

**ST LUKE'S C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL
POLICY FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Policy for Religious Education
Achievements and Standards Committee
Reviewed: Spring 2020
For Review: Spring 2023

Introduction:

This document is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for teaching and learning of RE at St. Luke's C. of E. Primary school.

Mission statement

The staff and Governors are dedicated to:

- educating pupils intellectually, socially, morally, aesthetically, physically and spiritually against a background firmly based on Christian principles
- enabling pupils to grow in each of these areas and achieve fulfilment through discovering and developing their talents, and by putting before them positive and realistic, yet challenging, goals
- promoting Christian values within the school as exemplified by the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, and encouraging in pupils a sense of decency, commitment, self-reliance, responsibility, respect for others and a healthy self-esteem
- valuing the beliefs and traditions of other faiths including British Values
- ensuring that the curriculum provides a Christian setting in which children can grow in understanding and the acquisition of skills, attitudes and values

Aims

- To provide children with an insight into the nature of Christianity and what it means to be a follower of Jesus.
- To help children to acquire and develop those skills which will enable them to appreciate spiritual ideas and practices.
- To develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other major world faiths.
- To encourage attitudes of openness and sensitivity towards people whose beliefs and customs may be different from that of their own.
- To help children to identify those areas of human life and experience in which faith plays a significant part.
- To explore with children the relation between Christianity and other areas of experience and knowledge.
- To foster a sense of awe, respect and wonder.
- With other areas of the curriculum, to contribute towards the children's moral and spiritual development.

Strategies for the Teaching of RE

The scheme of work for the teaching of RE is based on the Southwark Diocesan scheme which provides a continuous and progressive outline for RE throughout the school. It is mainly taught as a discrete subject. However, it is not an isolated subject and is seen in the context of the whole curriculum. There are occasions where teachers may link their teaching to the topic that they are following during the term in order to help children identify those areas of human life and experience in which faith plays a significant part.

Pupils' knowledge and insight into the values and beliefs of other faiths are developed across the whole curriculum for example in stories, art, music and history.

The daily act of collective worship plays a significant part in the teaching of religious education. The act of collective worship also provides a strong link to both moral and social development.

Pupils who have a statement for special educational needs or disability may receive extra support in the classroom from a classroom assistant.

Strategies for Ensuring Continuity and Progression

- The foundation for curricular planning is the school development plan which is developed through a process of collaboration between staff and governors.
- Schemes of work for RE are developed by the co-ordinator (in collaboration with the whole staff, the Vicar of St Luke's Church and the curriculum committee).
- A termly staff meeting is used to discuss the RE curriculum to ensure consistency of approach and standards.
- Termly plans are drawn up by individual teachers and these are monitored by the co-ordinator and the Headteacher.

Gifted and talented children

Gifted and talented children are those who can quickly, easily and at expert level apply specific skills and processes of RE and who demonstrate high levels of understanding, insight, maturity and achievement. Strategies for identifying these children and extending provision of challenging learning opportunities can be found in the school's 'Able, Gifted and Talented' policy.

The Role of the R.E. Co-ordinator is to

- take the lead in policy development and the production of the schemes of work
- support colleagues in their development of detailed work plans and implementation of the scheme of work and in assessment and record keeping activities
- monitor progress in RE and advise the headteacher on action needed
- take responsibility for the purchase and organisation of central resources for RE
- keep up to date with developments in local, diocesan, national RE education and disseminate information to colleagues as appropriate

Assessment involves identifying each child's progress in respect of RE determining what each child has learned and what therefore should be the next stage of his/her learning. Formative assessment is mostly carried out informally by teachers in the course of their teaching. Children are assessed at the end of each unit of work. Pupils may also be given specific assignments. Individual discussions in which children are encouraged to appraise their own work and progress also take place. Assessment of pupils' achievement is recorded on a whole school record sheet at the end of each year.

RE is a core subject. A portfolio of examples of children's work is maintained by the co-ordinator to provide evidence of good practice in the teaching of RE.

Reporting to Parents is done on a termly basis through interviews and annually through a written report.

Inclusion

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from RE and collective worship as identified in the Education Act 1944 and in subsequent legislation. St Luke's is a Church of England Foundation primary school where Christian values and principles underpin the whole curriculum. In order to preserve the distinctiveness of this church school community, we encourage everyone to be involved in the religious education and collective worship. Parents who have concerns about this should discuss them with the Chair of Governors and the Headteacher before their children are admitted to the school.

Resources

All classes have a supply of Bibles and books to support the teaching of RE. RE books are also available in the school library. The school has a small collection of artefacts which are mainly stored in classrooms to support topic work. St. Luke's Church is regularly visited each term in order that children can see objects and symbols which are used in Christian worship along with visits to worship centres of other faiths.

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