

R.E. Policy

Religious Education Policy (2012)

This policy is designed to state the approaches and aims towards the teaching and assessment of the R.E curriculum in CrontonC.E Primary School. With the emphasis on the Christian teachings from the Bible, it also serves to state aims that the children are taught multi-cultural beliefs and aspects of morality in line with the Church of England's doctrine.

Reviews and changes to the policy

The policy will be reviewed after five years i.e. in 2017. However, changes to the policy may result from changes to the agreed curriculum or from requests by the Governing Body. Staff may also ask that changes be made, and the policy may be modified, after the R.E. Co-ordinator has been notified, at a staff meeting when any proposals can be discussed.

The Aims of Religious Education

As a Church of England school, the foundation of our approach is the Christian faith. The school enjoys strong links with the church, and this allows everyone to learn about and practice Christian beliefs, and all are invited to take part in its community life. The school is committed to respecting the personal values and beliefs (religious or otherwise) of parents and children.

As an Aided Church of England school, we believe that R.E. in general and Christian teaching in particular play an important part in our teaching explicitly through weekly R.E lessons and implicitly through our teaching of the Christian values in collective worship and in everyday school life. These lessons are linked also to the statements on collective worship and the social, cultural and moral development.

They are also linked to the mission statement and the general aims of the school which are:

Our mission is:

To provide a wide range of high-quality educational and life experiences so that the children can attain their full potential within a happy and Christian environment based on Gospel values.

WHAT WE HOPE TO ACHIEVE . . .

Based on the Christian faith, we aim to teach the children to be considerate and respectful of themselves, others and the environment with everyone leading by example and demonstrating our belief in the gospel values.

We aim to develop the children in our care by giving them wide ranging experiences so that they gain knowledge and understanding of the world about them and value the opportunities that they have.

We aim to give them a firm grounding in the skills needed to succeed by being literate, numerate, creative and to possess technology skills to discover information for themselves within a safe, purposeful and open learning environment.

We aim to develop the whole child so that they are confident and motivated to learn and develop their own individual abilities and talents in order to achieve success that is recognised and celebrated.

We aim to make school a place of happy memories and enjoyable learning, where all children are given a chance to shine and to leave the school as well-rounded individuals.

We aim to involve the parents in the partnership of their child's education at our school and foster relationships that will support the development of their child.

We aim to develop our own skills and knowledge as we recognise that learning is a lifelong journey and all staff are committed to their own development to benefit ourselves and the children we teach.

For R.E. our aims are:

- To give the children in our care an understanding of the teachings of the Church of England, its principles and practices, appropriate to their age and ability.
- To give the children an insight into the wealth of stories from the old and new testaments, and how these are linked to our living in a Christian way.
- To introduce children to the fact that other people in our world have different beliefs from us, and to begin to develop in the pupils an understanding and respect of these faiths.
- To help children try to answer bigger questions in life.
- To develop spiritual awareness, vocabulary and concepts necessary for the potential of faith awareness.
- To make a distinctive contribution to the spiritual, moral, cultural, social and academic development of our children.
- To support our children in reflecting upon, developing and affirming their own beliefs, values and attitudes through an exploration of shared human experiences and of the place and significance of religion in the contemporary world.
- To celebrate our school values underpinned by our Christian beliefs and the Gospel values – respect, truthfulness, celebration, kindness and consideration, generosity, responsibility, patience and self control and inclusion.
- To begin to develop their own beliefs, attitudes, moral values and practices through a process of personal search, discovery and critical evaluation (Life as a Journey)
- To foster the spiritual, moral, social, cultural development making sure that RE is an integral part of the curriculum.

Objectives

These aims shall be achieved through the following objectives:

By following the Liverpool Diocese R.E. syllabus for C.E. Primary Schools.

By following the objectives of the agreed syllabus.

By following the school's agreed outline plan of topics and themes taken from the above documents.

By weekly R.E. lessons.

Implementation of the Syllabus

It has been agreed that:

The R.E. Syllabus for Primary School published by the Liverpool Diocese be the main source for the planning and teaching of R.E. in Cronton C.E. School.

Christian and non-Christian faiths – Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism and Sikhism will be taught throughout Key Stage 1 and 2.

As part of the school's ISA status children are also given the opportunity to celebrate other religious festivals through cross curricular and multicultural links.

R.E. will be taught in half termly units.

The Approach to R.E.

We try to use a variety of teaching methods at the school as we feel each topic and subject cannot be treated in the same way. Depending on the topic being covered, this may include class, group, partner or individual work, visits, the use of religious artefacts, visitors, investigations, I.C.T and drama. Cross curricular links with Literacy and PHSE have also been developed.

Time Allocation

R.E. should take up to 5% of the timetable – roughly one hour per week. This does not include the assembly/collective worship time. (See collective worship)

The Teaching of R.E.

As a Church of England School it is expected that, when possible, all teaching staff will teach R.E. However, should a member of staff feel that they are unable to teach the subject on personal belief grounds, then another teacher will take the class for R.E.

The teaching will be organised in year groups.

Arrangement for pupils to be withdrawn from R.E.

Parents can, if they so wish, ask to withdraw their child from R.E lessons. If this happens, the child will be given extra work and sent to another classroom to be supervised. However, we do not encourage children to be withdrawn from any lessons – this way the child receives a broad and balanced curriculum. Parents also have the right to remove their children from Collective Worship.

The Co-ordinator

The R.E. co-ordinator will have a full job description. While being responsible for the co-ordination of R.E, collecting samples of children's work for a portfolio and examples of staff planning and looking after the resources, it is the responsibility of all staff to implement the R.E. scheme.

Resourcing

Most resources will be kept in the R.E cupboard situated in the school hall. A list of resources and artefacts allocated in the cupboard is attached to the inside of the cupboard door. Each faith has an individually labelled storage box containing resources, artefacts and a contents list. Staff should make sure that any books or artefacts are returned to the appropriate boxes after use.

Assessment, recording and reporting.

Assessment guidelines provided by the Liverpool Diocese R.E syllabus have been adapted into individual unit assessment sheets and are used by all staff teaching R.E to assess the children in both AT1 and AT2. Each R.E teaching unit from the foundation stage, Key Stage 1 and 2 has its own recording sheet for assessment. Assessment is provided in a variety of formats and collated onto the generic assessment sheets. An assessment file is kept maintained by the class teacher throughout the year for each child.

The child's progress in R.E. will be reported on the yearly written report to parents.