

Religious Education

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How do we teach R.E at St John the Baptist C of E Primary School?

Religious Education at St John the Baptist C of E Primary School reflects its status within the Church of England by studying the beliefs and practices of Christians today. Religious Education will provide pupils with the opportunity to explore Christianity in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and acquire knowledge of the beliefs and practices of other Christian denominations and faiths, and of other religious groups.

At St Johns, RE allows children both to learn about religious traditions and to reflect on what the religious ideas and concepts mean to them. Our teaching enables children to extend their own sense of values and promotes their spiritual growth and development. We encourage children to think about their own views and values in relation to the themes and topics studied in the RE curriculum.



What we do in the Religious Education Curriculum

Develop a knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith, to include:

- An awareness of the central beliefs of Christianity
- Helping children develop their own personal beliefs
- Recognising and exploring religious experience
- An awareness of the importance of beliefs and faiths of individuals
- Recognising that an individual's faith affects their lives and behaviour
- Exploring key stories and becoming familiar with the Bible
- Understanding the central importance of Jesus to the Christian faith
- Exploring places of worship and their worshipping communities
- Encouraging children to develop self-respect, respect for others and God's Creation

Enable pupils to encounter a living faith, whether Christian or another religion, and to experience non-religious ideas too, including:

- Experiencing the Christian faith within the school environment, represented through relationships, values, visual symbols and through encountering a consistent Christian ethos
- Acquiring and developing an understanding and knowledge of Christianity and other religions
- A freedom to express faith in a systematic environment
- Developing an understanding of the relevance of the Christian faith to their everyday lives.

Diocese of Portsmouth

How do we maintain and build a sense of community as a church school?

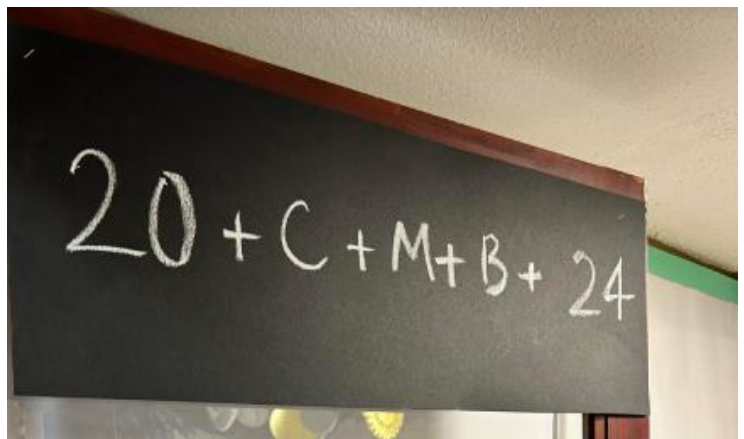
'Church schools' are described by the Church of England on their own website as being 'inclusive and serving equally those who are of the Christian faith, those of other faiths and those with no faith'. Church schools serve the people and community of the locality. A church school is a community where everyone is educated in heart and soul as well as mind.

We enjoy good links with the local community church – St John the Baptist. Our church team, headed by Rev Jill Phipps, lead worship in the school, as well as leading the school in worship when they visit the church. We also have strong links with Southampton City Mission (SCM) where they visit each year group throughout the year and support the children and class teachers with their development in their own faith. Follow the link provided to see how serve our local community.

<https://southamptoncitymission.co.uk/schools>

BISHOP Jonathan joined school children to chalk doors as we celebrated Epiphany. The bishop visited St John the Baptist, where he wrote some special symbols above the doors to classrooms – a traditional thing to do at this time of the year. Other schools have also remembered the visit by the magi to the infant Jesus in special ways.

Christians chalk their doors at home and at Church with '20 † C † M † B † 24' on a day during the Epiphany season. The numbers refer to the calendar year, and the crosses stand for Christ. The letters have a two-fold significance: C, M, and B are the initials for the traditional names of the magi (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar), but they are also an abbreviation of the Latin blessing **C**hristus **M**ansionem **B**enedicat, which means, 'May Christ bless this house/dwelling'.



Year 6 leavers

As we are part of the Diocese of Portsmouth, we enjoy opportunities to celebrate the children's journey of their time with us at St John the Baptist C of E Primary School. When the children reach Year 6, they have a day at Portsmouth Cathedral, with a desired focus in mind, to explore their achievements and help them onto their new journey into Secondary School.

Our diocesan project this year celebrated individuals and groups who are Game changers, purely to enthuse and inspire individual pupils and staff; schools and governing bodies corporately; to live out in reality our commitment to 'Serve The Common Good' and to be 'Courageous Advocates' - at home and abroad. We invited children, young people and adults to knowingly inhabit their place in St Paul's teaching on 'The Body of Christ' where we are co-constructors; inter-dependent and collaborators. We explored this through the lenses of Game changers in the realms of history, art, politics, music, sport and so many more.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UXwc_u4hycY

