

## Context

- Religious Education is a curriculum subject, which is taught according to the Agreed Syllabus for Oxfordshire (2015) and the 1996 Education Act.
- The school welcomes all children and their families regardless of their faith stance. It does not seek to indoctrinate but to help pupils to think for themselves as they learn about and from religion, and to enhance their understanding and respect.

## Policy

- St Ebbe's School understands Religious Education to be about people, ideas, values, ways of looking at life, and developing as a person.
- Religious Education should help pupils to:
  - develop a positive attitude to all people, respecting each other's beliefs and customs and celebrations in a diverse society
  - acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity, Judaism, Islam (KS1 & KS2), and Hinduism (KS2)
  - develop an understanding of the influence of beliefs, values and traditions on individuals and societies, and how religion has shaped and inspired human history and culture, influencing developments in art, music, architecture and literature
  - develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues, with reference to the teachings of Christianity, Judaism and Islam
  - enhance their moral, spiritual, social and cultural development, helping to develop tolerance, consideration and a concern for justice, fairness and truth, through the study of religious teachings and practices
  - develop the skills of: • Investigation • Interpretation • Reflection • Stillness • Empathy • Evaluation • Analysis • Synthesis • Application • Expression • Reasoning, upon which progress in religious education is dependent and spirituality can be developed
  - develop and strengthen attitudes such as compassion, curiosity, commitment, fairness, respect, self-understanding and enquiry that are fundamental to religious education, as well as our school values.
- Usually, R.E. will be delivered as a discrete subject, but with due regard being paid to current themes or topics, as links can often be made with other curricular areas. We shall endeavour to ensure that all children will spend 36 hours of curriculum time on R.E. per academic year, as required by law. This will be supplemented with trips and visiting speakers.
- All pupils regardless of race, age, ability, gender, class or religious persuasion, will have equality of access to R.E.
- Parents have the right to withdraw their child from R.E. lessons under the Education Reform Act (1988). Alternative provision will be made for children whose parents have exercised the right to withdraw their child from R.E. lessons under the Education Reform Act (1988). It is currently part of our school policy that every subject will be taught in such a way that nobody need be withdrawn from any lesson.

## How will we know it's working?

- All pupils will be able to access the RE curriculum and find a contribution to their education in it, regardless of their own personal beliefs.
- The numbers of pupils withdrawn from RE will decrease year on year.

## For more information

The Agreed Syllabus for Oxfordshire (2015-20) and the 1996 Education Act.