

Religious Education Policy

Let your light shine Matthew 5:16

Religious Education in Grimsargh St Michael's C of E School is of the highest standard, always striving for excellence, reflecting the school's distinctive Christian character.

The Mission Statement of the school:

Inspiring, achieving and believing in our loving Christian community.

The Mission Statement for Religious Education:

The school believes RE has a key role in enabling pupils to develop values, attitudes and beliefs, respect for other religions and ways of life. It is hoped that RE will support pupils in the formation of their own beliefs, values and attitudes, that they might develop fully in a rapidly changing world. RE is in accordance with the beliefs and traditions of the Church of England. This is also reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school community. The conduct of the school as a whole reflects the Church of England ethos.

Although Religious Education and Collective Worship naturally compliment and enrich one another, they are managed separately.

Religious Education in Grimsargh St Michael's School lies at the very heart of the curriculum

- the Governors have adopted the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education Syllabus for RE which reflects the National Framework for RE, the National Society Statement of Entitlement and the requirements of SIAMS;
- at least 5% of curriculum time is devoted to RE;
- Christianity plays a central role in RE, taking up between two thirds and three quarters of the time available;
- appropriate teaching about other faiths and world views is included.

The Religious Education curriculum maintains a balanced approach of Learning about Religion (Attainment Target 1) and Learning from Religion (Attainment Target 2)

Learning about Religion

We learn about

- God who reveals the truth about himself and humanity through creation, the giving of the law, his action in history and through the prophets;
- God who reveals himself ultimately in Jesus his Son, living among us and dying and rising for us;
- God who reveals himself in his Spirit working in the living faith of the Church experienced through scripture, tradition and reason.

Learning from Religion

We learn from

- an empathetic response to the Christian faith and a critical engagement with it;
- responding personally to the stories and teachings of Jesus Christ;
- examples of Christian living which give priority to the values of unconditional love, forgiveness, reconciliation, justice, compassion and faith.

Religious Education in Grimsargh St. Michael's School helps 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.

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 in Grimsargh St. Michael's School helps 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.

The distinctive content of the Religious Education Curriculum in Grimsargh St. Michael's School includes:

- 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 and other churches 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;

Religious Education in Grimsargh St. Michael's School 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.

RE makes a significant contribution to pupils' Spiritual, Moral Social and Cultural development.

Spiritual development within RE in the School enriches and encourages the pupils' discovery of God the creator, of their 'inmost being' and of the wonder of the environment. Moral development is based on the teachings of Jesus Christ, which offer pupils a secure foundation stone on which to make decisions and build their lives.

Social development enriches pupils' understanding of what it means to live in a Christian community where Jesus' command to love one another is put into practice. Cultural development provides opportunities to develop an understanding of Christianity as a worldwide, multi-cultural faith that has an impact on the lives of millions of people.

SEN provision

It is the school's policy to ensure that work is matched to pupils' needs. Each teacher will plan work accordingly to provide for pupils of differing abilities.

RE is planned to be creative and challenging for the children. RE is delivered through a variety of teaching methods to increase accessibility of all children. Challenging work is planned to enable children to achieve their full potential.

Resources (* Resources for the new syllabus to be purchased as required)

Each unit on the BDBE Syllabus has been resourced to date and resources are kept in the relevant classrooms or stored centrally. An audit is made annually and resources updated or replaced and any requests for resources needed for particular units purchased. We have a variety of resources - books, DVDs, artefacts, posters and web sites.

Assessment and record keeping

This is in accordance with guidance given in the BDBE RE Syllabus. We ensure that work planned for children enables them to achieve a level in line with what they are capable of achieving elsewhere in the National Curriculum. Children are encouraged to reflect on their work.

The Parental Rights of Withdrawal in a Voluntary Aided School.

Parents may request the governing body to provide Religious Education for their children according to the Agreed Syllabus. This can only be requested when parents cannot, with reasonable convenience, arrange for their children to attend another school where Religious Education is provided according to the Agreed Syllabus. The governing body **should** make provision unless the circumstances make it unreasonable to do so.

Should the governing body be unable to make such arrangements for Religious Education to be delivered according to the Agreed Syllabus, the responsibility for doing so then falls on the Local Authority. The Local Authority may decide that such a request for separate Religious Education is unreasonable and the parental request then fails.

Parents may withdraw their children from Religious Education as they may in any school and this opportunity **is** described in the school brochure.

'The Worship and Religious Education provided by the school is in accordance with the Church of England or Methodist Church Foundation. This foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school community. Since the conduct of the school as a whole reflects the Church of England or Methodist Church ethos, removal of pupils from Worship and/or Religious Education (as parents are legally entitled to do) cannot insulate them from the religious life of the school.'

If such a request for withdrawal is made, the Headteacher should explore the reasons for the request and seek to arrive at an accommodation. It may be that only some elements of Religious Education or Worship are objected to.

R.E. Co-ordinator; C Towers

Head Teacher; K. Ward

Review date; January 2019

During 2018 the school is introducing the revised Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education Syllabus for RE. This has been revised to include aspects from the new Understanding Christianity resource. It is not a completely new syllabus but includes new material, resources, requirements and assessment.