Swanmore C.E. (Aided) Primary School

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Vision Statement

Swanmore Church of England Primary School's Christian values of Honesty, Love and Respect strive to develop children in to caring, reflective and proactive individuals; aspiring for the greatest achievement in all they do, seeking to improve themselves and the world around them.

In accordance with the Trust Deed of this Church School we aim to develop children's knowledge, awareness and understanding of the Christian faith and encourage understanding, respect and tolerance of other faiths.

R.E. lessons are planned and taught in line with the Agreed Syllabus for Hampshire – "Living Difference IV (Revised 2021)". From January 2017 'Understanding Christianity' has been largely used for the Christian element of the RE curriculum.

Aims:

1. To nurture the spiritual life of all through the curriculum, of which RE is a part, at all times honouring profoundly-held beliefs and acknowledging that each person is a person of worth.
2. To rehearse the life of the faith community of which the school is part, encouraging the development of knowledge and self-awareness and the growth of moral behaviour.
3. To develop the Spiritual, Moral, Cultural and Social aspects of RE in order to create an understanding, empathy and knowledge about our multi-faith world, fostering tolerance and respect for others.
4. To encourage and develop children's interest and opinions about concepts that are common to themselves and religions.
5. To develop knowledge and understanding of the beliefs and practices of some of the other principle religions of Britain.
6. To develop and express their own values, spirituality and beliefs through developing a reflective approach to life.

The Planning and Teaching of Religious Education:
RE is taught in line with the Hampshire Agreed Syllabus (Living Difference IV), with reference to Diocesan guidelines. It also incorporates many elements from the Understanding Christianity Project so as to enhance coherence and progression within the teaching of Christianity at this Church school. This enhances the pupils` religious literacy in terms of Christianity and develops their thinking in a theological manner.

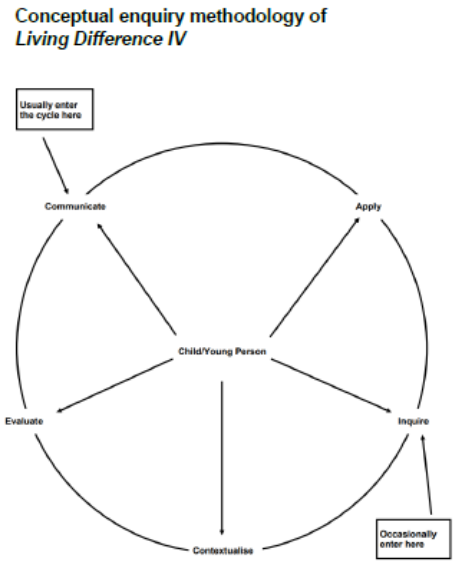
The Hampshire Agreed Syllabus (Living Difference IV) is taught through 4 golden thread concepts which are Belonging, Community, Special and Love.

The Understanding Christianity Project teaches Christianity through 8 concepts which are Gospel, Fall, Salvation, Creation, God, Incarnation, The Kingdom of God and People of God.

RE is taught weekly. Each unit is 'concept' led, making reference to children's own experiences and thoughts. The main religion studied is Christianity with the teaching taken from the Understanding Christianity documents. However, the children will also be taught about Judaism, Islam and Hinduism. Judaism and Christianity are taught in EYFS and Key Stage 1, with Christianity and Hinduism in Lower Key Stage 2 and Christianity and Islam at Upper Key Stage 2. Using our spiral RE curriculum children will experience religions and non-religious world views before they meet them in more depth during the RE units on their RE learning journey at our school. World Faiths Day each year allows children to also explore other religions such as Buddhist traditions, and non-religious world views such as Humanism.

Parents right of withdrawal:
In accordance with the Education Reform act 1988, parents have the right to withdraw their children from all, or part of, Religious Education. In order to avoid any misunderstanding, any parent wishing to withdraw their child should inform the Head teacher in writing.

How RE is taught:
In order for the children to be reflective in their learning we will use a variety of teaching methods which will include P4C (Philosophy for Children), drama, art, music, artefacts, visitors, visits to places of worship, stories, pictures, videos, and the use of periods of stillness and reflection. First hand memorable experiences ensure children develop tolerance and understanding of the world around them. In turn enhancing the learning opportunities as set out in our teaching and learning policy.



We also have strong links with our local church St Barnabas and The Methodist church, members of the clergy provide expertise and guidance by visiting the children to speak on issues and key dates of the Christian calendar, and help the children to use the school grounds and the church grounds as part of their spiritual development.

Assessment and monitoring

The RE Co-ordinator and paired Governor will monitor RE across the school regularly. This will involve collecting samples of work (including photographs) and talking to children & staff. Assessment of RE is in line with the school policy on assessment and recording.

RE and Inclusion

At our school we teach religious education to all children, whatever their ability and individual needs. Religious education forms part of the school's curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced education to all children. Through our religious education teaching we provide learning opportunities that enable all pupils to make good progress. We strive hard to meet the needs of those pupils with special educational needs, those with disabilities, those with ability and talents, and those learning English as an additional language, and we take all reasonable steps to achieve this.

Resources

Whole school topic grids, planning and assessment are available on the system under Teacher Resources – RE. There is also a collection of Hampshire RE centre RE unit booklets, teacher resource books, and REToday booklets which have ideas and up to date information. All RE resources are kept in the RE cupboards in the staff room. Boxes of artefacts to supplement our resources can be ordered by topic from the RE centre.

Reviewed by:	Tricia Clark, RE Manager
Date:	September 2025
Review date:	September 2028