



Policy for Religious Education

Last Approved by Governing Body :

Date of next review :

Mission Statement

“Learning Together in God’s World.”

With God’s love at our roots, we will nurture and guide every unique individual to grow in a caring and secure Christian environment.”

Our Steps to Success :

Aim 1: Standards

To ensure that every child achieves their full potential and makes good spiritual and personal progress in all areas of school life.

Aim 2: Teaching and Learning

To provide pupils with high quality teaching and learning so that they can become effective life long learners in God’s world.

Aim 3: Environment

To provide a happy, safe, healthy and stimulating working environment, with Christian values at its roots.

Aim 4: Partnership

To promote an inclusive ethos where St. Anne’s family work together to support our children to become independent, responsible citizens.

Aims

Our broad aim for RE is that the children should be taught and subsequently understand the practices and teachings of Christianity. The principle aim at St Anne’s is to encourage children to develop their own Christian beliefs and values and aid them on their spiritual journey. We also want our children to develop an understanding of other world religions and foster a sense of respect and tolerance for people with other beliefs.

We support the aim of The Manchester Diocesan Board of Education,

‘ The principle aim of RE in a church school will be effected first through offering pupils a firm grounding in the principles and practices of Christianity as represented by the Church of England...in recognition of the society in which all children are growing up, pupils should also be offered opportunities to explore other faiths as represented by Britain today.’

Principles of Teaching and Learning in R.E.

RE is an integral part of the school's Christian ethos, is reflected in our aims and Golden Values and is incorporated into the whole school curriculum. The major part of RE teaching and learning focuses on Christianity, in recognition of the foundation of the school. The introduction of Hinduism, Sikhism, Judaism and Islam provides an awareness of other faiths. At least 5% of curriculum time is devoted to RE.

Although Religious Education and Collective Worship naturally compliment and enrich one another, at St Anne's we recognise the importance that they are managed separately.

Scheme of Work

The scheme of work adopted by St Anne's CE Lydgate Primary School is the Blackburn and Manchester Diocese 'Questful RE' Syllabus which reflects the National Framework for RE, the National Society Statement of Entitlement and the requirements of SIAMS. The Oldham Agreed Syllabus is used as a point of reference.

It is essential that the Religious Education curriculum maintains a balanced approach of Learning about Religion (Attainment Target 1) and Learning from Religion (Attainment Target 2).

Attainment Target 1: LEARNING ABOUT RELIGIONS

Knowledge and Understanding of:

Beliefs and Teachings;
Practices and Lifestyles;
Expression and Language

Attainment Target 2: LEARNING FROM RELIGION

Response, evaluation and applications of questions of:

Identity and Experience;
Meaning and Purpose;
Values and Commitment

As a church school, the distinctive content of the Religious Education Curriculum at St Anne's provides:

- opportunities to explore the experience of the Church's year;
- study of the story of the local Christian community with its saints and martyrs;
- visits to places of worship, especially the local parish Church and a Cathedral, to develop the understanding of the Church as a living community;
- welcoming visitors from the local parish to share their experience of Christian belief and life;
- liaison with the local parish to enable these visits and links to occur;
- skills to confidently use religious language to express knowledge and opinions;
- a well-used set of Bibles in language that can be understood by the learners and examples of Bibles and prayer books from a variety of contexts;
- the facility to listen to Christian 'psalms, hymns and spiritual songs' from a wide variety of traditions;
- access to Christian artefacts that are used with care, respect and confidence;
- a sacred space that can be used as a focus for prayer and silent reflection.

We help pupils to:

- reflect theologically and explore the ultimate questions and challenges of life in today's society;
- reflect critically on the truth claims of Christian belief;
- see how the truth of Christianity is relevant today;
- understand the challenge faced by Christians in today's pluralist and post-modern society;
- develop the skills to handle the Bible text;
- recognise that faith is based on commitment to a particular way of understanding God and the world;
- begin to develop their own commitments, beliefs and values;
- develop a sense of themselves as significant, unique and precious;
- experience the breadth and variety of the Christian community;
- engage in thoughtful dialogue with other faiths and traditions;
- become active citizens, serving their neighbour;
- find a reason for hope in a troubled world;
- understand how religious faith can sustain believers in difficult circumstances and in the face of opposition.

We believe that it is entirely appropriate and necessary in today's world that children should be encouraged to foster a respect for the followers of the other world faiths. It is essential that this respect is based on an accurate and sympathetic understanding of those faiths.

Therefore RE at St Anne's will help pupils to:

- learn about other faiths, their beliefs, traditions and practices and from them through encounter and dialogue;
- recognise and respect those of all faiths in their search for God;
- recognise areas of common belief and practice between different faiths;
- enrich and expand their understanding of truth while remaining faithful to their own tradition;
- enrich their own faith through examples of holy living in other traditions.

Religious Education at St Anne's enables:

- pupils and teachers to talk openly and freely about their own personal beliefs and practice without fear of ridicule;
- pupils to make excellent and appropriate progress in their knowledge and understanding of Christianity;
- pupils from Christian families to talk openly about their beliefs and values in lessons and to grow in their faith;
- pupils from other faith backgrounds to understand and be encouraged in their faith;
- pupils with no religious background to be given an insight into what it means to be a person of faith;
- pupils of all backgrounds to have a safe place to explore the ultimate questions and challenges of life in today's society.

Curriculum

RE teaching and learning in the Foundation Stage is mainly concerned with Christianity. However, other major religions are introduced through stories relating to their festivals and celebrations. Teaching of other world faiths is introduced more formally at Key Stage 1 and 2. In addition to Christianity, children have an understanding of other world religions. Every class has a weekly RE lesson timetabled or certain themes may be taught in a block and opportunities for cross-curricular activities are planned for when appropriate. RE is enhanced by real life experiences through educational visits and visitors where appropriate to enrich the children's understanding of places of worship. All classes visit St. Anne's Church when relevant to the learning in class and all children will have been involved in Experience Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost by the time they leave the school.

Assessment

Summative assessment takes place at the end of each unit of work in line with school assessment procedures. The progress of the children will be shown by the attitudes and knowledge they demonstrate, together with their ability to describe features of worship and beliefs of other world religions. Children's progress will be reported annually to parents.

Equal Opportunities

We do our utmost at St Anne's to ensure that all children have equal access to all aspects of the R.E. Curriculum regardless of gender, race, sex or ability. We follow an inclusive policy where all children are able to access a differentiated curriculum and aim to provide support where it is needed. Our materials and resources are chosen carefully to avoid stereotyping of any kind. Diversity is regarded as a rich resource to support the learning of all.

Parental right of withdrawal

If a parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any Religious education at St Anne's, then the school must comply.

The school continues to be responsible for the supervision of any child withdrawn by its parents from religious Education. Parents who wish to exercise this right must first contact the Head teacher. The Agreed Syllabus states that 'Religious Education should be provided for all registered pupils except for those withdrawn at the request of their parents.' (s 71 SSFA1998). This will include children in Reception classes. (Oldham Locally Agreed Syllabus, section 1 page 7).

Roles and responsibilities of the RE Coordinator

The RE Coordinator is responsible for...

- Providing advice and encouragement on RE for other staff as necessary
- Maintaining the RE resources
- Attending relevant courses, network meetings and disseminating information
- Monitoring and reviewing practice and standards in RE
- Leading Inset where necessary
- Informing the policy review process.