

Newchurch Community Primary

Policy Religious Education

Mission Statement

Newchurch will give every child a flying start by working in partnership with parents, staff and the community to develop well-rounded citizens who will contribute in a positive way to society.

Persons with Responsibility

Curriculum Team Two
Jayne Narraway - Team Leader
Jess Tonge
Sue Storey
Toni Dixon
Sara Lawrenson

Linked Policies

PSHE
SMSC
Collective Worship
Racial Equality
Equality
Access

Next Review: May 2018



Statement of Commitment

The school aims to help our children to begin to formulate their own sense of purpose in life and their links with the local and wider community. We focus upon developing their knowledge and understanding of Christianity, and other faiths and the realisation that beliefs or values can influence decisions in people's daily lives. Children are actively encouraged to respect the beliefs and views of others including their lifestyle and religion.

Introduction

Religious Education makes an important contribution to pupils' learning and development by enabling them to reflect upon themselves as whole people, experiencing the world through not only their physical but also through their moral and spiritual 'senses'. It influences all aspects of their development, and encourages respect, understanding and tolerance for the wide variety of moral and religious views in contemporary society. Teachers are equally aware that such diversity must also be respected when attempting to build upon previous knowledge or assumed shared beliefs. For this reason, teaching religious education often includes reference to possible variations in interpretation of, for example, events, stories or actions. As they mature, pupils will be encouraged to examine such interpretations critically as a means to formulate their own views. Clearly such development should continue throughout life.

Procedures and General Requirements

Religious Education is, as legally required, included alongside the National Curriculum. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from Religious Education if they wish (a letter is required). Although there is no obligation to state the reasons for their action, parents are encouraged to discuss the situation with the Headteacher or a member of staff to avoid any misunderstandings and to explore how withdrawal can be best accommodated. The school will continue to be responsible for the supervision of any child withdrawn from lessons, and it will ensure that the pupil has something purposeful to do so that he/she is not made to feel isolated or different.

Aims and Objectives

- Help pupils in their search for the meaning of life
- Develop an understanding of the contribution that religion makes to morality, personal and social relationships, rights and responsibilities
- Through studies, develop attitudes of wonder, respect for others, integrity and commitment
- Teach the principles of right and wrong
- Assist pupils to develop understanding and respect for different cultural values and traditions

- Prepare them for life in a multi-cultural society

Programme of work

Newchurch follow the Warrington and Lanchashire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education. 50% of the curriculum focuses on Christianity, with the other 50% distributed to Islam, Judaism, Sikhism, Hinduism and Buddhism (distributed across all the year groups)

Teaching and learning styles will include the use of stories, artefacts, videos, role-play, written work, visiting speakers and visits to places of worship.

As part of their learning experiences, the children will take part in an RE theme day and visit places of worship linked to the different religions they study. A designated day is set for the teaching of RE and is monitored by a member of Curriculum Team Two.

Assessment

The children are assessed through a range of activities, both orally and in written form against the age related expectations.

Assessment in the Early Years Foundation Stage

As part of the Prime Area of 'Personal, Social and Emotional Development' and the Specific Area of 'Understanding the World', the children will be assessed against the relevant Early Learning Goals which look at showing respect for others and also the differences between people.

Children will be assessed through observations of child initiated, directed and spontaneous learning. Evidence may take the form of anecdotal conversations, photographs or written observations.

Resources

Resources for particular units are developed by teachers. Wherever possible visual resources are used for their impact and ICT plays an important role. The school has a wealth of resources located in the Y3/4 corridor for each of the faiths covered. Visitors and fieldtrips are planned to enhance learning and provide first-hand experiences.

Promoting British Values

At Newchurch, we ensure that the British Values are embedded in our whole curriculum, and particularly RE. We have a British Values week at the start of the school year which links in with the RE curriculum.

A strong partnership exists between Newchurch and our partner school in Soweto, South Africa. The children have an opportunity to think about children from different backgrounds and with different beliefs. Staff from Newchurch have visited the South African link school and staff from our link school have also made reciprocal visits. A joint curriculum project is designed between the teachers from both schools during their visits.

People from different ethnic backgrounds have also visited school to work with the children on various art and music projects. We constantly look for opportunities to develop a tolerance and appreciation of diversity.

As part of school improvement we ensure that all pupils have the opportunity to visit a variety of religious places of worship.

Special Needs and Equal Opportunities

All pupils are given full and equal access to the Religious Education curriculum. Teachers do, however, plan differentiated work and / or differentiated outcomes for tasks. This differentiation may also be by level of support or method of recording. Teachers ensure that at the point of planning, they make the levels explicit next to the learning objectives.

RE Theme Days

On Religious Education Theme Days, pupils have the opportunity to take part in a range of RE activities. The format is planned and led by Curriculum Team Two, and may include links to other subjects. The aim is to raise the profile of RE through the school. The activities may also be used to assess skills and monitor progression in and across Key Stages.

Health and Safety

When organising educational trips, staff, and in some cases children, complete appropriate risk assessments; an adequate ratio of adults to pupils is included. This is uploaded onto the Evolve system www.warringtonvisits.org which will then be sent for approval to Mr Duckett.

INSET and Staff Development

Staff will be kept informed of any courses which are relevant to their themes in the medium term plans by the Headteacher or the Curriculum Team Two

leader. The RE Lead attends the SACRE conference each year in order to enrich and improve the RE curriculum.

Monitoring of Standards

As part of our monitoring and evaluation policy, Curriculum Team Two monitors RE by:

- Scrutiny of teacher's planning
- Scrutiny of children's books
- Carrying out pupil conferences

On occasions, they will monitor:

- Conducting learning walks
- Lesson observations
- Observations of the learning environment

Policy Review

Curriculum Team Two is responsible for the annual review of the policy. This is done in consultation with staff and Governors.

Review date: May 2018