

ASTON ALL SAINTS C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Religious Education Policy

Date: May 2017

Review Date: 2018/19

“The Christian ethos is at the heart of all we do in school and underpins all our aims.” It is our aim that every member of our school community feels valued and respected and that each person is treated fairly and well. We are a caring community, whose values are built on mutual trust and respect for all. The school RE policy is therefore designed to support the way in which all members of the school can live and work together in a supportive way. It aims to promote an environment where everyone feels happy, safe and secure.

1. WHY WE TEACH R.E

- a) To lead the children towards an understanding of their spirituality and to help them to absorb and acquire Christian values.
- b) To encourage and nurture respect for religious and moral values and tolerance of other races, religions and ways of life.
- c) To help pupils to
 - Explore their own feelings
 - Ask and reflect on questions
 - Examine convictions about the significance, meaning and purpose of life and about the world as a whole and ever changing global issues
- d) To help the children to make sense of the part of human experience which can only partially be explained in rational or intellectual terms.
- e) To help pupils understand the meaning of vocation and to appreciate human achievements and aspirations

2. THE AIMS OF OUR R.E TEACHING

- a) For the whole school to be a living Christian Community.
 - Where a Christian atmosphere and Christian values are fostered and actively taught
 - Where a peaceful, loving, mutually supportive environment underpins the working day and the Christian values of helping, caring and sharing are evident so that LOVE can be seen in ACTION.
 - Where there is evidence of love and respect for each other; for all forms of life; for God and for God's word
 - Where there is a work ethic which encourages the intrinsic value of work; values individual gifts and talents; develops an understanding of vocation and encourages motivation, enthusiasm and endeavour.

- Where the Christian Principle of people carrying on Christ's Work exists in that the children are aware of
 - The need to look after those who are less fortunate
 - The need to care for the world re: "The Prayer of St Teresa" as used in our Eucharist "Christ has no hands but yours".
 - Which pursues excellence in recognition that "what we are is God's gift to us and what we become is our gift to God".
- b) Through our multi-cultural work, to help the children to understand that:
- People all over the world share a spirituality which is manifest in all different world religions
 - That comparisons can be made between religions and similarities identified.

3. HOW WE PLAN OUR R.E TEACHING

We:-

- a) referred to the Rotherham Agreed Syllabus
- b) Consulted with the Clergy.
- c) Held staff discussions in order to formulate our School Scheme of Work.

4. CURRENT PRACTICE

- a) Whole school assemblies are held at 9.15 am four days a week, - separate KS Act of Worship on Wednesday.
- b) The Head Teacher, Assistant Head Teacher , KS1 Coordinator other members of staff and the clergy lead assemblies.
- c) School assemblies on world religion take place as and when appropriate. Head Teacher leads assemblies which follow the Christian calendar.
- d) Special Mentions assemblies celebrate children's achievements both in and out of school
- e) Music is played for entering and leaving the hall (this serves the purpose of setting the atmosphere but also encourages the children's musical vocabulary and knowledge).
- f) A section of the school orchestra accompany the hymns and the responses during assemblies.
- g) The school orchestra accompany the hymns and responses in the Eucharist and play from their repertoire. The infant children sing and play instruments during communion. Children also serve, narrate, carry the bread and wine to the communion table and sing cantor and the responses.
- h) The children lead class assemblies to which parents and visitors are invited.
- i) Various special assemblies to celebrate festivals, or musical, artistic and dance-drama talent take place.
- j) Classes take turns to lead the Ministry of the Word in the Eucharist. Sometimes children from each class or the musicians will lead. Parents, visitors and the Aston Community are invited.

The Lord's Prayer, the Gloria and the Sanctus (to a setting composed for us by Hannah Thompson Smith, our music teacher) are sung within the liturgy and "Shalom" is used in "The Peace".

- k) The Eucharist is held in the School Hall and occasionally in the Church. Coffee is served afterwards to give the Community an opportunity for fellowship.
- l) The children take a full and active part in the Eucharist contributing music, altar frontals, dance-drama, commentary, readings and prayers: receiving a blessing or taking communion as appropriate.
- m) Confirmation classes are offered to the oldest children in school. These usually take place after school. Confirmation usually takes place at the beginning of March.
- n) Membership of the Church choir and opportunities to be an Acolyte are offered

5. LINK OPPORTUNITIES

- a) Our children visit churches and places of worship both here in and contrasting localities which links with other work as required, for example, by the Geography P.O.S. (Youlgreave and Whitby)
- b) Members of other churches and other faiths sometimes take assemblies
- c) Children are invited to participate in activities offered by the local churches. For example:
 - The Pentecostal walk (Aston Churches Together)
 - Sunday School at All Saints
 - Shine club at Swallownest Church – activities for 8-11 year olds once a month
 - King's Club (Methodist)
 - Some church services are held in school during the year
 - Christian organisations such as Girl's Brigade and Boy's Brigade

6. RESOURCES

Our resources are kept centrally and include:-

- Class sets of Bibles including Good News Bible, Lion Children's Bibles, the Lion Graphic Bible
- An R.E. reference section in the library
- A set of Christmas books
- Multi-faith books
- DVDs
- Music
- Artefacts (multi-faith)

Signed..... Date.....