



**The Federation of
Longhorsley St Helen's and Whalton
Church of England First Schools**

**Policy
For
Religious Education**



Approved: Spring Term 2017
Review date: Spring Term 2019

Definition

Religious Education (RE) enables children to investigate and reflect on some of the most fundamental questions asked by people. At the Federation of Longhorsley St Helen's and Whalton C of E First Schools we develop the children's knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other world faiths and aim to address some of the fundamental questions in life.

Children reflect on what it means to have a faith and to develop their own spiritual knowledge and understanding.

We help the children learn from religions (exploring and responding to human experience) as well as about religions (developing knowledge and understanding of religion).

Introduction

The teaching of RE allows children both to learn about religious traditions and to reflect on what the religious ideas and concepts mean to them. Our teaching enables children to extend their own sense of values and promotes their spiritual growth and development. We encourage children to think about their own views and values in relation to the themes and topics studied in the RE curriculum.

The RE curriculum forms an important part of our school's spiritual, moral and social teaching. Children are encouraged to build on their own experiences and extend their knowledge and understanding of religious traditions. Strong links with local churches in the village enrich their experiences and helps to develop their religious thinking.

Direct experience comes from organised visits to local places of worship and visits from representatives of local religious groups who come into school and talk to the children.

At each Key Stage a programme of study sets out what pupils should be taught. Lesson content is based upon the Diocesan Agreed Syllabus. Lesson content may be adapted to meet the needs of individual classes or to make links with other subject areas.

Our Core Christian Values

Our Core Christian Values make our school distinctive by creating an atmosphere and ethos in a way that everyone who comes to our school feels valued. Each person is unique and needs the time throughout their life in our school to be provided with love, care, attention and time to grow. The values we share collectively are:

- Love
- Hope
- Honesty
- Forgiveness
- Trust
- Friendship

Aims and purposes of Religious Education

RE at The Federation of Longhorsley St Helen's and Whalton C of E First Schools provides children with the opportunity:

- To enable pupils to encounter Christianity as the religion that shaped British culture and heritage and influences the lives of millions of people today.
- explore issues within and between faiths to help them understand and respect different religions beliefs values and traditions

- consider questions of meaning and purpose in life from beginning to end
- learn about religious and ethical teaching, enabling them to make reasoned judgements on religious and moral issues
- develop their sense of identity and belonging, preparing them for life as citizens in a plural society their own faith and beliefs.

Legal Requirements

Our school curriculum for RE meets the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act (ERA). The ERA stipulates that Religious Education is compulsory for all children, including those in the reception class who are less than five years old. The ERA allows parents to withdraw their child from RE classes if they so wish, although this should only be done once the parents have given written notice to the school governors. The ERA also allows teachers to refuse to teach RE, but only after they have given due notice of their intention to the school governors.

Our school RE curriculum meets all the requirements set out in the Diocesan Agreed Syllabus document. The ERA states that the RE syllabus should reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian and that it should, at the same time, take account of the teachings and practices of other major religions.

How Religious Education Supports our School Aims

The school community - RE provides a positive context within which the diversity of cultures, beliefs and values can be celebrated and explored.

The community within which the school is located - RE provides opportunities to investigate patterns of diversity of religion and belief and forge links with different groups in the local area.

The UK community - a major focus of RE is the study of diversity of religion and belief in the UK and how this influences national life.

The global community - RE involves the study of matters of global significance recognising the diversity of religion and belief and its impact on world issues.

RE subject matter gives particular opportunities to promote an ethos of respect for others, challenge stereotypes and build understanding of other cultures and beliefs. This contributes to promoting a positive and inclusive school ethos that champions democratic values and human rights.

RE is an important subject in contribution to the schools development as a Rights Respecting School.

Progression in Religious Education

We plan our RE curriculum in accordance with the Diocesan Agreed Syllabus. We ensure that the topics studied in RE build upon prior learning. We offer opportunities for children of all abilities to develop their skills and knowledge in each unit, and we ensure that the planned progression built into the scheme of work offers the children an increasing challenge as they move through the school.

In Reception classes, RE is an integral part of the topic work covered during the year. As the Reception class is part of the Foundation Stage, we relate the Religious Education aspects of the children's work to the objectives set out in one of the six Early Learning Goals entitled 'Personal, Social and Emotional Development'.

Role of the Subject Leader

- To lead the development of RE in the school
- To liaise with the Diocese of Newcastle
- To provide guidance to individual members of staff
- To keep up to date with local, diocesan and national developments in RE and disseminate relevant information.
- To review the position and use of RE resources and regularly update staff on new resources, ideas and materials
- To review and monitor the success and progress of the planned units of work
- To be responsible for the organisation and maintenance of RE resources

Our RE subject leader is Mrs Julie Potter (Based at Whalton) and the link teacher is Mrs Joanne Campbell (Based at Longhorsley)

Assessment and Record Keeping

We are using Classroom Monitor to assess the children's work. We also have a copy of the identified objectives inside the front cover of the children's RE Book.

Every classroom has their own Class RE Journal, which is an addition to the individual's book. Inside you will find group discussions, tasks and photographs.

The FEDERATION of LONGHORSLEY St HELEN'S and WHALTON C of E FIRST SCHOOLS

Written and agreed by staff, this Policy was formulated after considering the following:

1. aims and content;
2. teaching strategies;
3. dissemination and consultation process.

Reviewed by staff, considered by Governing Body Curriculum Standards and Policies Sub Committee, Spring 2017 approved at the termly Governors Meeting and implemented from that date.