

St Mary's CE VC First School
RE Curriculum Intent, Implementation and Impact
Vision: Hope, Love and Community

“ Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”

This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

Matthew 22: 36-39

Intent:

As a Church of England school, RE is a core subject and aims to be meaningful, engaging and relevant to our children in an equitable classroom. Using an enquiry based model, we aim to develop children’s religious literacy and deepen their understanding of key concepts in Christianity; to enable children to know about and understand Christianity as a living faith that influences the lives of people world wide. We intend to equip our children to hold balanced and well informed conversations about religion and world views around them and begin to understand the complex world in which they live in order to better appreciate the diversity they will embrace as they get older. Through our teaching of RE, we aspire to encourage the children to be the best they can be, to encourage them to make positive choices about how to live and behave.

Implementation:

Religious Education is taught in accordance with the Dorset Agreed Syllabus. Integrated into the curriculum is the resource ‘Understanding Christianity’ which aims to deepen the knowledge of Christianity. In order to have a global understanding of religions other than Christianity, we follow Discovery RE.

In order to create an ethos of critical thinking and deeper reflection, RE is taught through the following disciplinary lenses:

Theology: Thinking through believing.

The Theologic Lens is about asking questions that believers would ask. Through looking at a concept through a theological lens, the children are starting to think like theologians.

Philosophy: Thinking through thinking.

The Philosophic lens is about asking questions that thinkers would ask. Through looking at a concept through a philosophic lens, the children are starting to think like philosophers.

Human/Social Sciences: Thinking through living.

This lens requires the children to think as if they were social scientists. They will explore the impact of religions/worldviews upon people and their lives.

Within our curriculum, we have highlighted the opportunities where thinking through a lens may take place.

We encourage the children to put their different lens’ on and see, explore and question the world around them accordingly.

Impact:

Through their RE learning, St Mary's children are able to:

- Make links between their own lives and those of others in their community and the wider world
- Develop an understanding of other people's cultures and ways of life
- Extend their knowledge of religions and beliefs
- Develop a religious vocabulary and interpret religious symbolism in a variety of forms
- Reflect upon how 'We have more in common than that which divides us' through the understanding of how Christianity, Judaism and Islam are linked
- Reflect upon making positive choices and how they impact upon our community
- Think critically and not be fearful to question courageously