



Leintwardine CE Primary School

R.E. Policy

Introduction

This policy reflects our Christian foundation and our school vision and ethos which are at the forefront of all that we do.

Our School Ethos:

Whilst truly embedding ourselves in the heart of the church and the surrounding community, we provide outstanding learning opportunities for all our children and their families.

'Letting Our Light Shine' Matthew 5:16

Our aim is that each child will be kind so that they –

- Achieve their potential
- Become Independent
- Connect with their Community
- Develop Resilience

In accordance with the Church of England Statement of Entitlement, the teaching of Religious Education (RE) has a very high profile at Leintwardine Endowed Church of England Primary School. Our Christian foundations are based on **'Life in all its fullness'** and through our teaching of RE we aim to present the diversity of Christianity and other world religions alongside other world views. Within our school community, the **deeply Christian** character is evident in all that we do. Our Christian values underpin all aspects of school life and all individuals are recognised as **precious children of God**. Our school motto *'Letting Our Light Shine'* encapsulates our commitment to providing a broad and stimulating curriculum which equips our children for living 'life in all its fullness'. Our children are motivated, inspired and enabled to flourish in an environment where spiritual development is recognised as being a fundamental basis for personal and academic achievements.

Aims and Objectives:

Religious Education enables children to investigate and reflect upon some of the most fundamental questions we have about ourselves, our world and the meaning of life. Children will be enabled to develop a sound knowledge of the Christian faith, other major world religions and non-religious world views. They will reflect upon what it means to have a faith and will be given time and safe space in which to develop their own spiritual knowledge and understanding. Children will learn about religions and also from religions as they develop a strong sense of self. Through RE we help all our children:

- To develop an awareness of spiritual and moral issues arising in their lives and equip children with the **wisdom** needed to respond to these;
- To develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other major world religions or value systems adhered to in the UK so that they are able to **connect with their local and wider community**;

- To develop an understanding of what it means to be committed to a religious tradition;
- To be capable of reflecting on their own experiences and of developing a personal response to the fundamental questions of life which is founded upon **aspiration and hope**;
- To develop an understanding of religious traditions and an appreciation of cultural difference in the UK today;
- To develop their investigative and research skills in order to hold reasoned opinions on religious issues;
- To nurture respect for other people's views and hence to celebrate diversity in society;
- To help children understand life as a journey and equip them with the spirit needed to celebrate the joys of life and to prosper despite times of trouble.

Teaching and Learning

Our RE curriculum is rich, varied and balanced. Children engage in RE through a variety of activities that are structured to allow opportunities for: asking big questions, enquiry based learning, research, investigation and personal response. Children are encouraged to think deeply through open-ended questions. As children mature, they are actively encouraged to respectfully debate different viewpoints. Many activities in RE are cross curricular, allowing children to create personal responses to their religious learning through drama, art and music. Many children find it easier to articulate their ideas verbally rather than in writing and discussion of big ideas allows opportunities for children of all ages and abilities to succeed in RE.

We provide:

- A curriculum that is robust, challenging, balanced and varied and which is based on accurate theology;
- A curriculum that enables pupils to develop a deep and thorough understanding of the Christian faith as well as knowledge and understanding of other world religions and ethical viewpoints;
- A curriculum that celebrates the richness and diversity of worldwide religions;
- An approach that instils respect for different viewpoints so that meaningful dialogue and theological enquiry can take place within a safe environment;
- An RE curriculum that our children describe as 'fun', 'interesting' and 'important';

Allocation of curriculum time

All children have a legal entitlement to RE teaching which should amount to 5% of curriculum time. At Leintwardine Primary School we use a combination of a blocked teaching approach of one week per half term so our pupils can immerse themselves and fully engage in RE lessons and weekly teaching sessions.

Programmes of Study

Our long term plan for RE was last updated in July 2019 and is based on the Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus for RE 2020-2025. This syllabus integrates units from Understanding Christianity which are revisited in a cyclical manner to build a robust understanding of the Christian faith in increasing depth as children mature. Units are planned on a 2-year rolling programme to suit our mixed age classes.

Approaches

All children have an individual RE book for recording their own personal journeys of knowledge, understanding and spiritual development. However, we recognise the value of creative outcomes for children to express their ideas through music, drama and art. This learning is captured in wall displays, photographs, sound recordings and video and as far as possible will be stored and shared using the online learning tool Seesaw. Parents are able to view these books at parents' evenings.

Assessment

Children's learning is assessed against expected outcomes for each unit. Children may demonstrate success in meeting these expectations in a number of ways. Assessment data is used to make sure attainment and progress in RE are at least as good as those in comparable subject areas.

Inclusion

A broad and balanced RE curriculum will be provided for all children through suitable learning challenges. The SEND coordinator helps to facilitate appropriate provision for pupils.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The quality of RE teaching and learning is monitored across the school by the Headteacher, RE subject leader and governors. The diocese facilitates network meetings for cross-school moderation and evaluation.

Withdrawal

Parents have a right to withdraw their child from all or part of the RE curriculum. We would encourage any parent considering this to discuss it first with the Headteacher before making a final decision.

Resources

We have an excellent range of resources to support teaching and learning in RE. Alongside our own artefacts and books, we have access to a large library of artefact boxes and books from the diocese.

Review

This policy is reviewed annually.