



Religious Education Policy

Huxley CE Primary School

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

The Importance of Religious Education

To a Church school, religious education and collective worship should be seen as part of an integrated experience, with collective worship acting as an expression of what is taught in many RE lessons. Pupils gain a religious education in its fullest sense in a Church school through good, well-planned and well-organized collective worship, through the example of Christian teachers, and through the quality of RE teaching.

The Way Ahead, para 4.14

Purpose

This document is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for the teaching and learning of Religious Education at Huxley CE Primary School. The spiritual and moral development of our children underpins all aspects of our school life.

Religious Education should address the following (as taken from the RE strand of the 2018 SIAMS Evaluation Schedule):

- Pupils are inspired by RE and recognise it as a challenging but safe space to explore their own and others' religious, spiritual and philosophical convictions critically and responsibly.
- Pupils confidently give age appropriate theologically, philosophically and sociologically informed accounts of Christianity and other religious traditions.
- Pupils have significant opportunities to engage in dialogue with a range of religions and worldviews. They give age appropriate evaluative accounts of the continuing role of religion in contemporary British and global society.
- Aspire to tolerance.
- RE leaders in the school are recognised as actively involved in leading innovation within school and at local, regional, or even national level.

Agreed Procedure Planning & Teaching

Religious Education follows the 'Cheshire West and Chester agreed syllabus for Religious Education' 2019.

In Key Stage 1, children are expected to have 36 hours of religious education each year (e.g. 50 minutes per week). However, this may be done in blocks of time or in a cross-curricular way according to the topic.

In Key Stage 2, children are expected to have 45 hours of religious education each year (e.g. 60 minutes per week). However, this may be done in blocks of time or in a cross-curricular way according to the topic.

Due to mixed-age classes, RE long-term planning is on a three year rolling programme in the Infants and four year rolling programme in the Juniors based upon the long term plan for Religious Education in Chester Diocesan Primary Schools in Cheshire West and Chester: (see Appendix 1). Staff notate and divide the units of work from the medium term planning so that it informs the short term planning. Each religion is allotted the amount of time below:

Foundation stage	KS1
Christianity and others to meet EYFS requirements of understanding the world	Christianity - three terms Judaism - one term Islam - one term Free choice enquiry - one term
KS2 (year 3 and year 4)	KS2 (year 5 and year 6)
Christianity - three terms Sikhism/Hinduism - one term Judaism - ½ term Islam - ½ term Free choice enquiry - one term	Christianity - three terms Islam - one terms Hinduism/Sikhism - one term (whichever was not delivered in years 3 or 4) Free choice enquiry - one term

Aims

The purpose of teaching Religious Education in school is:

- To show pupils that Christianity is about following the living God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and is relevant to their daily lives.
- To extend pupil's ability to reflect upon themselves as whole people, experiencing life through body, mind and spirit.
- To help pupils understand the significance of religion and its contribution to their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Huxley teachers aim, through their teaching:

- To provide a course of Religious Education following the long term plan for Religious Education in Chester Diocesan Primary Schools in Cheshire West and Chester, appropriate to the educational needs of the pupils in our school, at their different stages of development.
- To contribute to the spiritual, social and moral development of the school as a caring community and the pupils as individuals.
- To assist and encourage experiences of Christian life and worship.
- Through study of major world religions, to encourage understanding and appreciation of the rich diversity of religious beliefs and practices in society today.

Huxley CE Primary School aims to encourage pupils:

- To grow in awareness of others through learning activities involving sharing and co-operation and to develop trust and respect for others.
- To formulate their own sense of purpose in life and to embark upon a personal search for a faith by which to live.
- To learn something of the religious experiences of others.
- To develop their own beliefs, values and ideals in the light of their experiences.
- To develop respect for other people, their beliefs and their life-styles.
- To develop an enquiring attitude towards religion and to explore activities of prayer and worship.

Implementation

At present, Religious Education is taught to each class by their class teacher with the support of clergy from local churches and visiting speakers.

Religious Education is taught in a 'whole class' setting, but with flexibility to allow for discussion, questioning and reflection in small groups and individually.

Visits to local churches outside the school's parish, such as St. Helen's C of E, Tarporley and Chester Cathedral, will be integrated into the appropriate areas of study in both Key Stages.

Visiting Religious Education theatre groups enable pupils to see Bible stories through drama and music.

Due to the suggested approaches of responding to religion, it is not assumed that all lessons/learning will be recorded in an exercise book in a traditional manner. It is down to the judgement of the individual teacher delivering the RE unit to decide how the children's learning can best be recorded e.g. class book, digitally, post-it notes, ring binder of examples collated by teacher. Wherever possible all pupils will learn from primary source material as well as through the use of outside speakers with relevant experience and audio-visual aids. A variety of teaching approaches are encouraged:

Teacher presentations, role play, drama and storytelling.

Questions and answer sessions, discussions and debates.

Individual and group research.

Photographs, pictures and maps.

I.C.T, television, film, CD, radio, laptops and iPads to research and communicate ideas.

Links are made with relevant articles in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Mind Friendly strategies will support teaching and learning as appropriate.

Visits to places of worship and drama workshops and visiting theatre companies also support the work of Religious Education in school.

Religious Education is taught as a discrete subject but, where appropriate, links are made with the class theme.

Withdrawals

It is the parent/carers' legal right to withdraw their child from Religious Education. If there are any children whose parents exercise their right to withdraw them from Religious Education, alternative activities will be provided in consultation with the children's parents. Children will still be encouraged to engage and reflect upon teaching in a way which promotes tolerance and opportunities in which they can explore their own spirituality/religious beliefs and that of others.

If the school feels a child/children may struggle with the content of a Religious Education lesson e.g. death, the school, in consultation with the parent(s), will agree the best course of action for the child(ren).

Special Educational Needs

Pupils with special educational needs will work alongside the other children in their group, as in other curriculum areas, but differentiation in approach, language and expected outcomes, will be appropriate to the varying needs in the class.

Huxley CE Primary school aims to meet the full entitlement of every child in the school.

To optimize inclusion, the pupil's differing needs for learning (including pupils with special educational needs) will be addressed through differentiated activities.

Equal Opportunities

Religious Education as an essential part of the curriculum should be relevant, worthwhile and accessible to all.

It should express that all pupils are loved and valued by God as part of creation.

Huxley CE Primary School aims to help their pupils to respect themselves and to be sensitive to the needs of others.

Resources

Religious Education resources will be reviewed and updated regularly considering budgetary constraints. The school bank of resources is supplemented by loan of books and artefacts from the education library service.

Assessment, Recording & Reporting

The staff appreciate that assessment of progress in Religious Education should be undertaken with sensitivity, based upon the teacher's observations of the child in class or group discussions, activities or recorded work. Staff use the progression statements documented in appendix 2 to assess children's progress. Samples of work are kept by the Religious Education Coordinator. Summative reports to parents will be made at the end of the year.

Monitoring

The Religious Policy will be reviewed each year by Staff and Governors and amendments made where necessary, to ensure it meets the needs of their current pupils.

Planning, teaching/learning and assessment in Religious Education will be monitored by the Headteacher/Area Leader on a termly basis.

This Policy is based on the 'Cheshire West and Chester Agreed Syllabus of Religious Education' (2019). It was last revised and reviewed in May 2020 and last reviewed in May 2020 by staff and governors.

It should be read in conjunction with our: Anti-Bullying Policy; Collective Worship Policy; Equality Policy; E-Safety Policy; Safeguarding Policy.

Headteacher: Cathy Davies

Subject Lead: Elizabeth Williams

Governor:

Date: May 2020

Review Date: Summer 2021.