

# St Mellion C of E Primary School

## RE Policy



### Rationale

This policy has been created to ensure consistency and progression in the school's approach to Religious Education, enabling children to develop their understanding of Christianity, non religious worldviews and the other major world religions in order that they develop tolerance and understanding of the local, national and global communities in which they live.

In our ever-changing and increasingly interconnected world, it is vital that children develop an understanding of their surroundings. Through RE, pupils develop their knowledge of other faiths and world-views and their understanding and awareness of the beliefs, values and traditions of other individuals, societies, communities and cultures. We encourage our pupils to ask big questions about the world, to reflect on their own beliefs, values, and experiences, being confident to challenge and stand up for what they believe is right and supported to aspire to make a positive difference now and in their future life.

Religious Education is unique in the church school curriculum in that it is a core subject but is not part of the National Curriculum; the 1988 Education Act states that 'Religious Education has equal standing in relation to core subjects of the National Curriculum in that it is compulsory for all registered pupils'.

St Mellion C of E Primary School provides RE in accordance with the Diocese of Truro and as a Voluntary Aided Church of England School follows the St Barnabas Trust curriculum drawing from the Cornwall Locally Agreed Syllabus as well as Understanding Christianity and the Church of England's statement of Entitlement.

# School Aims

At St Mellion C of E Primary School we aim to provide pupils with a safe, caring environment where every pupil is encouraged to reach their full potential in all aspects of school life, living life in all its fullness, educating for dignity and respect and encouraging all to live well together. RE at St Mellion C of E Primary School aims to provide a balanced and inclusive education, fostering understanding and respect for all religions and worldviews represented in our society.

We work hard to develop every pupil's confidence so that they become self-motivated, keen, articulate and caring young people.

The children are central to our community and we strive to give them the academic and life skills needed to become good citizens and role models for the future. To do this we work closely with parents and value their opinions and support in nurturing the next generation of young pupils.

## **Church of England - Vision for Education**

Vision Statement - 'Life in all its fullness' - John 10:10

Core Christian Values - Wisdom, Hope, Community and Dignity

## **School Vision**

### **Bring It!**

The Parable of the Talents underpins our vision and demonstrates that each individual within our community is unique and precious and has their own talents that they should nurture.

*Matthew 25:14–30*

## **Our Christian Values**

Courage, Creativity and Friendship.

## Policy Aims

Through the provision of Religious Education at our school, we aim to:

- provoke challenging questions about the purpose of life, beliefs, the self, issues of right and wrong, and what it means to be human.
- foster personal reflection and spiritual development. encourage pupils to explore their own beliefs, (whether they are religious or non-religious), and to express their responses.
- enable pupils to build their sense of identity and belonging, which helps them flourish within their communities and as citizens in a diverse society.
- teach pupils to develop respect for others, including people with different faiths and beliefs, and to help challenge prejudice.
- prompt pupils to consider their responsibilities to themselves and to others, and to explore how they might contribute to the communities and to wider society.
- develop a sense of awe and wonder in the world in which our children live.

## The Contribution that RE makes to other areas of the curriculum

Personal development and Well-Being: RE plays an important role in preparing pupils for adult life, employment and lifelong learning. It helps children and young people become successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens. RE gives children the opportunities to discuss and reflect upon the big questions of meaning and truth such as the origins of the universe, life after death and beliefs about God. At St Mellion C of E Primary School we aim to ensure that our curriculum intent offers children the opportunities to find out about these areas with respect to different faiths and non-religious worldviews so that they are able to enter the world with a level of understanding of 'what makes me, me and you, you'.

## The Teaching of RE

As a school we follow the Cornwall Locally Agreed Syllabus alongside Understanding Christianity for the teaching of world religions and non-religious worldviews. At St Mellion we follow the two year rolling programme designed within St Barnabas Trust. This ensures that all of our pupils have access to a broad level of coverage and are supported to make progress.

## **Assessment and Recording of RE**

In line with the school's policy for assessment, record keeping and reporting, each teacher is expected to take responsibility for the regular assessment of RE; this is done through teacher marking against specific learning intentions as well as through pupil reflection. Each half term, teachers are expected to make a judgement for each child's RE attainment based on the specific unit of work they have been learning about. This is formally recorded on the Trust FFT database. An annual overall judgement is made by the class teacher as to whether the child is below the expected standard, at the expected standards or whether they are working at greater depth. The annual report to parents indicates the effort and attainment made by pupils over the course of the year.

## **Staff Development**

This takes place through staff meetings, INSET and planned CPD opportunities. Some members of St Barnabas Trust attend South East Cornwall and Plymouth RE Hub meetings. The Trust RE subject lead, school RE subject lead and Head of School oversees the RE provision throughout the school and feeds back any new information to the rest of the staff.

## **The Right to Withdrawal**

Parents/carers have the right to request, in writing to the Headteacher, that their child be withdrawn from Religious Education lessons. The school is committed to open dialogue and encourages parents to discuss any concerns or misunderstandings about the RE curriculum before making a final decision. We can provide further information about the curriculum content and address any questions.

## **Policy Review**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the cycle of Policy review in September 2026.