



## **ST. MARK'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY**

#### **Vision**

*St. Mark's CE Primary School is a welcoming community where children develop a lifelong love of learning and sense of belonging, within a nurturing and inclusive Christian environment. All children have the opportunity to become free thinking, responsible citizens, whilst understanding and appreciating the wonder of our world. They leave St Mark's with the confidence to live fulfilling lives, and respond with flexibility to an ever changing world.*

#### **Our vision for Religious Education**

Our RE curriculum is intrinsic to the outworking of our distinctive Christian vision in enabling all pupils to develop a love of learning and sense of belonging. In addition, it contributes to British values and to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Our community provides a nurturing, inclusive environment where all can flourish and grow, building strong foundations for their next steps and future life. Our Christian ethos provides the framework for education, including religious education, in our school and underpins our whole curriculum.

#### **Introduction**

RE at St Mark's explores how individuals and communities make meaning and sense of their lives through the major religions of the world. It enables pupils to know about, understand and respond to the important and ultimate questions of life. RE is taught in such a way that it inspires pupils to explore, develop and affirm their own faith and values and have respect for the faith, beliefs and values of others. Values education permeates the whole curriculum, including RE at St Mark's CE Primary School. Our **circle values** are at the core of all we do, they reflect our shared beliefs and our commitment to creating a harmonious, enabling and empowering school community. We seek to live our lives through these core values, securing a foundation for unity and lifelong learning. Our school motto is 'Living and Learning Together'.

#### **Aims**

At St Mark's VE Primary School, RE supports and strengthens the vision, ethos and values which are at the heart of what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. The importance placed on the development of the whole child spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in the RE curriculum.

Specifically, RE aims to enable pupils of all abilities and stages of development to:

- demonstrate an appreciation of the nature of worldviews and the important contribution of religion and belief, spiritual insights and values to the individual's search for meaning in life;
- recognise that someone's worldview, including their own, can be influenced by many factors and is an intrinsic part of how they view the world;
- develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity, and of the other principal religions and beliefs represented in Great Britain, through their history, contemporary diverse expressions and encountering peoples' lived experience;
- develop interest in and enthusiasm for the study of worldviews and enhance their own spiritual, moral, social and cultural development;
- develop the ability to make reasoned, informed and creative responses to religious and moral issues;

- recognise the influence of beliefs, values and traditions on the individual, on culture and on communities throughout the world.

## Legal Framework

As a voluntary aided CE school, the [New Surrey Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2023-2028](#) is our statutory document for the teaching of RE. Religious Education at St Mark's also meets the requirements of [The Church of England Statement of Entitlement for Religious Education in Church Schools 2019](#). Parents have a legal right to withdraw their children from religious education lessons, but as RE is central to the life and identity of St Mark's CE Primary School, we would ask parents to discuss with the head teacher any reasons they might have for doing this.

## Teaching and Learning

At St. Mark's we seek to achieve our aims by:

- Following a one-year plan in our Early Years Foundation Stage Class and a two-year cycle of planning for Religious Education for both Key Stage 1 and 2, based on the Surrey Agreed Syllabus, acknowledging where appropriate, the Christian faith as provided by the Church of England.
- Following the three Golden Threads: These multi-disciplinary strands run through the curriculum to provide balanced RE.
  - Theology, for which we use the term 'God' in the Primary phase.
  - Sociology, for which we use the term 'Community' in the Primary phase.
  - Philosophy, for which we use the term 'Identity' in the Primary phase.
- Each lesson has a spirituality learning objective.
- The scheme of work for RE focuses on the statutory content, the "Sticky" knowledge. This is supported by the expected outcomes which are linked to the key questions, reflecting multi-disciplinary approaches (theology, sociology & philosophy).
- There are clear learning outcomes for all units of work, based on the appropriate expectations/levels as set out in the RE syllabus.
- The scheme of work ensures that there is continuity and progression for pupils and opportunities for assessment.
- A range of teaching and learning activities ensures that pupils learn effectively and with interest.
- RE lessons encourage pupils to develop positive attitudes to their learning and to the beliefs and values of others. This focuses on four attitudes: self-awareness, respect for all, open-mindedness, appreciation and wonder.
- Pupil progress and attainment in RE are tracked, monitored and recorded.
- Progress in RE forms part of pupils' annual report to parents.
- RE is taught as a discrete subject; however, links are made with other areas of the curriculum when appropriate.
- Visitors are welcomed from other churches and charities and Christian members of our community to add to the experiences of our children.
- Daily collective worship takes place (planned based on termly themes).

- There is regular liaison with the Vicar of St. Mark's to organise termly school led services, collective acts of worship and projects involving the church; combining such with regular trips to the Church when appropriate.
- RE is taught for the advised time allocation:
  - Key Stage 1 (Years 1&2): 36 hours per year (72 hours over the Key Stage)
  - Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6): 45 hours per year (180 hours over the Key Stage)The syllabus sets no time allocation for Early Years' pupils, but St Mark's ensures that the statutory content is given appropriate coverage through our EYFS provision.
- The Christian ethos of the school manifests itself in the ways in which we relate to each other and how the whole school community live out our Christian centred CIRCLE values.

This policy was developed in consultation with the staff and governors. It was ratified by the Governing Body Spring 2024

It is due for review in Spring 2026