

R.E. POLICY 2019

The purpose of R.E.

'The principle aim of R.E. in church schools is to aid pupils on their spiritual journey'.

'This (the principle aim) will be affected first, through offering pupils a firm grounding in the principles and practices of Christianity, especially as represented by the Church of England

...In recognition of the society in which all children are growing up, pupils should also be offered the opportunity to explore the other faiths represented in Britain today.

(Board of Education Minutes 1992)

At St. Paul's the main aim of R.E. is to provide children with a thorough understanding of the principles and practices of Christianity, especially as represented by the Church of England.

However it is recognized that children are growing up in a multi ethnic and a multicultural society and, therefore, they should be provided with opportunities to explore other faiths represented in Britain today.

Aims

- to provide experiences where a sense of the spiritual and feelings such as wonder, delight, joy and mystery may occur, and to provide opportunity for pupils to reflect upon these experiences
- to assist in the spiritual development of children and help them discover their own journey of faith
- to give an insight into the understanding of the world in which we live and encourage a respect and awareness of other cultures ideas and beliefs
- to have a good knowledge and understanding about the Christian faith, especially the Church of England.
- to extend pupil thinking and awareness about themselves and others, the needs and desires of others, the wonder and complexity of the universe
- to enable pupils to look at their own attitudes, values and priorities
- to nurture the Christian values of love, hope, forgiveness, justice, peace, kindness, joy, tolerance, understanding, goodness, responsibility and self control
- to enable pupils to experience being part of Christian community
- to enable pupils to experience something of the transcendence and the immanence of God

Framework

There are four different sources that serve to influence the religious thinking in our primary school.

1. School collective worship
2. The church and parish
3. R.E scheme of work
4. Underlying school philosophy

School Assemblies

These are times of ‘coming together’ of the whole school. The SEAL programme is a whole school approach, which utilises both collective worship and class times to explore the themes in further detail. The school uses a three year programme for collective worship. A different theme is chosen for each half term with suggested subjects for each of the week’s assemblies. Every class in turn takes responsibility for a Friday ‘class assembly’, which is linked to areas of the curriculum. Year 6 children also lead on our Celebration assembly on a Monday morning. (Further details are in the collective worship file.)

The religious aspect of our assembly is only a part. The remainder consists of news of the children, staff, community and nation, discussions about forthcoming school events, sports reports, distribution of certificates and awards, children’s various endeavors, curricular achievements of the children.

Links with the church and parish

An important link with our parish church is a weekly visit maintained by our parish clergy. Each Tuesday a member of the clergy speaks to the children in assembly. The clergy also participate in R.E. lessons, talking about their role and the role of the church. Members of the parish contribute the work of the school by praying, supporting events in school, helping in the classrooms going on school trips and sharing their skills and expertise with the school. The school visits the church as part of their curriculum work and also uses the church for special occasions. The school regularly contributes to displays in the church.

R.E. Scheme of work

The school has its own scheme of work, in line with the Blackburn Diocese scheme and this is supported by the “Understanding Christianity” materials and resources. These cover the areas of the Bible, Jesus, the Church, Christian Festivals and Christian Living. The school also covers world faiths.

Underlying School Philosophy

Possibly one of the most significant and therefore most important influences on our children, is that exerted on them by the very relationships and attitudes that they experience incidentally every day at school.

The philosophy or ethos of the school embraces those intangible areas of school life taken for granted and include:

- the quality of relationships between staff, children, non teaching staff, parents, church clergy and various external agencies
- the mutual respect and trust that is implicit between the various sections of our community
- the ‘open door’ policy for parents to come into school to discuss problems etc.
- our ‘whole school’ approach to all aspects of school life, to behaviour and expectations, where all staff share a corporate responsibility for all children.
- the importance of prayer

We believe that school is not a 'safe haven' or an 'escape from the real world'. Rather, that we are part of the real world and hope to establish an atmosphere where it is a safe 'base' from which children can explore the world around them.

Delivery

Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1:

R.E is taught in the Nursery, Reception, Y1 and Y2 through topics and themes based on stories and practical, first-hand experience as far as possible. R.E. lessons tend to be practical, encouraging discussion and practical application. Written work is not an essential part of all R.E lessons and lessons are a combination of written and practical work. Floorbooks are produced in EYFS and all children will have an input into these during the sessions through discussion, photographs and activities.

Key Stage 2:

R.E. is taught through themes and specialized lessons. Once again, children are encouraged to think, discuss and reflect as part of their R.E. lessons and record in class scrapbooks as well as individual learning books.

Teaching methods

The methods of delivering the R.E. curriculum are at the discretion of individual teachers, who indicate these in their half termly plans. It is recommended that teachers:

- provide opportunities for pupils to raise and answer their own questions, thus developing their own minds;
- encourage children to reflect upon their own beliefs and practices;
- enable pupils to be aware of a 'spiritual dimension to their lives';
- provide first hand experiences (as far as possible) for child to explore their own faith and that of others
- use a variety of resources and activities e.g. ICT, videos, AV resources to enhance the learning in R.E.

Assessment

The diocesan scheme of work and supplementary materials sets out end of key stage statements and levels of achievement for each particular area.

Records

Along with the other foundation subjects, records of individual pupils' achievements in R.E. are kept. These, together with the assessment sheets provide evidence to support the writing of end of year reports to, and the discussion with parents of their child's progress.

R.E. Monitoring and Review

R.E will be reviewed regularly, based on the school's monitoring and evaluation system. This includes a review of the scheme of work, classroom observations, scrutiny of pupil work and pupil interviews. The RE subject leader will also produce a yearly action plan in line with this.