



Carnforth Christ Church C of E Primary School

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Mission Statement

Christ Church C of E Primary School is a vibrant, stimulating and caring educational community which exists to celebrate the uniqueness of every person, made as they are in the image and likeness of God.

Religious Education in a Church School lies at the very heart of the curriculum.

RE plays a major part in promoting Christian aims, values and ethos of the school. As a Church school we seek to create an environment which actively propagates the teaching of Christ and His Church and upholds the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. Within our school, the teaching of RE is rooted in the living faith of the school. This ethos has an impact on the whole of school life, lying at the heart of the curriculum thus reflecting the Christian character of the school. RE will support the children in developing their own beliefs, values and attitudes through the exploration of shared human experience and the place and significance of Christian faith and others faiths in the contemporary world with such emphasis on Church of England beliefs and practices as is appropriate to our school.

“In Church of England schools the students and their families can expect a religious education curriculum that is rich and varied, enabling learners to acquire a thorough knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith. Church schools should provide a wide range of opportunities for learners to understand and to make links between the beliefs, practices and value systems of the range of faiths and world views studied. Church schools should use some form of enquiry approach that engages with, for example biblical text, and helps develop religious and theological literacy. Links with the Christian values of the school and spiritual, moral, social and cultural development are intrinsic to the RE curriculum and should have a significant impact on learners.” RE Statement of Entitlement: The Church of England Education Office 2016

Governors’ Responsibilities

At Carnforth Christ Church School the Governing Body and the Headteacher are responsible for determining the nature of RE provision in accordance with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England, as laid down in the Trust Deeds.

The school has adopted the Blackburn Board of Education Syllabus for RE, which fulfils all legal requirements and the RE Statement of Entitlement from the Church of England Education Office 2016. The Governing Body have agreed that 5% (1 hr 15 mins per week for KS2 and 1 hr per week for KS1) of the curriculum time will be devoted to RE. The teaching of RE will be predominantly Christian with no more than 20% of the time being devoted to the teaching about other faiths as agreed by the Governing Body.

Collective Worship and RE naturally complement and enrich each other but are managed separately. However, the teachers will endeavour to make explicit links between the worship themes, RE teaching and PSHE where relevant and appropriate.

Carnforth Christ Church School aims to foster close links with the Parish Church. The Church and the artefacts therein are used as a valuable resource in teaching the syllabus.

The distinctive contribution of RE to the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development of pupils.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development in a church school is distinctive because these four aspects of the school curriculum are inextricably rooted in the reality of God the Holy Trinity - Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Spiritual development

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful.

Psalm 139.13-14

Spiritual development within RE enriches and encourages the pupils' discovery of God the creator, of their 'inmost being' and of the wonder of the environment.

This is promoted through:

- exploring their relationship with God and the sense that they are his children, unique and loved by him;
- exploring and experiencing prayer and worship from a variety of Christian traditions;
- giving thanks to God for all aspects of school life;
- discussing and reflecting upon key questions of meaning and truth such as the existence of God, the origins and purpose of the universe, good and evil, life after death;
- considering the value of human beings and their relationship with God, with one another and with the natural world;
- discovering how the creative and expressive arts enable spiritual development;
- opportunities to discuss feelings and emotions openly;
- recognising and encouraging the use of personal and group gifts and talents;
- opportunities to develop their gift of imagination and creativity;
- encouraging curiosity and questioning so that their own views and ideas on religious and spiritual issues can be developed within a secure environment where faith is valued;
- developing a sense of personal significance and belonging;
- encountering Christian fellowship.

Moral development

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12.2

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.

This is promoted through:

- developing a sense of right and wrong based on the teaching of Jesus Christ;
- recognising the values identified within the Holy Scripture: truth, justice, trust, love, peace, compassion, forgiveness, reconciliation and redemption;
- learning to follow a path through the conflicting demands of faith, family, peers, society, the media and the world of ideas;
- recognising the importance of personal integrity;

- developing mutual respect across racial and religious divides;
- recognising that people's rights also imply responsibilities;
- developing a sensitive conscience.

Social development

As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples.

John 13.34-35

Social development in RE develops pupils' understanding of what it means to live in a Christian community where Jesus' command to love one another is put into practice.

This is promoted through:

- developing a sense of empathy, compassion and concern for others;
- building relationships within the school and between the school, the parish and the local community;
- considering how Christian beliefs affect decisions at local and national level;
- investigating social issues from the perspective of Christianity and of other faiths, recognising the common ground and diversity that exists between them;
- providing opportunities for pupils to articulate their own views on a range of current issues and to show respect for the opinions of others and a willingness to learn from their insights.

Cultural development

There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.
Galatians 3.28

Cultural development in RE 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.

This is promoted through:

- promoting an understanding of Christianity from a global perspective through encounters with people, literature and the creative arts from different cultures;
- exploring the diversity of Christianity worldwide with particular reference to the diversity of the Anglican community;
- considering the relationship between British and European culture and Christianity;
- appreciating the diversity of cultures within Britain.

The aims of Religious Education 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.

Appropriate to age at the end of their education in Church schools the expectation is that all pupils are religiously literate and, as a minimum, pupils are able to:

- Give a theologically informed and thoughtful account of Christianity as a living and diverse faith.
- Show an informed and respectful attitude to religions and world views in their search for God and meaning.
- Engage in meaningful and informed dialogue with those of other faiths and none.
- Reflect critically and responsibly on their own spiritual, philosophical and ethical convictions.

RE at Carnforth Christ Church School will help the pupils to:

- learn *about* other faiths, their beliefs, traditions and practices and *from* them through encounter and dialogue;
- recognise and respect those of all faiths in their search for God;
- recognise areas of common belief and practice between different faiths;
- enrich and expand their understanding of truth while remaining faithful to their own tradition;
- enrich their own faith through examples of holy living in other traditions.
- reflect theologically and explore the ultimate questions and challenges of life in today's society;
- reflect critically on the truth claims of Christian belief;
- see how the truth of Christianity is relevant today;
- understand the challenge faced by Christians in today's pluralist and post-modern society;
- develop the skills to handle the Bible text;
- recognise that faith is based on commitment to a particular way of understanding God and the world;
- begin to develop their own commitments, beliefs and values;
- develop a sense of themselves as significant, unique and precious;
- experience the breadth and variety of the Christian community;
- engage in thoughtful dialogue with other faiths and traditions;
- become active citizens, serving their neighbour;
- find a reason for hope in a troubled world;
- understand how religious faith can sustain believers in difficult circumstances and in the face of opposition.

RE at Carnforth Christ Church School should enable:

- pupils and teachers to talk openly and freely about their own personal beliefs and practice without fear of ridicule;
- pupils to make excellent and appropriate progress in their knowledge and understanding of Christianity;
- pupils from Christian families to talk openly about their beliefs and values in lessons and to grow in their faith;
- pupils from other faith backgrounds to understand and be encouraged in their faith;
- pupils with no religious background to be given an insight into what it means to be a person of faith;

- pupils of all backgrounds to have a safe place to explore the ultimate questions and challenges of life in today's society.

Teaching RE to children with special educational needs

RE is taught to all children whatever their ability. The teaching of RE is a vital part of the school curriculum policy, which states that a broad and balanced education will be provided for all children. The fact that all classes in the school have widely differing abilities is recognised and so suitable learning opportunities are provided for all children. When teaching RE it is ensured that learning opportunities are provided which match the needs of children with learning difficulties. The targets set for individual children are taken into account in their Individual Education Plans.

Assessment and Record Keeping

Children's written work is marked in line with the school marking policy and next steps to encourage pupils to think on a deeper level. Assessment and record keeping is in accordance with guidance given in the BDBE RE Syllabus.

The RE coordinator will provide RE scrap books for each class teacher to record whole class work including pupils' comments.

The RE coordinator will create a portfolio that will include:

- Samples of the pupils' work, marked with comments or questions (if appropriate).
- Photographic evidence (if appropriate).

Monitoring and Review

The RE coordinator is responsible for monitoring the standards of learning. The coordinator is also responsible for supporting colleagues in the teaching of RE, for being informed about current developments and for providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in school. They will regularly evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the subject and indicate areas for further development in conjunction with the Headteacher.

Resources

There are resources in school, including books and artefacts that enable the syllabus to be delivered. Bibles that are appropriate for all key stages are available in the classrooms.

Parental Rights of Withdrawal in a Voluntary Aided School.

The Church of England Board of Education and the Methodist Church allows parents to withdraw their children from Religious Education as they may in any school.

The Worship and Religious Education provided by the school is in accordance with the Church of England or Methodist Church Foundation. 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 or Methodist Church 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 should explore the reasons for the request and seek to arrive at an accommodation. It may be that only some elements of Religious Education or Worship are objected to.

Policy written by our RE Coordinator, Mrs Clare Thomson

January 2022

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