

St Laurence Church Infant School

Religious Education Policy



Approved by: Curriculum, Safeguarding and
Pupil Welfare Committee

Last revised on: May 2020

Next review due by: May 2023

Everyone to learn and grow with God

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Intent

Why do we teach RE?

At St Laurence Infant School we want each child to develop spiritually, morally, culturally, mentally and physically within a Christian environment. We want to help each child achieve a personal awareness of God, a sense of respect for one another and an understanding of the Christian faith (and the liturgical year of the Church). We want to enable children to develop an understanding of religious and moral values, and to have a respect for all religions and ways of life.

Implementation

How we teach RE?

Our Religious Education lessons help children to acquire knowledge of religious traditions and beliefs but also to develop the child's spiritual awareness. RE is taught in both the Early Years Foundation Stage and in Key Stage One for 1 hour each week. Each lesson includes an opportunity for spiritual reflection. During a typical RE lesson, the children will explore a range of activities providing challenge and the chance to learn from RE for themselves. The children will explore ways of responding to Christianity and other religions and life experiences, for example, through prayer, worship, drama and art. A variety of resources including artefacts, games, role play, puzzles, books, posters, resource packs and a selection of children's Bibles are available to support creative learning and teaching. There are educational visits to support the RE curriculum which have previously included visits to St Laurence Church, a mosque, St John's and St Peter's Parish Church, a synagogue and a Buddhist pagoda. Evidence of the children's work for RE is recorded in their own Red Book and also each class has a RE Learning Journey which records evidence of all the learning that has taken place in RE as a class.

How we plan RE?

We use the exemplar materials (for a school with a majority of Christian pupils) from the Birmingham Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education. The two attainment targets of the syllabus are:

1. Learning from faith.
2. Learning about religious traditions.

We develop the spiritual and moral dispositions of our children through the religious tradition of Christianity. The 24 dispositions of the Birmingham Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education are explored throughout both the Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage One. In addition, the units of God, Creation, Incarnation and Gospel are used from the Understanding Christianity resource to support the teaching of Christianity. This ensures that the beliefs and practices of Christians are explored in a deeper way. Teachers use these materials as a basis for the weekly planning of exciting lessons and activities which challenge children to think about religion and explore it for themselves.

Cross Curricular Links

Issues considered within PSED in the Early Years Foundation Stage, and the PSHE curriculum in Key Stage One, may also be considered from the Christian perspective.

How we ensure all children access the RE curriculum.

When planning Religious Education lessons, the children's varying levels of ability are considered. Activities are differentiated to allow for a wide range of abilities and learning styles within each class. In the delivery of RE we try to ensure that each child achieves his/her full potential regardless of race, cultural background, gender or physical abilities. All children's experiences are valued regardless of their faith background. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the Religious Education provided. The Headteacher must be informed if parents wish to exercise this right.

How we assess RE.

Teachers assess how children learn through observing them working in lessons. They use questioning skills to extend learning and give children the opportunity to discuss their understanding during the lessons. Children are given immediate feedback and challenge during lesson time to extend their learning. Teachers record children's comments and thoughts in lessons, using these to enable judgements of the children's understanding. RE is also included in the end of year report for each child in every year group.

How is the teaching and learning of RE monitored?

The RE Co-ordinator monitors and evaluates the teaching of Religious Education so that the effective implementation of the Religious Education Policy is ensured. This is achieved by discussions with children, scrutiny of planning, lesson observations, scrutiny of work, resource review, discussions with staff and learning walks. The RE Co-ordinator also completes regular training and participates in Diocesan conferences.

What is the impact of RE at St Laurence?

Children at St Laurence will have the opportunity to reflect on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and the relevance of this in relation to their own attitudes to life and their relationships with others. They will have had the chance to explore their own spirituality. They will leave our school with respect for people of all faiths and beliefs because they will have understood why people believe and follow the practices of religious traditions. We hope that both children and their parents and carers will appreciate and feel enriched by the strong links with St Laurence Parish Church.

Review

This Policy will be reviewed within the next 3 years or before if there are changes to the RE curriculum.

Date of policy May 2020

Date Of review May 2023

RE Co-ordinator Martin Sherlaw