



Religious Education Policy

Responsible committee: Pupil Learning
Approved by Governing Body: July 2023
Review Date: Annual or on Diocesan
advice

Mission Statement

Our mission is to be a happy, caring and compassionate Catholic community where each child's gifts are developed to the full and the foundations for lifelong learning are laid down.

Everyone will be supported, nurtured and inspired to be the very best they can be and to persevere to overcome life's challenges.

With God's help, we will educate our children to live safely and responsibly, to care for His wonderful creation and to live their lives through the example of Jesus and the values of the Gospel.

Policy

Religious Education at St Dunstan's is at the heart of the curriculum. It is based on sound educational principles suited to the age and ability of the children. The programme is supported and enhanced by the School's ethos.

10% of teaching time in Foundation Stage and KS1, usually 2 hours 15 minutes, and KS2, usually 2 hours 30 minutes, will be allocated to Religious Education.

In line with Diocesan guidance, the school follows the 'Come and See' programme of religious education in Years 2 to 5 and is piloting the new RED (Religious Education Directory for Catholic Schools: To Know You More Clearly) which will replace the previous editions.

Study of Other Religions

We live in a pluralistic country with people of different races, cultures and religions. Within our schools we are seeking to educate all pupils, of whatever religion, to be able to live in a way of life that integrates their

beliefs with all other aspects of what it means to be human. As a part of this, they must learn to live alongside others who are different and hold alternative views including religious views.

Paragraph 201. Meeting God in Friend and Stranger 2010, Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales; section 205

Children live in a fast changing global world which opens them to diversity and challenge. At St. Dunstan's we believe it is important to prepare children for this. Pupils are taught about Judaism. Islam has also been chosen because it is the common faith of many people in the local community. Pupils will be given the opportunity to visit the Mosque in Woking as part of this study.

Children in EYFS will learn through Personal, Social and Emotional development and Understanding the World that people have different views, cultures and beliefs which are treated with respect.

Governors

Governors acknowledge that parents have a legal right to withdraw their child from Religious Education. However, given the importance of Religious Education in a Catholic school, parents and prospective parents should be made aware of the fact that it can never be confined to 'timetabled slots' but may take place in a variety of contexts other than those which are specifically structured. It is not therefore feasible to withdraw children from every aspect of RE within the school.

Governors will be familiar with the RE guidelines and procedures of the school and be made aware of any changes that take place.