



St Laurence Church of England Primary School

Learning with Love and Laughter,
Growing in God's Grace

Religious Education Policy

2021-2022

Date: October 2021

Review: September 2022

AIMS

Religious Education will enable all children to explore religious beliefs and practises, some of which are located in the local community. Pupils will be encouraged to explore the fundamental questions of life raised by human experiences.

Pupils will extend their thinking and analytical skills and their creative, imaginative and emotional development through enquiry based lessons.

Religious Education will foster mutual understanding between students of differing religious and cultural backgrounds. Pupils will be encouraged to develop a reflective approach to life in an atmosphere of openness, exploration and enquiry. Pupils will be encouraged to respect the differences and help in the promotion of a welcoming and accepting community.

LEGAL REQUIREMENT

Religious education is statutory for all registered pupils on the school roll. This includes the EYFS classes where RE should be taught in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus.

CONTENT

- Children will study mainly Christianity as well as some aspects of other faiths.
- Children will have the opportunities to learn about religion from a variety of resources.
- Children will have opportunities to explore their own response to profound human experiences and universal symbols.
- Children will be encouraged to respond freely to experiences and questions which have a profound or puzzling quality and to use a range of different forms of expression to convey their responses.

APPROACHES

We follow the *Understanding Christianity* and *Derbyshire Syllabus* for RE. The subject is approached through stories, cross curricular themes, RE topics, festivals and whole school topics, discussion on specific ideas and spontaneous enquiries.

METHODS

Teaching methods are stimulating and engaging, providing all students with access to religious education. Consideration is paid to different learning styles and the differing abilities of students so that all students make progress in their learning.

We aim to include a range of teaching and learning strategies which are effective for inclusive teaching of religious education:

- Visits to places of worship, museums or art galleries
- The use of representatives from religious traditions as visitors to the class
- The use of artefacts, big books, posters, videos, artwork
- The use of picture or word cards for matching, classifying, prioritising, sequencing, etc
- The use of art and craft to enable students to express their ideas
- The use of drama, role play, gesture or dance
- The use of music to create an atmosphere or for expression of ideas and emotions
- The use of information and communication technology, such as digital cameras, interactive whiteboards, websites, etc.

ASSESSMENT AND RECORD KEEPING

Assessment in RE is in line with the school's assessment policy. It is essential to keep in mind that assessment in RE is about recognising children's achievements in RE in the broadest sense. It is about giving feedback and about using information to plan the next steps in learning. Our assessment is now based on the Derby Diocese Assessment Grids.

LINKS

We have developed links with our local church. We have a close link with the Priest at St Laurence Church at Long Eaton, Father David Lawrence-March, who conducts regular assemblies. Children also take part in activities at the local church. Parents are also invited to attend.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

All pupils will be given equal opportunities to access this area of the curriculum, but we accept that on some occasions parents may wish to exercise their right of withdrawal. However, the class teachers and/or Head of School should discuss the matter sensitively with any parent who wishes to exercise their right to withdraw their child.

CROSS-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

There have always been links between religion and the arts and consequently R.E. fits naturally with subjects such as Art, Music, Physical Education, Drama and Dance. However, we also aim to include RE in our Literacy lessons.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The daily act of collective worship at St Laurence Church of England Primary School follows the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act.

Aims of Collective Worship

- To consider spiritual and moral issues which are wholly or mainly of a Christian character.
- To celebrate or reflect on things that are of worth.
- To facilitate the development of a sense of community, of belonging and of sharing.
- To encourage pupils to learn how to be part of large and small gatherings.
- To celebrate achievements of others within the school community.
- To develop understanding of, and reflect upon the value of, our environment and its importance in our lives.
- To provide time to pray and / or reflect on current issues and give thanks.
- To learn and practice the Christian values and British values.

CONTENT OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The law requires acts of worship should be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character”.

There will be times when other faiths and religious traditions will be explored.

Issues will be presented in a variety of ways through stories, poems, songs, role-play, artefacts, visitors, power-point presentations, interactive whiteboard activities as well as the sharing of children’s and adult’s achievements.

Children will be involved in the opportunity to worship through prayers, hymns and songs, participation in role play and through quiet reflection.

There is a need for flexibility in order to respond to national and unexpected events where appropriate.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Headteacher is responsible for planning and resourcing Collective Worship and ensuring the staff have the timetable and appropriate resources. Including songs, hymns, prayers and guidance.

Year 6 children have the responsibility of setting up for Collective Worship. Children are advised in advance as to the type of Worship that will be taking place so that they know what resources will be required.

Children light three candles (in respect of the Holy Trinity) before prayer during Collective Worship.

WITHDRAWAL

Parents have a right to withdraw their pupils from all or parts of the acts of worship. However, the class teachers and/or Head teacher should discuss the matter sensitively with any parent who wishes to exercise their right to withdraw their child.