

Box CE VC Primary School Religious Education Policy

'It's like a mustard seed that man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree and the birds in the sky nested in its branches.' Luke 13:19

Plant, Nurture, Flourish, Serve

In Church of England schools, such as Box Primary School, where pupils and staff come from all faiths and none, religious education (RE) is a highly valued academic subject that enables understanding of how religion and beliefs affect our lives. At the heart of RE in church schools is the teaching of Christianity and pupils also learn about other faiths and world views.

Religious Education is unique in the school curriculum in that it is neither a core subject nor a foundation subject but the 1988 Education Act states that 'Religious Education has equal standing in relation to core subjects of the National Curriculum in that it is compulsory for all registered pupils'. Box Primary School is a Voluntary Controlled school therefore we deliver RE in line with the Locally Agreed Syllabus.

In Religious Education our pupils will:

- Be taught as an academic subject
- Develop a knowledge and understanding of Christian theology and its impact on our local community, and on our society today
- Develop a knowledge and understanding of some of the other principal religious traditions represented in Britain and the world today
- Develop respect for religious traditions, beliefs and practice.
- Develop skills and attitudes which will support their personal, moral, social and cultural development (see Locally Agreed Syllabus for specific skills and attitudes)
- Explore questions of meaning and consider how the world's religions have responded to them.
- Think about their own beliefs and values in the light of the beliefs of others, both religious and non-religious, and the values of the school community.

We use 'Understanding Christianity' as the basis of our Christianity planning. Understanding Christianity is a resource to support the teaching of Christianity in religious education in all schools.

- Develops pupils' own thinking and understanding of Christianity.
- Explores the significant theological concepts within Christianity as part of developing pupils' wider religious, theological and cultural literacy.
- Supports teachers in developing their own knowledge and understanding of Christian theology to be able to teach with confidence

'Discovery RE' is used as a planning resource for teaching other religions. Both schemes are a source of ideas and teaching strategies. We also make use of other resources e.g. books, artefacts, videos and music we have in school.

In accordance with the structure of the locally agreed syllabus we have agreed that the principle faiths studied are Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism and Sikhism.

Where possible we want our pupils to have opportunities to encounter local faith communities through visits to local places of worship or visits from members of local faith communities.

Assessment and monitoring of RE

At the end of each RE unit children complete assessment activities which are monitored and collated by the RE subject leader.

The subject leader will monitor RE within the school through analysis of this assessment data and through discussions with teachers and children.

The right of withdrawal from RE

At Box Primary School we wish to be an inclusive community but recognise that parents, of course, have the legal right to withdraw their children from religious education on the grounds of conscience. We would ask any parent considering this to contact the headteacher to discuss any concerns or anxieties about the policy, provision and practice of religious education at Box Primary School.

Equality of opportunity

All children have the right to equal opportunities in Religious Education irrespective of gender, race, background or ability. The beliefs, views and value systems of all children and their families should be respected and valued. RE is taught at a level appropriate to the age, ability and experience of the pupils.

Associated policies/documents

RE subject overview

Collective Worship

Spiritual Development Policy

Curriculum Policy