Monks Risborough
Church of England Primary School
'A school family where everyone thrives in every way.'

Religious Education Policy

This policy was reviewed Spring 2026

The policy is to be reviewed Spring 2029

Signed ..... Chair of Governors

Vision

Monks Risborough Church of England Primary School - a school family where everyone thrives in every way.

Jesus said, 'I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.' John 10:10

At Monks Risborough we believe in teaching R.E so children are able to discover more about themselves, others and God. We encourage children's values and spiritual development to be explored and experienced throughout the whole school enabling the children to thrive in every aspect of their lives.

Intent

At Monks Risborough CE Primary school, we believe that it is important for all our pupils to learn from and about religion, so that they can understand the world around them. As a result of this, they will become independent and responsible members of a society who can understand and explore big questions about life, to find out what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live. Children will be able to critically reflect on religion and link them to their own ideas and ways of living. Additionally, children will develop the British Value of tolerance and respect for different faiths and opinions.

Through Religious Education (RE) at Monks Risborough, children will acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and the other principal religions (Judaism, Islam and Hinduism), to appreciate the way that religious beliefs shape life and behaviour. They will be equipped with systematic knowledge to understand a range of religions and worldviews, enabling them to develop their ideas, values and identities and develop spirituality by providing children with creative opportunities. They will have the opportunity to refine their skills of reasoned and informed judgement about religious and moral issues and enhance their critical thinking of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Children will understand and be respectful of the importance of worship and prayer in their own and other people's lives.

RE plays an important role, along with all other curriculum areas, particularly PSHE, in promoting social awareness and understanding in our children. We encourage our pupils to ask questions about the world and to reflect on their own beliefs, values and experiences. We include and promote British values, ensuring that children are aware of their rights and responsibilities as UK citizens. Our curriculum is designed to encourage creativity, imagination, enquiry, debate, discussion and independence.

Implementation

Teachers plan RE based upon the Oxford Diocesan Scheme of Work and Understanding Christianity, and is split between Early Years, KS1 and KS2, with children in each year group timetabled one hour of RE learning a week. In order to ensure progression, the teachers write a medium term plan for each subject, aiming to demonstrate active purposeful and exciting learning. In each key stage the following key skills are taught:

- Enquiry about the Nature of Religion and Belief
- Knowledge and Understanding of Christianity
- Knowledge and Understanding of Other World Religions including Judaism, Hinduism, Islam and Sikhism.

In order for our children to thrive, we are ambitious about the knowledge that children can retain regarding the Christian faith and worldviews. To match our curriculum policy, we have introduced Sticky Knowledge for EYFS to Year 6, for each half term that children will be able to retrieve after lessons. Children are regularly quizzed on their understanding and retrieval. This knowledge is progressive and built on every year the children are here with us. Learning is recorded in Floorbooks, with quotes and images that show the children's knowledge, and in their topic books with clear learning objectives.

At Monks Risborough, we know how important it is for children to experience hands-on, engaging learning and we aim for the children to visit a place of worship linked to their learning topic each year. This allows children the chance to apply their learning and ask relevant or creative questions.

- Reception - St Dunstans, our local church (celebrations)
- Year 1 - Church (Christianity)
- Year 2 - Synagogue (Judaism)
- Year 3 - Mosque (Islam)
- Year 4 - Hindu Temple - Mandir (Hinduism)
- Year 5 - Local Churches (Christianity denominations)
- Year 6 - Gurdwara (Sikhism)

Within each classroom, children have access to a Bible, cross, RE display, Christian value display and a large range of resources which are stored in the RE cupboard. Through using these resources children are able to apply the key vocabulary and their learning to make links and connections within their RE curriculum.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage, in addition to Understanding the World lessons around religious education, the children are encouraged to think about celebrations of festivals

such as Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Diwali and key individuals associated with them. They are given the opportunity to explore what makes individuals unique and themselves, linking to the faiths of the world. The children also think about what makes places of worship and the key vocabulary of these places.

When a request to withdraw is received by a school, the request should be granted without delay. The school may offer to speak with the parent to try to understand the basis for the withdrawal but only after the request has been granted. The school must make clear that the parent's right to withdraw their child has been granted and that they are not required to give reasons for their request.

All children also experience a Daily Collective Worship in which their understanding of Christianity and other world religions develops in line with our Collective Worship Policy.

Impact

Teachers assess children's work in RE by making formative assessment judgments through observing them working during lessons and referring to their class floorbooks and topic books. All pupils are encouraged to evaluate their own learning and to suggest ways to progress further with their knowledge and understanding. Teachers record the progress made by the children against the learning outcome for each unit; below expected for age (working towards), at expected, or greater depth. Teachers make these judgements using the Oxford Diocese Assessment Guidance. Teachers record this information on the schools assessment system and use it to plan the future learning for children. These records also enable the teacher to make an annual assessment of progress for each child, and to pass this assessment information on to the child's next teacher at the end of the year.

The monitoring of the standards of children's work and of the quality of teaching in the RE is the responsibility of the RE subject leader. The work of the subject leader involves book scrutinies, pupil voice and learning walks to provide strategic direction for the teaching of RE at Monks Risborough. This is fed into the subject's development plan and is monitored termly following the school's termly monitoring schedule, with discussions around the subject continuously ongoing.