



Church Lane
Lowton
Warrington
WA3 2PW
Headteacher Mrs C.

 01942 201140
 01942 205048
 www.stlukes.lowton.info

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Date of Policy: 2010

Review Date: 2012

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.

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 Diocesan Religious Education Syllabus 2008.' The content of the Syllabus is based on the traditions, practices and teaching of Christianity and other principal World Religions.

Religious Education is seen as having equal status with all other aspects of the curriculum. 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.

The two main other faiths as agreed will be (Judaism and Islam).

Other faiths may be made reference to as deemed appropriate by the class teachers and in Collective Worship.

The Syllabus covers the requirements of the National Curriculum Attainment Targets.

A.T. 1 - Learning ABOUT religion

A.T. 2 - Learning FROM religion

The Diocesan Syllabus' aim contains four elements:-

1. Exploring shared human experience.
2. Developing pupils' own beliefs, values and attitudes.
3. Learning about the place and significance of Christianity and other religions in the contemporary world.
4. Experiencing Christianity as a living faith.

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; thus supporting the Community Cohesion Agenda.

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 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.

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

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

2.7 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: Literacy, 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 I.C.T

Information and communication technology is used to enhance Religious Education, wherever appropriate, in all Key Stages. For example the children can select and analyse information, using the Internet and CD-ROMS. The Year 6 children may use PowerPoint to help make presentations about their work in Religious Education.

Younger children can take photographs of the class acting out Bible stories to make into a class book. I.C.T. also provides access to images of religious buildings and people actively expressing their faith.

3.8 Visits to Church

The children will visit the church to learn about people, signs, symbols, furniture, etc inside and outside of the church as part of the curriculum. Years Five and Six also visit the church regularly (see Worship policy).

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

The Rector will make 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 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 Key Stage Two library, including reference books and a collection of religious artefacts. There are story bibles available in both libraries, with a set of Bibles for use by Upper Key Stage Two stored in the resource area between their classrooms. Spending on new books and resources to teach all the units is reviewed each year and appropriate new resources are added.

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.

(See the relevant policies).

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.

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.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

