understanding of RE is linked to the objectives set out in the Early Learning Goals (ELGs) which underpin curriculum planning for children aged three to five. Units from both SACRE and Understanding Christianity are taught discretely and opportunities are sought to use RE to reinforce learning and the children's understanding of different faiths and cultures, increasing the child's knowledge and understanding of the world.

How do we enrich our children's Religious Education?

St Michael's religious education curriculum is enhanced and enriched through experiences, including visits to a range of places of worship, opportunities to congregate with other Christian schools and the support of local churches. We welcome visitors from a range of religious and cultural backgrounds into school to deepen our children's understanding of Christian distinctiveness. Charitable fundraising and non-fundraising raising activities are planned and undertaken in conjunction with our PSHE curriculum to support our children to appreciate the Christian values of charity and the importance of affirmative action.

How do we support our vulnerable learners?

RE is taught to all children, whatever their ability. The teaching of RE is part of our school curriculum policy, which states that we provide a broad and balanced education for all our children. When teaching RE, learning opportunities are matched appropriately to the needs of children with learning difficulties. Planning takes into account the targets set for individual children, including those with Education Health Care Plans.

Our pupils have widely differing abilities, so we provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child. We achieve this in a variety of ways, for example by:

- setting common tasks which are open-ended and can have a variety of responses;
- using scaffolding to support the access of tasks;
- providing resources with different scaffolds adapted to the needs of the child;
- using classroom assistants to support the work of individuals or groups of children.

Right of Withdrawal (Opt-Out)

Parents and carers have a legal right to withdraw their child from Religious Education, either fully or partially. This right is established under education law in England.

Parents wishing to withdraw their child from RE should:

1. Arrange a meeting with the Headteacher.
2. Discuss the reasons for the request.
3. Confirm the request in writing.

The purpose of the meeting is to ensure that parents fully understand:

- The aims and content of the RE curriculum.
- The educational benefits of RE.
- The nature of RE in a Church of England school.

If a pupil is withdrawn from RE:

- The school will provide appropriate alternative provision.
- The school is not required to provide alternative teaching of religious education.
- Parents may choose to provide alternative religious instruction themselves.

The school will respect parental wishes while seeking to maintain the inclusive ethos of the school community.

How do we plan, review and monitor the teaching of Religious Education?

The RE subject leader is responsible for monitoring the standards of the children's work and the quality of teaching in religious education. The subject leader uses allocated regular management time to review evidence of the children's work, to observe RE lessons, learning environment and

to speak to the children, across the school. The RE subject leader reports to the Senior Leadership team and the governing body.