



**ST JAMES HATCHAM**  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY**

**‘Raising leaders in academic excellence and Godly character’.**

**Mission Statement**

At St James Hatcham CE School we are committed to creating a happy, caring and enriching learning environment, underpinned by Christian values, most notably – joy, peace, hope and love. We celebrate children’s achievement and spiritual development; encouraging acts of kindness and consideration, mutual respect and forgiveness. We aim to cultivate curious, independent thinking in response to the wonders of existence so as to provide a sound foundation for each and every child to realise their potential and enjoy fullness of life, both here at school and in their futures.

St. James Hatcham CE School is based on a Christian foundation and as such, Christianity forms the basis for most of the teaching of R.E. within the school, we use the Southwark Diocese Board of Education Religious Education Scheme of work which is made up of two thirds Christianity and 1 third other religions in line with National guidelines.

**Aims**

As a Christian school we are striving to ensure that children make outstanding progress in their learning through

- acquiring and developing their knowledge and understanding of Christian beliefs and practices
- fostering their feelings of awe, wonder, delight, joy and mystery of the world in which they live
- being aware of their own value and importance as individuals and of others
- acquiring and developing an understanding of the beliefs and values of the other two major monotheistic( one God Religions) world religions, Judaism and Islam, as well as other world faiths ,Sikhism, Hinduism and Buddhism .
- developing a positive attitude towards other people, respecting the right to hold different beliefs from their own, and to live in a multi-faith, multi-cultural and multi-racial society.
- developing the ability to make reasoned and informed judgments about religious and moral issues
- furthering their spiritual, moral, cultural and social growth by:
  - developing awareness of the fundamental questions of life raised by human experiences, and how religious teachings can relate to them.
  - responding to such questions with reference to the teachings and practices of religions, and to their own understanding and experiences
  - reflecting on their own beliefs, values and experiences through their study.

## **Role of the R.E. Subject Leader**

The R.E. Subject Leader is responsible for:

- completing Section 3 of the SIAS Toolkit
- co-ordinating Religious Education across the year groups
- writing and updating the R.E. policy, keeping abreast with initiatives and change
- ensuring that staff are aware of new developments in R.E.
- monitoring the implementation of the subject throughout the school
- supporting colleagues in the subject
- monitoring the effectiveness of new schemes of work
- attending regular INSET and disseminating information during staff meetings or workshop sessions
- ordering appropriate and relevant materials and resources for R.E. in consultation with the staff
- organising the resources for R.E. in a communal area, accessible to both staff and children
- organizing visits to Southwark cathedral

## **Planning**

Planning for R.E at St. James' is based on the Southwark Diocese Board of Education (SBDE) scheme of work, and an overall plan of the units of work to be taught to each year group has carefully being put together by the RE Subject Leader and staff to ensure coverage and progression. The teaching of R.E. is supported by topic themes specified for each year group and ensures effective coverage for all areas including the topic of Harvest, Christmas and Easter. In KS1 children are introduced to the two other Mono ( One God) Religions as well as Christianity , in Year 1 , they will study 1 unit on Judaism and In Year 2 , 1 unit on Judaism and 1 unit on Islam . In KS2 children are introduced to other Religions, Hinduism, Sikhism and Buddhism , this means that yearly they will study 4 units on Christianity and 2 units on other Religions .

Each class teacher is responsible for ensuring that the R.E. offered is carefully planned and matched to the level of understanding of the children in their class. It should raise the child's awareness and understanding of the nature of faith and help to develop attitudes of respect and tolerance towards others.

## **Timing**

Approximately 1 hour per week should be given to the teaching of R.E. in Key Stage 1 and approximately 1 hour 15 minutes in Key Stage 2. This excludes Collective Worship.

## **Delivery**

There are two attainment targets for R.E. These are:

### **Attainment Target 1 – Learning about Religion**

This includes the ability to:

- identify, name, describe and give account, in order to build a coherent picture of each religion
- explain the meanings of religious language, stories and symbolism
- explain similarities and differences between, and within religions

## **Attainment Target 2 – Learning from Religion**

This includes the ability to:

- give an informed and considered response to religious and moral issues
- reflect on what might be learnt from religions in the light of one's own beliefs and experiences
- identify and respond to questions of meaning within religions

### **Assessment**

As in all curriculum areas, assessment is used to help with future planning. Formative assessments of children's achievements in R.E. are made by the class teacher through classroom observations, discussions and pieces of work in their RE books and work linked to other subjects.

Children also feed into the assessment process by recording their own thoughts and ideas on what they would like to learn at the beginning of a unit of work and what they have learned at the end of a unit of work on a self evaluation sheet. This is recorded as a whole Class in KS 1 and kept in the whole class book. In KS2 the children do this individually in their own class books.

As a whole school we record and make summative assessments of this subject so that we have a more formal record of each child's achievement at the end of each term and at the end of the school year. We mark a piece of work once it has been completed and we comment as necessary. Teachers make a record of pupils 'level of achievement' in AT1 and AT2 using the 'I can statements, on the (SBDE) units of work and this is done every half term and then an overall level is given. Information on Children's learning in RE and attainment is passed on during end of year Transition meetings and handover discussions.

The end of year levels are also transferred onto an overview sheet for each year group so the Subject leader can then monitor individual attainment across the school to ensure progression and the SL continues to add to a Portfolio of children's work.

Teachers and colleagues are involved in moderation exercises in leveling 3 pieces of work from each year group termly against the SBDE level descriptors.

Assessment can be further supported by photographs, videos, art work, class books, whole class books supporting AT2 learning, topic books alongside teacher and TA observations and pupil's comments.

### **Learning Environment**

The environment reflects the religious aspect of the school. All RE Areas are looked after by the children and staff. Each area contains:

- A cross
- A shell
- A plant
- A candle
- A Bible
- The St James the Great story
- An explanation of "Why we light the candle at the end of the day".
- Four main values displayed Hope , Love Joy and Peace

At the end of the day candles are lit to remind the children that Jesus is the light of the world and to encourage the children to reflect on the day before a prayer is said.

### **The Chapel**

The chapel can be used by any child at anytime of the day. Children may volunteer to go there or be asked to go there by a member of staff. It is used as a calming area for reflection and prayer at moments of need e.g. when feeling the need for comfort and to help calm an angry mood. It can also be used to discuss aspects of Anglican Worship during RE lessons.

### **Equal Opportunities**

We believe that all children at St. James irrespective of race, gender and special educational needs should have access to R.E. curriculum.

### **Parental right to withdraw**

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from RE. This should be discussed with the Headteacher prior to any discussion taking place.

### **Resources**

Resources are an important part of the teaching and learning of Christianity and of the other faiths we teach in St. James. Children are therefore given the opportunity to handle artefacts and other resources.

Resources to be shared by all are located in the RE section in the information Area of the school. There are large story sacks which contain a Big story book and props to retell familiar Bible stories .Also a variety of story books from the Bible , books about other religions and stories with morals are kept in the library section at the front entrance to the information station. Resources from the SBDE scheme of work can be found on the Diocese website in the login section. (All staff can find username and password on the staff shared drive under staff resources – RE folder)

### **Funding**

A budget is set aside each financial year to provide appropriate resources, e.g. books, artifacts, workshops etc. and to replace and update when necessary.

### **Professional Development**

The INSET programme for R.E. is organised as part of the School Improvement and RE Action Plan in conjunction with the needs of both staff and the school.

School-based INSET is organized to include the priorities of both the school and members of staff, and takes the form of staff meetings, workshops or twilight sessions.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The policy will be reviewed annually in consultation with the Faith group and the staff.

Review date: September 2017

*Faith Group July 2016*

