

Church Aston Infant School



Religious Education Policy

September 2017

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Introduction

At Church Aston Infant School, Religious Education (RE) makes a distinctive contribution to the school curriculum. RE develops children's knowledge and understanding of Christianity, other principal world religions and world views. By exploring issues across faiths, children learn respect different beliefs and traditions. It helps children to understand the influence of religions and beliefs on individuals, societies, communities and cultures. Through RE we encourage children to consider challenging questions related to right and wrong and what it means to be human. Children are encouraged to value their own beliefs and opinions, whilst developing a respect for other people's views. We believe that RE provides an opportunity to celebrate and develop awareness of differences within our school and the wider world. Religious Education in Church Aston Infant School is taught in accordance with the requirements of the Telford and Wrekin SACRE (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education).

Aims

- Acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and principal religions in the United Kingdom and in particular of the faiths represented in our local community.
- Develop an awareness of a spiritual dimension to life.
- Reflect upon the experiences and the mysteries of life and to recognise the significance of awe and wonder in religious belief.
- Learn about religious and ethical teaching, enabling children to make reasoned and informed judgements on religious and moral issues.
- Develop a positive attitude towards people who hold religious beliefs different from their own, and towards living in a society of diverse religions and beliefs.

Religious Values and Attitudes

The personal development of pupils will be encouraged by fostering:

- A sensitive interest in the spiritual dimension of life. This will include the desire to investigate or respond to religious traditions, beliefs, practices and the natural world.
- A willingness to explore enthusiastically and in a positive manner, their own and other people's beliefs and traditions.
- Consideration and understanding for other people and for the world in which we live.
- A respect for freedom of everyone in society to practice or not to practice a religious belief.
- Confidence in their own background, which for some will include a cultural and/or religious heritage.
- An understanding of the effects the commitment to belief may have on their own lives and lives of others.
- An ability to respond to the challenges of life.

Planning

Religious Education is planned on an annual basis with each theme being selected from the units of work designed to support the work and address the key areas of learning. We employ a variety of teaching and learning approaches through discussions, art, music, drama, the use of artefacts, stories and periods of stillness and reflection. Where possible we aim to give children the

opportunity to visit local places of worship or invite members from local faith communities to visit school.

We use as a basis for our curriculum planning the Telford and Wrekin SACRE RE Scheme of Work written by Lat Blaylock. These are laid out in the table below;

Class 1 YR/Y1	Unit D:4 Myself: Who am I?	Christmas Unit B:6 Special Stories: What can we learn?	Unit D:8 Finding out about Christian Churches	Easter	Unit C:3 I wonder... Questions that puzzle us	Unit A: 5 Creation and Thanksgiving: How do we say 'thank you' for a beautiful world?
Class 2 Y1/Y2	Unit A:9 Respect for everyone: What does it mean?	Christmas	Unit C:11 Holy words: Why do religious people love their scriptures?	Easter	Unit B:10 Symbols of belonging: what can we learn?	Unit D:12 Beginning to learn from Islam: Muslims and Mosques in Telford and Wrekin

In accordance with Telford and Wrekin SACRE RE Scheme of Work we have agreed that pupils in Church Aston Infant School will study Christianity as a principal focus and Islam as the major focus. The core beliefs of each religion form the basis of all teaching and learning. (Appendix 1) The core beliefs of Christianity are considered in each of the teaching units.

When teaching about any religions the emphasis of learning is on the Authority, Founder, Life Style and Expression of Worship.

There are two attainment targets in Religious Education:

AT 1 – Learning about Religion

- Religious Beliefs, Values and Teaching
- Religious practices and ways of life
- Ways of expressing meaning
- Religious sources of wisdom

AT 2 – Learning from Religion

- Questions of Identity, Diversity and Belonging
- Questions of Meaning, Purpose and Truth
- Questions of Values and Commitment

The emphasis in each unit of work is on the exploration of questions. This approach gives appropriate weighting to both learning about and learning from religion. The exploration of the question coupled with the appropriate key statements guides a teacher's planning rather than just the content that is to be taught. During Key Stage 1 children are actively involved in discussing, investigating and trying to answer the questions of the following nature:

Fact Collection - Who, What, When, Where

Counting, defining, describing, listing, naming, recalling data

Processing / Using - Compare, How, Why

Comparing, contrasting, clarifying, explaining, distinguishing

Responding - What, How, Would

Evaluating, imagining, hypothesising, predicting

Attitudes

Through our RE lessons we teach children about the values and moral beliefs that underpin individual choices of behaviour. We promote values and attitudes required for citizenship in a democracy by teaching respect for others and the need for personal responsibility. In the RE themes children will explore key attitudes which include;

Self-awareness

Respect for all

Open mindedness

Appreciation and wonder

Curiosity and enquiry

Confidence about their own beliefs and identity

Being sensitive to the different feelings and ideas of others

Developing their capacity to respond to questions of meaning and purpose

Respecting the difference

Religious Education is usually taught on a weekly basis for approximately 1 hour. It is allocated 5% of the weekly curriculum. Occasionally and when appropriate the work may be blocked so that a more detailed study takes place but less frequently. Some Religious Education will be taught through the daily act of worship but this is in addition to the taught curriculum and does not replace it.

Assessment

A range of methods of assessment are used to assess children's work in RE. Informal judgements are made throughout the lesson and at the end of a unit of work a summary judgement is made in relation to the end of unit expectations. At the end of the year a written report is given to parents about their child's achievement in RE.

Legal Requirements

We recognise that all parents have the right to withdraw their children from Religious Education. A statement to this effect is included in the school prospectus and on the school website. When parents express a wish to withdraw their children from the RE Curriculum they will meet with the Headteacher who will explain how RE is taught in school and will be shown the Telford and Wrekin SACRE Agreed Syllabus and Scheme of work along with the school's curriculum planning.

We also recognise that on the grounds of conscience all staff have the right not to teach Religious Education. In such cases another member of staff will carry out the teaching whilst the other teacher teaches their class.

Resources

A copy of the Telford and Wrekin SACRE RE Agreed Syllabus is available in school.

Telford and Wrekin SACRE RE Scheme of Work units on the T Drive

RE shelf in the school library area, contains books covering a variety of religious information and Bible stories.

RE resources to support the teaching of different religions in the Dining Room

Additional materials and artefacts are available from Shropshire Schools Multicultural Development Service based at Hollinswood Primary School

Appendix 1 – Core Beliefs in Religious Education

BUDDHIST core beliefs

- There is no God (atheist belief stance)
- Buddha is the founder. He turned his back on wealth, power and ascetism and followed the middle way (Siddhartha Gotoma)
- Buddhists believe in 4 noble truths
- The noble 8 fold path is the way to true enlightenment
- Buddhists believe in rebirth (your essence carries on) not re-incarnation
- Karma, the law of cause and effect, affects daily suffering

CHRISTIAN core beliefs

- Jesus Christ is the son of God (Incarnation)
- God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Trinity)
- God is Creator and Sustainer of the Universe
- Jesus Christ fulfilled the Law of Moses and established a new covenant relationship, based on the Law of Love
- Jesus showed how great God's Love is for everyone, in his life, death and resurrection (salvation)
- Christians believe that Jesus Christ is their personal Saviour
- Entry into heaven is via the grace of God

HINDU core beliefs

- There is One God, expressed through many Gods
- There are 3 main roles called the Trimurti; Creator - Brahma, Sustainer - Vishnu, Destroyer - Shiva
- Belief in re-incarnation
- Belief in non-violence (Ahimsa)
- Religious duties to the family and community (Dharma)
- Karma, the Law of cause and effect, determines your next life

ISLAMIC core beliefs

- Allah is the one and only God
- Allah created and rules everything
- Allah has no children, partner or equal
- Muhammad (pbuh) is the final prophet
- The Holy Qur'an is the final revelation from Allah given through Muhammad (pbuh)
- Muslims believe in submission to the will of Allah and in peace
- Muslims believe that after death comes judgement - heaven or hell

JEWISH core beliefs

- There is One Creator G-d (not named by Jews, as so profound)
- There is a covenant relationship between G-d and His people
- The Torah, which includes the Law of Moses, contains 613 Mitzvot(commandments) which are life rules to follow
- There is a Holy Land given by G-d to the Jews

- There is a coming Messiah, who will restore all things
- The Jewish family expresses and passes on Jewish tradition
- Jews believe that after death comes the judgement - heaven or hell

SIKH core beliefs

- There is One God - who is Truth, Eternal and Creator
- Everyone is equal
- Honest work is good
- Service and hospitality within the community (Sewa)
- Reincarnation - the cycle of birth, life, death and re-birth (Karma)
- Sikhs have a personal choice to commit to the 5 Ks