

# Upton Noble C of E VC Primary School



## Religious Education Policy

Approved by the Governing Body of  
The East Somerset Federation

Signed: *Susan Sise*

Date: September 2023

Date for Review: September 2025

## **Religious Education Intent**

The provision of Religious Education by schools for all pupils (except where withdrawn by parents) is a legal requirement of the Education Act (1996).

At Upton Noble CEVC Primary School, RE is taught in accordance with the Somerset Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education which was renewed in 2019. We believe that RE is very important because it prepares children for life in our multi-faith, multicultural society. It enables pupils to develop empathy, inclusivity and respect for and sensitivity to others, including those whose faiths and beliefs are different from their own. Religious Education is not designed to convert pupils to any particular religion or religious belief. RE involves pupils in exploring both the beliefs and practices of world faiths and their own responses to questions about the meaning and purpose of life. They also learn about non-religious beliefs and values.

## **Aims and Objectives**

During religious education at East Somerset Federation, we aim:

- to develop children's knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other religious and non-religious worldviews and the ways in which different groups of people approach or explain fundamental issues of life
- to support children to reflect on their own beliefs and values in response to what they have learned
- to develop a capacity to explore questions concerning human nature and spirituality and an understanding of some religious responses to these questions
- to develop an understanding of how attitudes and behaviour are influenced by beliefs, values and commitments
- to develop an awareness of sacred writings, the teachings of key religious figures, and practices associated with worship, prayer and pilgrimage in different religious traditions
- to develop an awareness of how people with different worldviews, both religious and non-religious, mark key life events and rites of passage.

## **Teaching and Learning**

We follow the Awareness Mystery and Value (AMV) syllabus from the Somerset SACRE. We use a combination of the AMV units and Understanding Christianity, a resource produced by the Church of England to support the teaching of Christianity in RE. The AMV units cover both religious and non-religious worldviews.

RE is taught for at least an hour a week. Pupils experience a variety of activities which are structured to allow opportunity for reflection, exploration of beliefs and values, questioning and enquiry, investigation and personal response.

Religious Education is made relevant by starting with the pupils' own experience. We aim to use a range of resources, including our local community and places of worship, to bring learning to life in RE.

## **Continuity and Progression**

As a CEVC school, 50% of our RE teaching time is dedicated to Christianity. At Key Stage 1 children study Christianity, Judaism and Hinduism. At Key Stage 2 they study Christianity, Hinduism, Judaism and Islam. Our RE teaching also encompasses non-religious world views including Humanism. Using the Locally Agreed Syllabus, skills and knowledge are built on as children move through the school and develop a greater understanding of religious beliefs, practices and issues.

## **Teaching RE to Children with Special Needs**

We teach RE to all children, regardless of their ability. Our teachers provide learning opportunities matched to the individual needs of children with learning difficulties.

## **Assessment for Learning**

Our teachers assess the children's work in RE both by making informal judgements as they observe them during lessons and through formal assessments of the work done, gauging it against the specific learning objectives set out in AMV. We have clear expectations of what pupils will know, understand and be able to do at the end of KS1, Lower Key Stage 2 and Upper Key Stage 2. Opportunities for assessment will be a continuing, integral part of learning.

### **Monitoring and Review**

The monitoring of standards of work and the quality of RE teaching is the responsibility of the RE subject leader. The work of the subject leaders is significant in raising standards and this involves supporting colleagues in their teaching, being informed about current developments in their subject, and providing a strategic lead and direction in RE. Where possible, subject leaders have specially allocated time for carrying out the vital tasks of reviewing samples of work and visiting classes to observe teaching.

This policy will be reviewed biennially.