

## Silverstone CE Primary School

### Religious Education Policy - Appendix

Name of Academy: **Silverstone CE Primary**

Name of Headteacher: **James Bloomfield**

Name of RE Subject Leader: **James Bloomfield**

#### **Our Academy Vision**

Where we Learn Together, Grow Together, Achieve Together, knowing that Jesus said:

*"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit."*  
John 15:5

At Silverstone CE Primary we aim to nurture the talents and aspirations of our school community, developing the qualities of self-confidence, responsibility, compassion and determination to enable everyone to be the best they can be and to flourish in an ever-changing world.

Religious Education (RE) plays a vital role in contributing to our whole school vision. Throughout a child's journey at Silverstone Primary, RE develops the children's knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other world faiths. This enables our children to make informed, balanced decisions about their own views and faith. RE at Silverstone Primary provides a safe environment where pupils can express their own beliefs in a respectful way and ask their own 'big questions' for enquiry.

At Silverstone CE Primary we want children to make knowledgeable decisions and develop a clear understanding of the core concepts of each faith. This is achieved through; looking at each faith's key text (Making sense of the text), examining how members of that faith might put their beliefs into action (Understanding the Impact) and through reflecting on their own lives and understanding of the world (Making connections).

This encourages our children to understand the world around them and the importance of their own contribution within our school, community and the wider world. Children are encouraged to value their own opinions and beliefs, whilst developing respect and sensitivity for the views of others.

#### **Local context**

Silverstone CE Primary School is small but growing school serving children in the local village and surrounding area in the age range of four to eleven. The majority of our children are White British and almost all of them will transition to a local secondary school of similar demographic. For this reason, our RE curriculum ensures both in depth learning, through a spiral curriculum, of both Christianity and the other world faiths. This enables our children to have an awareness of other religions, cultures and faiths different to that of their immediate community and thus fostering a respect for difference as they develop.

In our curriculum we therefore celebrate differences and similarities between world faiths and the children's opinions through the use of our Thematic units. These encourage the children to have the opportunity, straight from their first year at school in Reception, to compare and contrast religions, developing a clear understanding of respect for other people.

At Silverstone CE Primary we have close links with St Michael's Church, the vicar and members of the congregation from the village. The Church supports our RE and Collective Worship through joining with us in celebrations of the key Christian festivals throughout the year, including the opportunity for the children to visit St Michael's Church through Easter and Christmas services. The Vicar is well known to the children and visits the school regularly.

We also have close links with the local community. This includes welcoming visitors to the academy from a variety of religious and non-religious backgrounds to support RE lessons and Collective Worship. For example, Anna Bayman creatively paints Biblical stories with a message, the Lighthouse trust help us develop the children's understanding of Christianity and visitors from other faiths are organised when appropriate.

### **Time Allocation**

At Silverstone CE Primary we organise our RE time by following our RE Long Term plan. This Long Term plan is based around a two-year cycle to ensure that our mixed Key Stage 1 classes have coverage of the whole curriculum. Teachers follow our spiral curriculum for RE following Understanding Christianity and The Diocese of Peterborough Agreed Syllabus.

RE is taught on a weekly basis in both Key Stage 1 and key Stage 2. In Key Stage 2 the children will learn about two other faiths at least in addition to Christianity. Teachers have the flexibility to adapt their lesson plans to meet the needs of individual classes, 'big questions' asked by the children or to cover recent news headlines. RE may be also be delivered in flexible ways; for example, through RE days, RE Weeks, visits and other cross-curriculum topics.

### **Teaching and Learning Styles**

We ensure that a variety of teaching and learning styles are adopted by teachers in RE to allow access by all pupils. The variety enables pupils to encounter their preferred learning style as well as to develop a broad repertoire. The teaching and learning styles used promote a range of skills such as thinking skills, reasoning, enquiry and research.

Examples of active learning strategies and activities, which we use, are:

- Dramatic conventions;
- Group work;
- Individual reflection;
- Use of music and art;
- Artefact handling;
- Multi - sensory approaches;
- Visits and visitors;
- Use of ICT and Multi Media;

## Resources

A wide range of resources are in place for each theme within RE. These are all individually boxed according to religion and are accessible to all teachers.

In addition, teachers access a range of online resources to support the learning in their lessons.