Religious Education Policy

'Let all that you do, be done in love' 1 Corinthians 16:14

Our school inspires confident, enthusiastic, high achieving, lifelong learners within a loving Christian community. Children are encouraged to develop an awareness of the difference between right and wrong and to respect Christian moral values. Every member of the school community is valued and respected for their contribution to the life of the school. Parents, Staff and Governors (LAC Members) are seen as partners in the process of enabling children to participate in, and to develop worthwhile and satisfying lives and as such will be expected to affirm the Christian values on which our school operates. St Leonard's CE First School and Nursery values The Lichfield Diocese and mutual liaison with the church and community which we serve. We maintain a Christian ethos throughout the teaching of the Diocesan agreed syllabus, the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus, the national curriculum and the wider curriculum. Staff treat each other with courtesy and consideration, respecting each other's opinions and working together in a spirit of helpfulness and friendliness. Collective worship develops the spiritual dimension of each child and emphasise the importance of Jesus and the Kingdom of God. Daily collective worship aims to create a Christian foundation through which the children can discover a faith on which to base their lives.

Aims and Objectives

Religious education enables children to investigate and reflect on some of the most fundamental questions asked by people. We develop the children's knowledge and understanding of the major world faiths, and we address the fundamental questions in life, for example, the meaning of life and the existence of a divine spirit. We enable children to develop a sound knowledge not only of Christianity but also of other world religions, especially those that are the main faiths of children within our school. 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 as well as about religions.

The aims of religious education are to help children:

• To discover the richness and variety within the Christian tradition especially as a living faith in the present day, and to explore the implications of Christian faith in daily life.

• To enable pupils to engage with Christian concepts and beliefs concerning God, the world and humanity.

• To promote an awareness of an insight into non-Christian faith communities locally, nationally and globally.

• To maintain strong and well-established links with the local churches.

• To develop an awareness of spiritual and moral issues in life experiences;

• To develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other major world religions and value systems found in Britain;

• To develop an understanding of what it means to be committed to a religious tradition;

• To be able to reflect on their own experiences and to develop a personal response to the fundamental questions of life;

• To develop an understanding of religious traditions and to appreciate the cultural differences in Britain today;

• To develop investigative and research skills and to enable them to make reasoned judgements about religious issues;

• To have respect for other peoples' views and to celebrate the diversity in society.

Additionally:

• RE does not seek to impose religious beliefs on children nor to compromise the integrity of an individual's own beliefs by promoting one religion over another.

• RE is not the same as collective worship which has its own place within school life and a separate policy.

• There are no presumptions made as to the religious backgrounds, beliefs and values of the children and the staff.

• We value the religious background of all members of the school community and hope that this will encourage individuals to share their own experiences with others freely.

• All religions and their communities are treated with respect and sensitivity and we value the links between home, school and the faith communities.

• We acknowledge that each religion studied can contribute to the education of all our pupils.

• We promote teaching in RE that stresses open enquiry and first-hand experiences wherever possible for both staff and children.

Our curriculum for Religious Education meets the requirements of the Education Reform Act (ERA). Our RE curriculum is based on the Staffordshire LA Agreed Syllabus for RE and Understanding Christianity. The ERA states that the RE syllabus should reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are Christian and that it should, at the same time, take account of the teachings and practices of other major religions. We recognise the right of withdrawal of pupils by their parents, but works actively to promote participation by all pupils.

Rationale

RE is an important subject in its own right. It contributes to other areas of education and human experience (Aesthetic, environmental, ethical, political, social and spiritual). It is an important part of the wider programme of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Spiritual – widening pupils' vision of themselves and their own experience, within the context of a growing awareness and understanding of God.

Moral – helping each pupil develop their own informed values.

Social – helping pupils understand some major forces shaping the values in our society.

Cultural – aiding pupils in exploring aspects of their own cultural heritage and in developing positive attitudes towards diversity.

The Nature of RE

The essential elements of RE are embodied in the 3 Attainment Targets from the Diocesan Guidelines:

- Knowledge of Religious beliefs, teachings and practices (learning ABOUT)

- The child's own personal understanding and response (learning FROM)

- Relationships and lifestyles (learning FROM)

There are seven dimensions to the teaching of RE. They are:

Conveying Meaning

Founders/Leaders

Belonging to a Community

Meeting for Worship

Authority

Special Occasions

Responding to the Natural World

Curriculum Planning in Religious Education

We plan our religious education curriculum in accordance with the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus supported by a variety of resources alongside the Understanding Christianity curriculum (NATRE, RE Today Primary RE Curriculum). We ensure that the topics studied in religious education 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 our school. As well as the opportunity to deepen knowledge and understanding. From March 2026 RE Today as well as weekly quizzes (which provide retrieval practice linked to knowledge from last week, last topic, last term, last year) in order to provide frequent retrieval practice and increase automaticity and depth of knowledge. Links to the language of Spirituality will be woven through RE lessons through the use of the terms Mirrors, Windows and Doors (looking out, looking in, looking forward).

The Early Years Foundation Stage

We teach religious education to all children in the school, including those in the nursery and reception class. In our EYFS class, religious education is an integral part of the topic work covered during the year. As the EYFS class is part of the Early Years Foundation Stage, we relate the religious education aspects of the children's work to the objectives set out in the Early Learning Goals which underpin the curriculum planning for children aged three to five. RE Today is also used in EYFS from March 2026.

Teaching Religious Education to Children with Special Needs

The Local Academy Council believes that all children, regardless of ability and behaviour, are valued equally. SEN children are not viewed as a separate entity but are part of the whole school approach, and different children's needs are recognised and met through varied and flexible provision throughout the curriculum.

Monitoring and Review

The RE subject leader is responsible for monitoring the standards of the children's work and the quality of the teaching in religious education. They are also responsible for supporting colleagues in the teaching of religious education, for being informed about current developments in the subject, and for providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject.

LAC

The LAC are involved in termly monitoring through link visits and LAC meetings to support evaluation

Mrs C Keay Headteacher

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