



Our school vision is to embrace the spiritual, physical, intellectual, emotional and social development of all.

We strive for educational excellence by supporting and developing the following values:

Wisdom

Hope

Community

Dignity

Love

Religious Education Policy

Religious Education – Our Aims.

At Swimbridge CE Primary School our aims for Religious Education are:

- To enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living faith that influences the lives of people worldwide and as the religion that has most shaped British culture and heritage.
- To enable pupils to know and understand about other major world religions and world views, their impact on society, culture and the wider world, enabling pupils to express ideas and insights.
- To contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own beliefs and values.

Religious Education – Our Expectations.

By the time they leave Swimbridge CE Primary School at the end of KS2, the expectation is that all pupils are religiously literate and, as a minimum, are able to:

- Give a theologically informed and thoughtful account of Christianity as a living and diverse faith.
- Show an informed and respectful attitude to religions and world views in their search for God and meaning.
- Engage in meaningful and informed dialogue with those of other faiths and none.
- Reflect critically and responsibly on their own spiritual, philosophical and ethical convictions.

Religious Education – Our Curriculum Balance.

As a Voluntary Aided Church of England Primary School, Christianity is the majority study in RE and so we ensure that this is clearly adhered to with at least 2/3rds of the curriculum being devoted to teaching and learning about Christianity.

Our aim is for RE to be allocated as close to 10% of Curriculum time as possible, but never less than 5%. Please note that our RE entitlement is totally separate from our requirements for Collective Worship.

Religious Education – Our Teaching and Learning.

Swimbridge CE Primary School understands that it has a duty to provide accurate knowledge and understanding of religions and world views and therefore we provide:

- A challenging and robust curriculum based on an accurate theological framework.
- An assessment process which has rigour and demonstrates progression based on knowledge and understanding of core religious concepts.
- A curriculum that draws on the richness and diversity of religious experience worldwide.
- Teaching and learning opportunities that instil respect for different views and interpretations; and, in which real dialogue and theological enquiry takes place.
- The opportunity for pupils to deepen their understanding of the religion and world views as lived by believers.
- RE that makes a positive contribution to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development.

What do we teach and how do we teach it?

Swimbridge CE Primary School follows the Devon agreed Syllabus, which looks at big questions and key Bible stories and adopts an enquiry approach.

Children learn about different beliefs and teachings; practices and ways of life and how religions express themselves in different ways.

In Learning from Religion, children reflect on and consider important questions of identity and belonging (e.g. who and what matters to me?) questions of meaning (e.g. what do people believe about how life began?) and values and commitments (e.g. who and what do I value?)

Key Skills in RE.

At Swimbridge CE Primary School we strongly believe that RE is more than just developing children's knowledge and understanding.

We seek to develop children's investigation, enquiry, communication, interpretation and reflection. These are important life skills for children to develop and use in their daily lives. We believe it is essential for our children to learn through:

- Investigation and enquiry (finding out what people believe, how their beliefs affect the way they live and the different ways people express their beliefs),
- Communication (sharing their ideas and those within religions and beliefs in a lively, informed way including different styles of writing, creative arts, drama, stories, speaking & listening and the use of computers),
- Reflection (ensuring the children have planned time to consider and reflect on their own understanding and opinions),
- Interpretation (recognising and talking about religious symbols, stories and sacred texts),
- Analysis and evaluation (developing their own views and ideas, recognising the views of others).

Key Attitudes in RE.

RE at Swimbridge CE Primary School, in line with our deeply Christian values, seeks to promote the following key attitudes:

- Hope, aspiration and self-esteem (so that every child feels valued and significant),
- Dignity and respect (including being sensitive to the beliefs, feelings and values of others),
- A sense of community, open-mindedness and tolerance (thinking of others, sharing, being willing to learn and gain new understanding),

- Wisdom and knowledge through appreciation and wonder (developing children's imagination and curiosity).
- Love (showing a love of learning and of everyone within our school through acts of kindness)

Approaches to teaching and learning in RE.

At Swimbridge CE Primary School we believe RE is an exciting curriculum subject and we adopt an enquiry approach and employ a wide range of learning methods in our teaching, including:

- Visiting local places of worship and receiving visitors from faith communities,
- Using art, music, dance and drama,
- Children experiencing times of quiet reflection to develop their own thoughts and ideas,
- Using stories, pictures and photographs,
- Using artefacts to help children develop their understanding of religious beliefs and forms of expression,
- Discussing religious and philosophical questions giving reasons for their own beliefs and those of others,
- Developing the use of computing (including the Internet, DVDs and films) in helping children's awareness of religions and beliefs