

Newton Bluecoat Church of England Primary School

Mission statement

We believe in excellence; inspiring every child to flourish within a caring, Christian community.

The School's Christian Vision

Through our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we strive to nurture each pupils' abilities and talents so that they can 'have life and have it to the full' (John 10.10) and use it in the service of God and other people.

Religious Education Policy

Introduction

In accordance with our Trust Deed, "Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level. The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils." (Dated 08.08.1861)

Content and Time Allocation

- Our school adopts the Blackburn Diocese of Education Syllabus for RE.
- At least 5% of the curriculum time is devoted to RE
- The syllabus is incorporated into other areas of the curriculum, as appropriate
- Christianity plays an important role, taking up to 80% of the time allocation.
- Appropriate teaching about other faiths and world views are selected from the 5 major world faiths, and account for 20% of the time allocation.

Distinctive content of the RE curriculum

- ❖ Opportunities to explore the experience of the Church's year.
- ❖ Visits to places of worship, especially the local parish church, to develop understanding of the church as a living community.
- ❖ Welcoming visitors from the local parish and to liaison in order to enable the visits and links.
- ❖ Our Christian values will be shared with both parents and children via newsletters and our school website.
- ❖ RE and Collective Worship naturally compliment and enrich each other.
- ❖ Access to religious artefacts that are used with care and respect.
- ❖ A sacred space as a focus for prayer and silent reflection.
- ❖ Encouragement of mutual respect based on Christian values where pupils, teachers, staff and parents are able to talk openly and freely about their own personal beliefs and practices without fear of ridicule.
- ❖ Pupils to make excellent and appropriate progress in their knowledge and understanding of Christianity and their use of religious language.
- ❖ To study the story of the local and national Christian community including Saints and Martyrs.

Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Development

Pupils' discovery of themselves and of the wonder of the environment, is encouraged through Spiritual development within RE.

Moral development allows the children to make decisions and build their lives based upon the teachings of Jesus Christ. Social development also enriches pupils' understanding of what it means to live in a Christian community where Jesus' command to love one another is put into practice. Within Cultural development, opportunities are provided which let the children develop an understanding of how Christianity as a worldwide, multi-cultural faith can impact on the lives of millions of people.

Studies of world faiths and other cultures are augmented by study units in our National Curriculum 2014 topics and by visits of adherents to these faiths, particularly during our multi faith and cultural weeks.

Assessment and Record Keeping

Each class follows the Blackburn Diocese Education Syllabus. A 'Ladder of Expectation and Achievement' combined with 'I can and I know' statements are used in planning and assessment. The Co-ordinator monitors the teaching of RE throughout the school, through talking to children, talking to staff, book scrutiny, "walk through" to look at displays and class prayer tables, and collecting a portfolio of evidence. We take the opportunity to meet together as a whole staff to level samples of work from each class.

SEN, AGT, Inclusion

Every child shall have equal access to the RE curriculum and be supported and stretched appropriately. All children will have the opportunity to voice their beliefs and opinions.

Displays

Each class has a prayer corner/table for quiet reflection. Displays around our school are linked to Christian values, current themes for worship, or RE topics from the Syllabus.

Resources

Resources and artefacts are stored centrally in the small teaching room in KS1, or within individual classrooms.

The school curriculum server has files:

- Blackburn Diocese Religious Education Syllabus for Church Schools Early Years, KS1 & KS2.
- Reflection and Response: images supporting RE.

Feedback from termly RE cluster meetings, suitable courses and web sites will be shared with staff as appropriate. This may be done informally, or through staff meetings.

Parental Rights of Withdrawal

The Worship and Religious Education provided by our school is in accordance with the Church of England. This foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school community. Since the conduct of the school as a whole reflects the Church of England ethos, removal of pupils from Worship and/or Religious Education (as parents are legally entitled to do) cannot insulate them from the religious life of the school.

If such a request for withdrawal is made, the Headteacher will explore the reasons for the request and seek to arrive at an accommodation. It may be that only some elements are objected to.

R. Varszegi
RE Co-ordinator

Reviewed January 2020