



**St Botolph's Voluntary Aided C.E. Primary School**

**Policy statement  
for  
Religious Education**

**June, 2019**



## Legal requirements and time allocation

As a Voluntary Aided Church of England School, Religious Education is determined by the Governing Body, which is responsible for fulfilling the school's Trust Deed and all other legal requirements. Religious Education is taught to all pupils from Reception to Year 6, as required by law. Following Diocesan advice, the Governors have adopted the new Rochester Diocesan Syllabus for RE (published 2001). The syllabus recommends that a minimum of 5% of curriculum time is given to RE and therefore timetabled RE is normally taught for the equivalent of an hour a week at Key Stage 1 and 1.25 hours at Key Stage 2. This is in addition to time set aside for Collective Worship.

## Aims

The aims of Religious Education are set out in the Rochester Diocesan Syllabus:

“Religious Education is an educational activity which promotes the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils. It aims to enable pupils to:

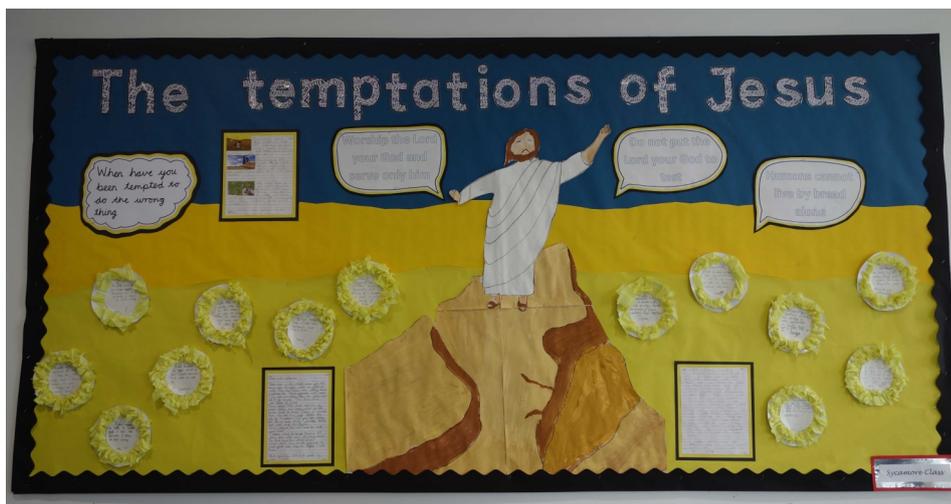
- Gain a secure knowledge and understanding of Christianity as expressed in the traditions of the Anglican Church
- Be introduced to some of our neighbours' religions and to learn to respect people of different faiths
- Mature in their own beliefs, values and behaviour, by reflecting on religious beliefs and practices.”



# Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Development

Religious Education has a particular contribution to make to these important areas of education because of its subject matter and the approach taken to it.

- Pupils are encouraged to develop spiritually by exploring religious ideas, drawn particularly from Christianity, and reflecting upon them for themselves.
- They are helped to develop morally by considering religious codes of conduct and Christian values in particular, evaluating their own behaviour in the light of these.
- Pupils explore the social aspects of religion such as religious lifestyles. We also encourage them to listen to each other and to respect people whose ideas are different from their own.
- RE promotes cultural development by an emphasis on Christianity, which has influenced British art, music and literature over the centuries. Pupils learn about key figures in the Bible, for example, and major Christian festivals. RE also encourages them to appreciate the rich diversity of other cultures by introducing them to some of the other principal religions in Great Britain.



## Attainment Targets & Assessment

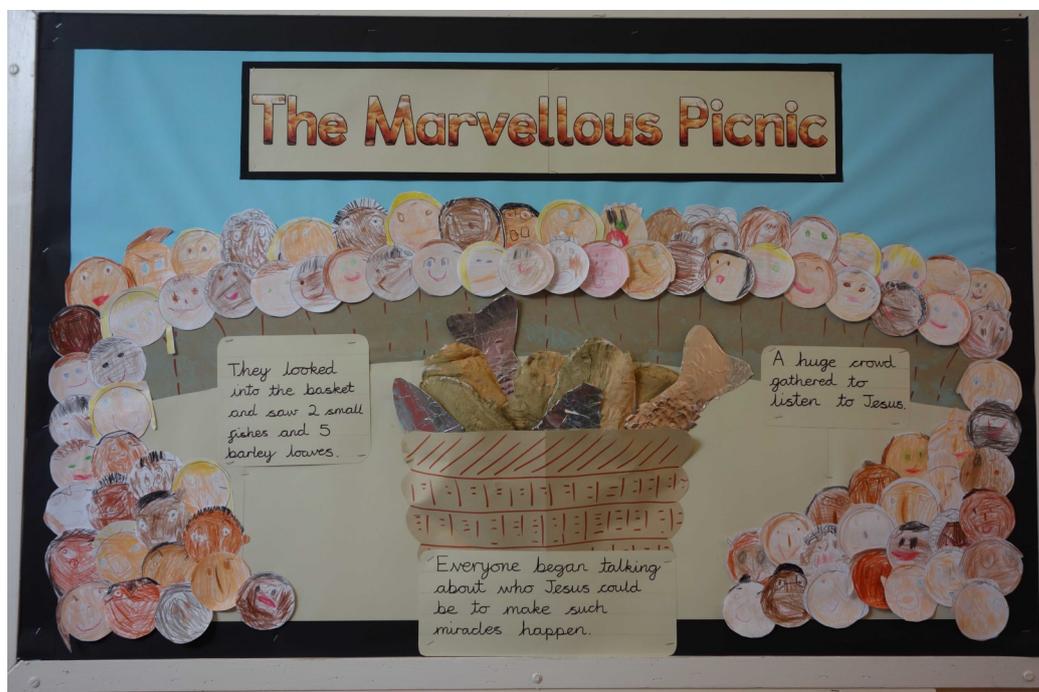
There are two attainment targets in the Rochester RE Syllabus:

**AT1: Learning about religions**

**AT2: Learning from religion**

The first helps pupils to know and understand what religious people believe, what they do and how they express themselves. The second helps pupils to make sense of themselves, of life, and of right and wrong. The syllabus is set out in such a way that there is a balance between these two approaches to the subject. In other words, pupils are taught about religion, especially Christianity, but they are also helped to think about the relevance of these ideas to their own lives. For example, lessons about Christian saints also encourage pupils to think about saintly qualities in themselves and others.

Pupils are assessed on these two attainment targets at the end of each unit of RE, using the national assessment levels in this subject (Qualifications & Curriculum Authority 2004). These levels also help teachers to pitch the work at the right level, challenging pupils to develop knowledge and understanding in the subject and also the ability to reflect on ideas and relate them to their own experiences. Formative marking of work also enables children to deepen and develop their thinking.



## Content

In the Foundation Stage (Reception), teachers lay the foundations for good Religious Education by linking it with the areas of learning and early learning goals, particularly 'Personal, social and emotional development', 'Communication, language & literacy', 'Knowledge & understanding of the world' and 'Creative development.' Aspects of Christianity are explored, such as the 'Special Day' of Christmas and 'Special Occasions' such as baptisms and weddings. Pupils are also told Bible stories.

From Key Stage 1, RE is taught as a separate subject and pupils have RE work-books. The content is still based on the concept of 'special', such as special people and places, special books and objects. This is used to teach pupils about Christianity.

The whole of Key Stage 2 explores Christianity under the themes of The Church (Autumn Term), Jesus Christ (Spring Term), and The Bible (Summer Half-Term). Other religions are introduced in the last half-term (or new term): in Year 3, Judaism in Year 4, Hinduism in Year 5 Islam and Year 6 Sikhism finishes with a special term on The Church and Believing

## Equal Opportunities

Although the content of RE in this Church of England Aided School is mainly Christian, reflecting the Christian nature of the school, we make no assumptions about the commitment of individual pupils. We encourage all pupils to participate in RE, and encourage sensitivity in handling minority opinions, beliefs and practices.

## Withdrawal

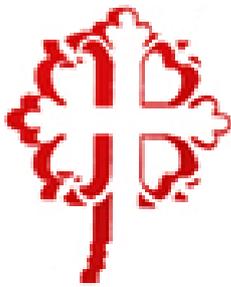
Parents have a legal right to withdraw their children from all or part of Religious Education, but we would encourage them to discuss this with the head teacher before making a final decision.



## Our Vision & Values

Our core Christian values are at the heart of everything that we live and learn in our school. Respect, Resilience and Responsibility drive all of our school improvement actions and we believe that they are the key for learning for all members of the school community.

We respect the different starting points and abilities of all children. Everyone matters equally. We all (children and adults) have a responsibility to be the best we can be and to fulfil our God given potential. We are resilient learners, having the courage to learn from our mistakes and we encourage self belief and hope.



# St. Botolph's

## Church of England Primary School

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