

Laughton All Saints' C of E Primary School

Policy for Religious Education



In our Church of England school we are tolerant of others and promote respect for the dignity and worth of each individual. We aim to nurture caring and self-regulating citizens.

We help each child to fulfil their potential physically, academically, socially, morally and spiritually, without fear of discrimination.

We believe that RE will be taught in accordance with the legal requirements of the 1988 Education Act, and being a Voluntary Aided School, the Trust Deed of our school. Whilst acknowledging the validity of RE as a discipline within its own rights, we recognise that it has a cross-curricular dimension within a broad and balanced curriculum.

Our philosophy incorporates the teaching of Christian beliefs and doctrines, whilst taking into account and respecting the integrity of other world faiths. We believe that the teaching of RE within our school should contribute to the spiritual development of pupils in our care and under our guidance.

Learning in this subject supports our vision, which incorporates: 'Children try their best, have aspirations for a fulfilled future and we hope to encourage in them a life long love of learning.'

Aims

1. To be concerned with an education that involves the total development of the child which will include social, physical, intellectual and spiritual growth.
Our Christian values will be centred on the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of all children within school and their community.
2. To provide a distinctive setting in which this total development can take place and ensuring that a Christian ethos is maintained throughout the school through:
 - i) harmony and understanding between all who are concerned for the total development of the child and for the child's welfare
 - ii) the establishment of a secure setting based on mutual respect, tolerance and understanding of each other
3. To be particularly sensitive to the spiritual growth of the child and to contribute towards the child's experience of Christianity as a living faith.
4. To ensure that our School's Christian character facilitates the academic achievements, personal development and well being of all learners regardless of ability or their background.

Objectives

1. To develop the children's knowledge of themselves, their relationships with and respect for others. To encourage an awareness of the worth and uniqueness of themselves and of others as children of God and members of the Christian family.
As the children progress through from KS1 to KS2, we should enable each child to develop the awareness of self within the community, fostering in each child tolerance and respect for others.
2. To foster a sense of awe and wonder at creation, by enabling the children to reflect upon the world around them, and by nurturing that awareness of the creative power of God and the wonder and mystery of His creation. To reflect upon man's use and misuse of resources and of man's creative gifts and talents.
3. To develop an appreciation of the ways in which significant experiences of life are expressed through celebration, ritual and symbol by encouraging the children to share in the richness of the Christian tradition at a level appropriate to their age.
Through KS2 this should include the ceremonies, rites and customs experienced in the Church and the practice of private prayer. We should encourage and promote a respect for people of other faiths, cultures and diverse backgrounds.
4. To study Christianity and experience it as a living faith. This will include the birth, life, death, resurrection of Jesus; his teaching and ministry; its impact on people through the ages and today; growth of the early Church; the Bible; and the Church as part of the living community of the Parish, its priest, work and worship.

The Curriculum

A number of themes have been developed endeavouring to incorporate the above objectives. The school uses Understanding Christianity as the basis for RE teaching, supported by the Rotherham Agreed Syllabus. In KS1 it is expected that these themes will be an integral part of class topics where possible. At KS2 the usual pattern will be to follow separate RE themes where there are no obvious cross-curricular links with other class topic work.

Where themes are covered more than once during a key stage, there will be different emphasis in successive years to ensure conceptual progression and depth.

The children will experience a variety of approaches including visits, outside speakers, dance, drama, art, music, discussion, use of resource sheets and books, writing, audio-visual resources and display. Where possible children are given outdoor learning opportunities for their spiritual development including visits to sacred places including local churches, religious buildings of other faiths, local landmarks and historical sites

Monitoring and Assessment

RE forms an integral part of the whole school curriculum and as such is part of whole school planning which takes place on a half-termly basis, and is monitored by the RE Coordinator.

Each term samples of work are collected from each class to be included in an RE portfolio. The work will be annotated by the class teacher showing the relevant theme and will be dated. The work thus collected will be used as evidence to develop criteria for assessment. RE book scrutiny takes place and this may take the form of governor enquiry or RE co-ordinator monitoring.

Reporting to parents of each child's individual achievements in RE will take place verbally at the mid-year Open Evening and in a written report to parents in the latter half of each school year.

In-Service Training

When suitable opportunities arise the coordinator and other members of the staff will take advantage of appropriate in-service training, particularly of courses organised by the Diocese of Sheffield. Staff meetings and school training days will have RE as a focus, when appropriately identified by the School Improvement Plan.

Resources

A set of Children's Bibles are kept in the school foyer library area. There are a collection more suitable for Infants and a collection for Juniors. These were bought using a Parish Council donation in 2018. A collection of resource books covering topics for both key stages is located in the school library and classrooms.

We have a copy of the St James Bible published for the Queen's Jubilee in 2012 and this is available for reference in the school foyer.

A collection of religious artefacts is available as a central resource for learning on the staff room staircase. This is under annual review and added to when appropriate.

Spiritual Reflection areas

Each class has an area where they can access religious age appropriate text, and a specific place, within learning areas, where children can go for spiritual reflection.