



Barby Church of England Primary School

Religious Education Policy - Appendix

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Our Academy Vision

'Mighty Oaks from Tiny Acorns Grow'

We inspire children to reach their full potential as they journey through life; stimulating a thirst for knowledge, building confidence and resilience, and embracing Christian values.

To achieve this, we aim:

- To provide a high quality, inclusive teaching and learning experience that enables children to achieve to the best of their ability.
- To provide a nurturing environment which allows the freedom for mistakes, providing opportunities to learn from them in order to build confidence and resilience.
- To live our Christian values across the school enabling children to grow and develop an understanding of life within a multi-cultural society.

Religious Education (RE) plays a vital role in contributing to our whole school vision. RE ensures that our children's thinking is challenged through investigation and reflection upon some of the most fundamental questions asked in life. Throughout a child's journey at Barby, RE develops the children's knowledge and understanding of the Christian and other world faiths. This enables our children to make informed, balanced decisions about their own views and faith. RE at Barby provides a safe environment where pupils can express their own beliefs in a respectful way and ask their own 'big questions' for enquiry.

At Barby, we want the children to make knowledgeable decisions and develop a clear understanding of the core concepts of each faith through; looking at each faith's key text (Making sense of the text), examining how members of that faith might put their beliefs into action (Understanding the Impact) and through reflecting on their own lives and understanding of the world (Making connections).

This encourages our children to understand the world around them and the importance of their own contribution within our school, community and the wider world. From this, each child can develop their own

sense of values and develop their spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding. This allows our children to show respect for each other and an appreciation of the value of differences and similarities.

Local Context

Barby C of E Primary School is a small rural primary academy, serving children in the age range of four to eleven years. The majority of our children are White British and almost all of them will transition to a local secondary school of similar demographic. For this reason, our RE curriculum ensures in depth learning through a spiral curriculum of both Christianity and the other world faiths. This enables our children to have an awareness of other religions, cultures and faiths different to that of their immediate community and thus fostering a respect for difference as they develop. We welcome the diversity of our families and we intend to be sensitive to the home background of each pupil.

At Barby, we have close links with St Mary's Church, the vicar and members of the congregation from the village. The Church supports our RE and Collective Worship throughout the Christian year, joining with us in celebrations of the key Christian festivals. Each year the school celebrates Harvest, Christingle, Christmas, Mothers' Day, Easter with the local Church.

The Vicar is well known to the children and joins us to lead our Collective Worship. The children also join the congregation of St Mary's Church, to contribute to Family Services.

We also have close links with the local community. This includes welcoming visitors to the academy from a variety of religious and non-religious backgrounds to support RE lessons and Collective Worship.

As well as our connections with our local Christian place of worship, pupils also experience visits to diverse places of worship as part of their thematic studies. Teachers organize visits for their classes to the local Gurdwara, Synagogue, Hindu Temple and Buddhist retreat. Here faith leaders and other members of the community are willing to meet with the pupils and share their faith. This is a valuable resource for the children and provides the opportunity for them to experience the celebration of different cultures and festivals other than their own.

Time Allocation

At Barby, we organise our RE time by following our RE Long Term plan. This Long Term plan is based around a two-year cycle to ensure that our mixed-age classes have coverage of the whole curriculum. Teachers follow our spiral curriculum for RE following Understanding Christianity and The Diocese of Peterborough Agreed Syllabus. Key Stage 1 classes follow a two-year cycle teaching Christianity and Judaism.

RE is taught on a weekly basis in both Key Stage 1 and key Stage 2. In Key Stage 2 the children will learn about two other faiths at least in addition to Christianity. Our 'thematic' units allow for children to develop their understanding further through comparing and contrasting the key world faiths. In addition, teachers have the flexibility to adapt their lesson plans to meet the needs of individual classes, 'big questions' asked by the children or to cover recent news headlines. RE may be also be delivered in flexible ways; for example, through RE days, RE weeks, visits and other cross-curriculum topics.

Where possible, RE is linked closely to other topic areas to allow children the opportunity to develop schemas, connections and links throughout their learning.

Teaching and Learning Styles

We ensure that a variety of teaching and learning styles are adopted by teachers in RE to allow access by all pupils. The variety enables pupils to encounter their preferred learning style as well as to develop a broad repertoire. The teaching and learning styles used promote a range of skills such as thinking skills, reasoning, enquiry and research.

Examples of active learning strategies and activities, which we use, are:

- Dramatic conventions;
- Group work;
- Individual reflection;
- Use of music and art;
- Artefact handling;
- Multi - sensory approaches;
- Visits and visitors;
- Use of ICT and Multi Media;
- Use of photos, posters, DVDs.

Resources

A wide range of resources are in place for each theme within RE. These are all individually boxed according to religion and a list of contents for each resource box is displayed in the box. Resources are stored in the Resource Store Cupboard and should be returned after use.

In addition, a selection of posters and 'big books' are available to teachers to complement themes within RE.

We maintain an RE story shelf in the library, which offers many stories from different traditions. Teachers may choose to use these in RE.

Staff are invited to suggest gaps in the resources for future spending.