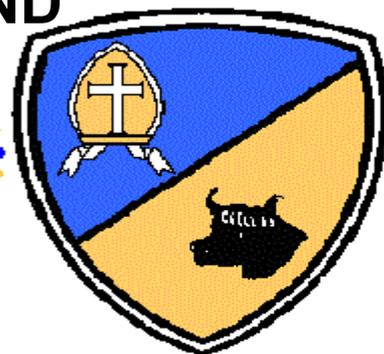


ST. LUKE'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Date of Policy: 2018
Review date: 2021

St Luke's is built on a core set of Christian values, where children feel happy and cared for. Here they find, love, joy, hope and peace.

St. Luke's C.E. Primary School is a Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School. The character of the school is Anglican and all the children are taught Religious Education in the Christian tradition, to give them the experience and understanding of the Christian Church and its associated beliefs as required. They are also introduced to the beliefs and values of other principal world religions represented in this country, in order to gain insight and tolerance of other faiths, as required by the Trust Deed of the school and the 1996 and 1998 Education Acts.

Our Mission Statement says:-

FOLLOWING IN GOD'S WAY,
LEARNING DAY BY DAY,
WORKING WITH ONE ANOTHER,
CARING FOR EACH OTHER.

1. LINKS TO OUR MISSION STATEMENT AND AIMS

Our mission and aims form the basis of all our policies and practice. This policy supports the following aims of our school:

- To ensure that every child is valued as an individual.
- To serve the community by providing an education of the highest quality.
- To endeavour to live out our Christian values in our everyday lives.
- To be tolerant and show understanding and mutual respect at all times.

We have a commitment to developing the whole child as a complete, happy and unique individual. An important part of this is the child's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and the role of Religious Education in these aspects.

1. Rationale

The teaching of R.E. at St. Luke's school will follow the 'Liverpool/ Blackburn Diocesan Religious Education Syllabus 2017.'

The content of the Syllabus is based on the traditions, practices and teaching of Christianity and other principal World Religions. It also includes the Understanding Christianity project.

Religious Education is seen as having equal status with all other aspects of the curriculum including the core subjects. There are designated periods of time specifically for R.E.

Key Stage One 1 hour each week

Key Stage Two 1 hour and 15 minutes each week

This is in line with the recommended guidelines of approximately 5% of curriculum time.

The majority of this time will be devoted to Christianity (80%) and 20% will be allocated to other faiths.

(Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism.)

The Diocesan Syllabus' Aims of RE in **Church schools** are:

- to enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living faith that influences the lives of people worldwide and as the religion that has most shaped British culture and heritage.
- to enable pupils to know and understand about other major world religions and world views, their impact on society, culture and the wider world, enabling pupils to express ideas and insights.
- to contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own beliefs and values.

(RE Statement of Entitlement: The Church of England Education Office 2016)

A key feature of the syllabus is the large number of questions included in each unit. The purpose of these questions is to give pupils opportunity to investigate, reflect, evaluate and make meaning. In doing so they will discover more about themselves, their relationships with others, their relationship with the world around them and their relationship with God. (Quote taken from: **Questful RE Creative and Challenging 2017 Document**)

2. Aims of Religious Education at St Luke's School

2.1 Within the context of a church school to support children and young people in developing their own beliefs, values and attitudes. This will take place through an exploration of shared human experience and the place and significance of Christianity and other religions in the contemporary world. The emphasis will be on Anglican beliefs and practices as appropriate to the school.

2.2 To contribute to the nurturing of pupils' own personal Christian faith and commitment within a clear ethos of respect for those children of other faiths. Information of Faiths other than Christianity will be provided to encourage and foster a sensitive understanding and respect for differing traditions and practices.

2.3 In developing the whole child; an integral part of contributing to pupils' personal development, including Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development. Links are made with other curriculum areas (P.S.H.E. and Citizenship), to help children to develop a personal code of morals so that they can become responsible members of society.

2.4 Spiritual development within RE in a Church School enriches and encourages the pupils' discovery of God the creator, of their 'inmost being' and of the wonder of the environment. Moral development is based on the teachings of Jesus Christ, which offer pupils a secure foundation stone on which to make decisions and build their lives.

Social development enriches pupils' understanding of what it means to live in a Christian community where Jesus' command to love one another is put into practice. Cultural development provides opportunities to develop an understanding of Christianity as a worldwide, multi-cultural faith that has an impact on the lives of millions of people.

2.5 To provide the children of our school with a sound knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith; developing in them the ability to express and reflect upon their own beliefs, values perceptions and attitudes and so increasing in them a sense of individual worth and self discipline.

2.6 To explore the natural world to see God's revelation of himself.

2.7 To encourage a recognition of the needs and abilities of others.

2.8 To help provide experiences where a sense of the spiritual and feelings such as wonder, delight, joy and mystery may occur, and to provide the opportunity for the children to reflect upon these experiences.

3. Content and Approaches.

3.1 The Diocesan Syllabus will be implemented as prescribed including activities chosen from the suggestions included in each unit plan.

3.2 The activities are appropriate to the age and development of the children, giving breadth and balance whilst facilitating continuity and progression.

3.3 Differentiation will be an integral part of the planning as will assessment opportunities and activities.

The children may work individually, in pairs, groups or as a whole class to fulfil the curriculum objectives.

3.4 The outcome of observations and assessments will be recorded and reported to parents on the Annual School Report.

3.5 As Religion cannot be set apart from life and regarded solely as a 'school subject' being inherent in everything we say or do, both the explicit and implicit aspects of R. E. are seen as important, the latter being reflected in the whole school ethos.

There are opportunities for celebration, sharing, prayer and reflection.

Aspects of the syllabus may be linked with other curriculum areas eg: English, History, Geography, Art, Drama, Music and P.S.H.E. & Citizenship.

3.6 Early Years Foundation Stage.

We teach Religious Education to all the children in school. In the Early Years Foundation Stage this will build upon the children's first hand experiences. The activities planned relate to those suggested in the Diocesan syllabus, with reference to the objectives set out in the Curriculum Guidance for the Foundation Stage.

3.7 R.E. and Computing

Computing is used to enhance Religious Education, wherever appropriate, in all Key Stages. Teachers use the Interactive Whiteboards and information from the internet or CD ROMs to deliver teaching and pupils are also able to make use of these in some lessons. Pupils can also be involved in taking photographs, for example of the class acting out Bible stories to make into a class book. Computing also provides access to images of religious buildings and people actively expressing their faith.

3.8 Visits to Church

The children visit St Luke's church to learn about people, signs, symbols, furniture, etc inside and outside of the church as part of the curriculum. Year Two visits Liverpool Cathedral as part of the unit on the church. Years Five and Six also visit the church regularly (Eucharist) and Year Six attend the Leavers' Service at Liverpool Cathedral.

3.9 Visitors to assist with the teaching of Religious Education and Collective Worship.

The priest in charge makes regular visits to school to lead worship and help with other aspects of R.E. teaching. Other members of the congregation of St. Luke's also come into school, or accompany the children on visits to church, to pass on their expertise and knowledge.

4. R.E. and inclusion

4.1. The Religious Education curriculum will be accessible to all pupils regardless of abilities or beliefs. Children with special educational needs or special gifts and talents will also follow the scheme of work, adapted where necessary and with expectations of achievement appropriate for their level of ability. We aim to overcome any barriers to learning, e.g. dyslexia and dyspraxia, which can hinder children's learning. Due consideration will also be given to gender and cultural differences in the delivery of the curriculum.

5. Resources

5.1 Resources for Religious Education are kept in the library, including reference books and a collection of religious artefacts. There are story bibles available also. Staff will also have access to the Understanding Christianity scheme of work. Spending on new books and resources to teach all the units is reviewed each year and appropriate new resources are added out of the allocated budget for R.E.

6. Health and Safety

The need to take the appropriate precautions concerning hygiene and allergies should be considered when preparing and/or tasting food linked to Religious festivals
Any visit out of school must have an appropriate risk assessment form completed prior to the visit taking place.

7. Assessment, Monitoring and Review

The R.E. subject leader is responsible for monitoring the standards of the children's work and the quality of the teaching in Religious Education. A twice yearly report is prepared for the Head teacher which evaluates standards, and priorities for improvement. Staff also complete an assessment record for their class after each unit taught.

Relevant INSET will be provided by the subject leader and others to ensure the curriculum remains relevant and staff are supported in their teaching of RE.

This policy will be reviewed at least every 3 years

APPENDIX

THE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

A. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Religious Education in Church Schools is governed by the 1996 and 1998 Education Acts as well as by the Trust Deed of the School.

The legislation requires Religious Education to be provided for all pupils (1996 Education Act, Section 352). The type of Religious Education provided will be in accordance with the Trust Deed.

B. PARENTAL RIGHTS OF WITHDRAWAL IN A VOLUNTARY AIDED SCHOOL.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Religious Education. However, as we are a Church of England School the withdrawal by a parent of their child from formal religious instruction or worship would isolate the pupil from the religious teachings given in school, and no specific arrangements for withdrawal are made by teaching staff at the present time.

C. COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE PROVISION OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

It is hoped that any complaint will be resolved informally by the Head teacher. There is also provision for complaints to be heard by a Committee of the Governing Body possibly with advice from the Diocese. However if the complaint is still not satisfactorily resolved, then further procedures are followed 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.

