



St Peter's C.E. Primary School,

Religious Education Policy

Date of policy - September 2016

Mission Statement

In this distinctive, inclusive, Christian school, where everyone matters, we nurture and develop opportunities for life long learning. We come together in a vibrant, creative community that also develops our spiritual and cultural lives through:

- Love
- Trust
- Care
- Respect
- Joy

ensuring that everyone successfully achieves their full potential.

Aims

The aims of teaching RE at St. Peter's school are:

- To promote the understanding of Christian beliefs and values.
- To promote the understanding of and respect for other religions leading to improved community cohesion.
- To recognise and respect those of all faiths in their search for God.
- To recognise the common human quest for justice, peace and love and the common goal of the survival of life on this planet.
- To help children relate religious beliefs to their own experiences of life.
- To develop in children the skills and attitudes which enable them to grow spiritually and to find God.
- To enable pupils with no religious background to face the challenge of the Christian faith.
- To contribute to the children's personal development, including Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development.

Curriculum Planning

Throughout the Foundation Stage, KS1 and KS2 there is a deepening of knowledge and understanding of religious beliefs, practices, moral values and the nature of Christianity.

The school has adopted the RE Syllabus produced by the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education and the North Lancashire District of the Methodist Church. RE may be planned within a creative curriculum approach or as a discrete subject where there are no obvious links between the topic chosen by staff and Religious Education. RE is given at least one hour each week when taught discretely, or the equivalent time if taught within an integrated topic within a half term, with extra time given to preparing worship and prayers. For example, it is possible for RE to be taught as a block within a given topic. RE is planned in units with approximately 20% given to the study of Judaism, Islam and other faiths within the unit or as discrete units.

The units are developed so that there is a growth of understanding particularly of the festivals and the life of Jesus. Within each of the units there is a balanced approach of Learning about Religion (Attainment Target 1) and Learning through Religion (Attainment Target 2).

Learning about Religion

We learn about

- God who reveals the truth about himself and humanity through creation, the giving of the law, his action in history and through the prophets.
- God who reveals himself ultimately in Jesus - his Son, living among us and dying and rising for us.
- God who reveals himself in his Spirit working in the living faith of the Church experienced through scripture, tradition and reason.

Learning from Religion

We learn from

- An empathetic response to the Christian faith and a critical engagement with it.
- Responding personally to the transforming power of Jesus Christ.
- Developing a vision for life that transcends a dull materialism and recognises the reality of the spiritual realm.
- Understanding ourselves and others, celebrating our shared humanity and the breadth of human achievement.
- Examples of Christian living which give priority to the claims of justice, mercy, holiness and love.

The themes for Worship, (see separate Worship Policy for further details), will allow for links to be made between the learning in RE and the worship of the school and to give the pupils opportunities to express their understanding in different ways.

Foundation Stage

Teachers use the Religious Education Syllabus: Early Years Outcomes, provided by Blackburn Diocese to teach RE across the Foundation Stage, linking to other areas of the Curriculum.

- Language for communication - listening to stories.
- Writing - writing for different purposes.
- Knowledge and understanding of the world.

Teaching and learning style

Teachers will take account of the variety of teaching and learning styles that pupils respond and relate to in their learning. For instance, these will include the VAK (Visual, Auditory and Kinaesthetic) learning styles. There will be opportunities for children to record their work through writing, drama and the use of ICT software.

RE has strong links with many other areas of the curriculum, in particular P.S.H.E. Spiritual aspects will be met in many areas of the curriculum.

Teaching Religious Studies to children with special educational needs

St. Peter's CE Primary School is committed to the inclusion of all pupils, regardless of age, race, gender or disability and expects all members of our school community to share in this commitment. Pupils of all levels of ability will be catered for in RE lessons. Different forms of recording, including oral, ICT and adult scribing, will support the children who have difficulty recording their ideas.

Assessment and recording

Progression in RE is ensured through the use of a 'ladder of expectations of achievement.' This set of statements is used to assess children's learning, knowledge and understanding of RE. Pupils are assessed to be working at 'emerging, developing, secure or mastering' on these statements in the two areas: Learning from Religion and Learning about Religion. (This is in-line with other areas of the curriculum).

Using the syllabus provided by Blackburn Diocese, we provide both continuity and progression for pupils across all strands of R.E. and throughout both key stages. Some themes (for example, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost) will be visited several times throughout a pupil's time at St Peter's School, however, a different approach will be used each time (and a different area covered) so that progression is seen in both the quality and depth of learning.

Each unit will end with an assessment task or activity to show the understanding of the pupils as well as an ongoing assessment from the contributions the pupils make in class. Evidence of pupil work is completed in the 'Class RE Scrapbook', individually in pupils' books and on the display walls within classrooms/around the school corridors.

Resources

Many resources can be used to make RE exciting, including a variety of music, art, poetry and other writing, presenting Christianity as a world faith, the use of drama, ICT, visitors from the family of churches in Darwen and other faiths and visits to the places of worship in the area including St. Peter's Church and the Cathedral. Books, a variety of Bibles, ICT resources and artefacts are located in the RE Resource cupboard in the PPA room or in the hall and many children's information books are in the school library. Chatterboxes are used in Foundation Stage. Resources will be updated regularly and an annual budget allocated for renewal purposes.

Staff development decisions will be made as the Subject Leader evaluates the work of the school in a variety of ways: collecting work, working with staff on planning, taking part in RE lessons and talking with the children. Staff training will remain a priority depending on staff competence and expertise, to ensure quality RE and Worship continues at St. Peter's School.

There will be a focal point in each class to establish the importance of RE in school.

Complaints about the provision of Religious Education

It is hoped that any complaint will be resolved informally by the Headteacher. There is also provision for complaints to be heard by a Committee of the Governing Body, possibly with advice from the Diocese or District. However, if the complaint is still not satisfactorily resolved, then further procedures come into play and the matter will be adjudicated by a specially constituted sub-committee of the Diocesan Board of Education acting on behalf of the Bishop of the Diocese.

Monitoring and Review

The Governing Body will review this policy every three years. However, it may be reviewed earlier if new government regulations are introduced, or if the Governing Body receives recommendations on how the policy might be improved.

Signed:

Date:

Review date: Autumn 2019