



WOODCHURCH CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Wonder, Commitment and Expectation

www.woodchurchceprimary.com

@WoodchurchCofE

Our School Vision

*"I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst." **John 6:35***

Rooted in the teachings of Jesus, the power of the Holy Spirit and our love of God, we aim to continue our long Christian history and tradition of serving our community. We will plant the seeds of faith, which will enable all to grow together as a family and as individuals,

living life in all its fullness and flourishing in the world, walking in the footsteps of Jesus.

*"If you have faith as small as a mustard seed... nothing will be impossible for you." **Matthew 17:20***

Religious Education Policy

This document is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for the teaching and learning of Religious Education.

Introduction

Religious education in a Church school should enable every child to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate for dignity and respect encouraging all to live well together (Diocese of Chester Statement of Entitlement 2019).

Parents at Woodchurch can expect an RE curriculum that will engage and challenge them through an exploration of core concepts and questions. They can expect to be provided with meaningful and informed dialogue with a range of religions and worldviews. There should be opportunities for them to understand the role of foundational texts, beliefs, rituals, and practices and how they help form identity in a range of religions and worldviews.

Progress in RE should be significant and attainment high enabling pupils to develop confident religious literacy. The RE curriculum is intrinsic to the school's Christian vision in enabling all pupils to flourish.

The RE curriculum contributes to British values and spiritual moral social and cultural development. Learning activities provide fully for the needs of all pupils. Pupils develop a wide range of skills and have a safe space to explore. Religious education is considered an academic subject with work produced having parity with other core subjects.

Legal Requirements

The 1996 Education Act states that schools must provide religious education for all registered pupils, although parents can choose to withdraw their children. In voluntary aided schools Such as Woodchurch CE, the governing body controls the religious education and this must be according to the rites, practices and principles of the Church of England. The core of the Church of England's Vision for Education is underpinned by the belief that education should support human flourishing or "fullness of life". This should equip children and young people in their understanding of who they are, why they are here, what they desire and how they should live. The vision puts emphasis on a rounded education which should equip young people with strong foundations that will carry them through into adulthood.

Aims

At Woodchurch CE Primary School we aim:

To teach an informed and respectful understanding of a range of religions and worldviews

To develop children's spiritual development by providing a safe environment where discussion and reflection are encouraged and thus cultivate reasoned, considerate and thoughtful self-expression.

To develop awareness of the fundamental questions of life and respond to these in the light of their experience, beliefs and values.

To enable children to explore their own and others' religious, spiritual, philosophical and ethical convictions critically and responsibly.

To inspire children to become courageous advocates, who care about social action and use creative ways to promote change for the better.

To stimulate the children's curiosity and develop a sense of awe through artefacts, visits and visitors.

To encourage children to relate what they have learnt in religious education lessons to the wider world around them, promoting respect, compassion and aspire to tolerance.

Planning and Delivery

Between 5 and 10% of the timetable will be allocated to the teaching of Religious Education. Other world religions studied are Judaism, Islam and Hinduism, following the Chester Diocesan scheme.

Collective worship and a variety of Liturgical experiences will enhance the teaching of R.E.

High quality planning and delivery of R.E. will be achieved by:-

- Following a 2 year cycle based on the Chester Diocese syllabus to ensure progression across the year groups. The planning is based around the 11 core Christian concepts and implemented with Understanding Christianity resources.
- Taking account of the differences in the children's spiritual development and using this knowledge to inform planning.
- Delivering RE discretely but with a cross curricular approach. A variety of approaches will be used including drama, whole class, individual and group activities as appropriate. These activities may be teacher or child led as appropriate to age and the ability of the children.
- The delivery of RE through visitors e.g. Reverend Christine, Governors and MEAS
- Providing INSET for staff throughout the year in order to raise achievement in RE and also to improve staff confidence in delivering the concept driven content appropriately and in informative, engaging and enquiry-based ways.

Assessment.

Assessment is an integral part of planning, teaching and learning in RE. Teachers make assessments about children's progress using the essential knowledge and key questions found within the Diocese of Chester planning. Assessment for Learning strategies are used to provide teachers with information on individual strengths and weaknesses in the subject, inform the planning of future work and to help children understand how to improve their learning.

Assessment of Religious Education will take place with the same rigour as other subjects but with an emphasis on formative and verbal feedback.

Ongoing Assessment will take place on an Assessment for Learning basis with reference to the learning intention or big question. These assessments will be recorded for each concept taught on assessment grids and will be collated by the RE subject leader.

Recording will take place through R.E. reflection journals and a child friendly concept assessment ladder will be stuck in each journal to show the children their progress. A final written report to parents in the summer term details the children's achievement. A whole class book will aid assessments by recording whole class activities, debates and responses.

Monitoring

The RE subject leader will monitor through book sampling, pupil voice, discussion of planning, assessment data and classroom observation.

Learning Walks will be planned into the school year once per term to ensure quality first teaching. Pupil voice, staff voice, book and planning scrutinies will occur once per term to ensure progression across concepts.

Equal Opportunities

All children have an entitlement of full access to the Religious Education curriculum. This entitlement takes account of the physical, sensory, academic, emotional and learning needs of individual children in ways which acknowledge the value of their responses, contributions and achievements. We take account of their requirements and make provision where necessary to support individuals or groups of pupils to enable them to realise their full potential and participate effectively in Religious Education.

Management and Support.

The RE subject leader will offer support and advice to staff. The leader will attend cluster meetings and in-service training, to keep staff informed of recent thinking, and will raise awareness of issues pertaining to RE.

The RE subject leader will be responsible for ordering and updating resources, in consultation with staff. Use will be made of the support given by the Diocese, Church and Visitors.

Learning Across The Curriculum

R.E. provides opportunities for:

- **spiritual development**, through helping pupils to consider and respond to questions of meaning and purpose in life, and questions about the nature of values in human society; e.g. through the concept of creation
- **moral development**, through helping pupils to consider and respond to areas of morality using their knowledge and understanding of religious and ethical teaching. This enables them to make reasoned and informed judgements on religious and moral issues; e.g. through the concept of forgiveness
- **social development**, through helping pupils to develop their sense of identity and belonging, preparing them for life as citizens in a plural society; eg through the concept of community
- **cultural development**, through fostering pupils' awareness and understanding of a range of beliefs, practices and values in their own society and in the wider world; e.g. through the study of world religions

Resources

Resources need to be monitored and updated within budget restraints.

Other resources to be used will include advisory services in the diocese. Materials from agencies such as CAFOD and UNICEF and different groups of people, e.g. parishioners and MEAS.

Resources such as books, photopacks, artefacts and puppets are stored in boxes in the subject leaders room.

All children in school will experience a range of visits and visitors in order to support the teaching of Religious Education. For example:

- Multicultural Marketplaces
- Visit to the local mosque
- Visitors from other faiths
- Experiencing local places of worship

Withdrawals

Parents have a right by law to withdraw their children from the Religious Education curriculum. In this event, the school will undertake responsibility for the supervision of withdrawn pupils with regard to health and safety, alternative work will be provided.

Kelly Kirkham
RE Subject Leader
Review Date: Summer 2022

