



In his footsteps we love, learn and flourish....

Just as Jesus encouraged us to 'love your neighbour as yourself', (Mark 12:31) we celebrate the differences of all in our caring and safe Christian school. Through Jesus' example as a teacher, we are committed to developing a love of learning in our Christian family, where all are valued as children of God. At St John's, we believe that in our school filled with love, everyone will be supported to explore their full potential and contribute to the wonder of the world.

Policy for Religious Education

Subject Leader: Jayne Wallington

MISSION STATEMENT

At St John's we work hard, aim high and are good friends to each other.
Our Christian school is a happy place where learning together is fun!

As a Voluntary Controlled School we are required by law (unless parents request otherwise) to provide RE in accordance with the Lancashire Syllabus. However, as a Church school we use Diocesan materials (RE Syllabus 2017) to provide our RE teaching.

The provision of Collective Worship is daily (with a family assembly on Friday) and involves the whole school. During our Collective Worship (which starts each day and finishes our week) we use a call and response.

Call and response

God is good
All the time
And all the time
God is good
And that's his nature wow.

At St Johns we use this call and response to teach that God's nature is good and we can demonstrate his goodness in how we treat each other. It is a prayer that is used in churches across the globe as a part of corporate worship. We wanted a call and response for use in collective worship that was accessible to all pupils and in order to aid this further we also use actions which help to teach children that prayer and worship involve our whole selves.

During Worship, we use a lit candle to give us a focus whilst praying and to remind us all that 'Jesus is the light of the world'.

We sing together to praise God and to join together to celebrate the joy of the Christian faith

We pray together to thank God for his blessings and to give us time to reflect and think about our practical Christian commitment /work for that day

As a Church of England primary school with a strong link with the local church, the Christian faith and its values form an essential part of the life of our school. We believe that a strong Christian ethos nurtures children's spirituality, character and personality and we encourage children to demonstrate the Christian Values in all they do. Our aim is to develop the children's knowledge and understanding of Christianity in order to help address some of the fundamental questions in life in order to understand the challenge faced by Christians in today's pluralist and post-modern society.

The provision of Religious Education is weekly and takes place within the class base. Religious Education in a Church School lies at the heart of the curriculum and at least 5% of our curriculum time is devoted to it.

The teaching is predominantly Christian with appropriate teaching about other faiths and beliefs. The teaching is assessed using the key questions and the 'I know' and 'I can' statements which link to formulate the end of key stage expectations.

We would expect the majority of St John's children to achieve at least the expected level by the end of key stage two.

All staff at St John's are fully committed to the Christian ethos and strive to teach it/demonstrate it/live it and develop our Christian values through everything we do.

As a whole school we have worked together to create our own St John's Biblical frieze which is displayed around the school and referred to at every opportunity-thus linking the Bible and its' stories with our everyday life.

We also positively demonstrate 'forgiveness' by encouraging children to apologise for mistakes and to move on. This strongly reflects Jesus' Christian forgiveness of our sins and the ability to always allow us to make a new start.

Curriculum and School Organisation

At St John's, we use Questful RE plans and resources. Plans are usually annotated by the teacher delivering the unit so that they can be adapted to meet the needs of the cohort of children receiving the teaching.

The 'Understanding Christianity' resource is available to supplement the Questful RE materials.

These plans are stored in the Headteacher's office and on the T drive

The main office contains a shelving unit with artefacts and resources for each of the six faiths (Buddhism/Sikhism/Islam/Hinduism/Judaism and Christianity) taught in school. Other materials (books/resources) are also labelled and stored in individual class bases and catalogued within the non-fiction library.

Learning in Religious Education is usually interactive and includes a high proportion of discussion and debate which may be whole class or in smaller groups. Information Technology (including i-pads) is used wherever appropriate to develop the provision of the teaching.

We are very lucky to be positioned next to the church and take full advantage of this by visiting church regularly and by encouraging the church leaders and laity to come into school. This ensures that the children are very familiar with our church and its people and can recognise the church as a living and vital part of our school and local community.

We often use the local church (St John's) and the members of the church to enhance lessons and this may include visits to church for a baptism or tour of the church. Most recently we were involved in the centennial remembrance for the end of WW1 and we took groups of children into church to take part in workshops about life in the trenches. The display was especially powerful because it related to young people and families from our own parish and who also attended our school. The youth leaders may come into school to support units of work –i.e. prayer in Reception. The clergy help with the understanding of the Eucharist. Occasional visits outside our local area enhance the teaching of RE. - i.e. Leavers Service at Liverpool Cathedral

Links with other Subjects

Religious Education has links with other areas of the curriculum including English, History, PSHE and Art. It is also linked to the way in which the school organises its Collective Worship. Collective Worship is provided according to LA guidelines and while it is seen as being distinct from Religious Education, there are certain links which can be identified. For example, during the variety of forms of collective worship there will be time given for the members of the school community to reflect; there will be opportunities for spiritual development, a particular Religious Education theme may be developed; class teachers may use their year-group theme to develop other areas of the curriculum; and visitors from one of the religions being studied may take part or be involved in a whole school assembly.

Religious Education also provides opportunities for teaching the following cross-curricular dimensions – Equal Opportunities, Personal and Social Education and Education for Ethnic Diversity.

Teaching Religious Education

At St John's, Religious Education is taught by individual class teachers/teaching assistants and the Headteacher. However, the right of any member of staff to withdraw from the teaching of Religious Education is recognised and respected.

Class teachers/teaching assistants and the Headteacher are responsible for their own class organisation and teaching style in relation to Religious Education, while at the same time ensuring these complement and reflect the overall aims and philosophy of the school.

Within any one class, children are given the opportunity to work as a class, as individuals and as part of a group. The choice of class organisation will be determined by the learning task or activity and the resources being used.

Withdrawal from Religious Education

It is recognised that parents have the right to withdraw their child from Religious Education – in its entirety or in part. This is clearly stated in the School Prospectus. If a parent chooses to withdraw their child from Religious Education then arrangements are made for that child to be withdrawn during Religious Education lessons by the class teacher in consultation with the Headteacher.

The Religious Education Subject Leader

As with other curriculum areas, there is a Subject Leader who is responsible for Religious Education. The RE Subject leader receives any written materials or information which arrives in school, and is responsible for the development of Religious Education as a subject throughout the school.

The Subject Leader is responsible for: helping staff to plan Religious Education for a particular class; monitoring planning and monitoring what is taught in Religious Education by spending time in classrooms and discussing provision during allocated staff meeting time.

The Subject Leader is responsible for the purchase and storage of all RE resources.

The Subject Leader may attend INSET Courses for RE or utilise training from The National College for in-school CPD.

Evaluation

Evaluation is carried out to enhance the teaching and learning of Religious Education within our school. It is the responsibility of all staff, both teaching and non-teaching, to monitor and evaluate the curriculum provision made for Religious Education within the school, in order that pupils make the greatest possible progress. The Pupil tracker monitors the individual attainment of all children. Evaluation will usually take place on a termly basis.

Evaluation may take place by means of a number of methods including:

- Looking at children's work
- The analysis of teachers' planning
- Discussion among groups of staff or the whole staff
- Classroom observation
- External inspection and advice

The evaluation and review of the policy for Religious Education and the Schemes of Work for Religious Education takes place on an annual basis, the Subject Leader considering any necessary changes or adaptations to the policy. These are then discussed and agreed by the whole staff before the policy document is amended. Throughout the year, the whole staff are encouraged to feed back information and ideas to the RE Subject Leader – this may include comments as to how a particular curriculum unit is progressing, and the work that the children are undertaking, or comments as to the availability and suitability of resources.

J Wallington 2024

