

Hornby St Margaret's CE Primary School

“It is the aim of the school to develop the academic potential of each child: and to cater for the social, moral, physical and spiritual requirements of the individual in a happy and secure Christian environment.”

Policy for Religious Education

Fundamentals

At Hornby St Margaret's C of E Primary School, the Religious Education provided is in conformity with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England as laid down in Trust Deed.

The Religious Education in the school contributes to the **Mission Statement** of the school

The school's Religious Education gives the children a thorough knowledge of Christianity and contributes to the pupil's knowledge of the Church of England. It develops and fosters a caring attitude towards others and to the environment. Within Religious Education we aim to promote the pupils' spiritual development and to help the children to explore and reflect on the key values of life – mutual love, goodness, truth, respect and compassion. We use Religious Education to foster pupils' sense of self worth.

We have adopted the Religious Education Syllabus 2013 of the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education and the North Lancashire Methodist District.

A minimum of 1 hour per week is timetabled at both Key Stages 1 and 2 for Religious Education. The teaching of Christianity takes up approximately 80% of the curriculum time. Non-Christian faiths are to be studied and they will take up the remaining 20% of the curriculum time.

The Religious Education Syllabus is generally separate from Collective Worship but at times Collective Worship will complement Religious Education e.g. Christian Festivals and Prayer.

Hornby St Margaret's C of E Primary School has strong links with its Parish Church and Minister. The Incumbent has regular contact with the children through weekly Collective Worship held in school and through school attendance at Parish services on special days. Visits to the Parish Church, as part of the children's Religious Education, are encouraged. We have links with the local Roman Catholic Church - children who attend this church receive instruction from the Parish Priest by arrangement with individual families.

Broad Aims

General Aim

Religious Education at Hornby St Margaret's C of E Primary School aims to help children develop their own beliefs, values and attitudes through an exploration of shared human experience within a Christian environment. The children's learning and development will be helped by exploring religious beliefs and practices, with particular reference to the Church of England.

To Learn about Religion

- To give the children a thorough knowledge of Christianity e.g. the life of Jesus, the history of Christianity and its followers, festivals, worship and the Bible.
- To understand religious symbols, imagery and language.
- Contribute to the pupils' knowledge of the Church of England.
- To give pupils an insight into, and the skills which are needed for, prayer.
- To actively seek links with other local Christian churches.
- To teach children about the wonder of God's love.
- To foster an attitude of respect and tolerance to all faiths and to explore some of the similarities within faiths.
- To give the pupils a knowledge and understanding of the central beliefs of other faiths.

To Explore Shared Human Experiences

- To develop pupil's spiritual lives.
- To develop and foster a caring attitude and a sense of wonder towards creation.
- To help pupils to make sense of their own experiences.
- To foster pupils' sense of self worth.
- To help children explore and reflect on the key values of life e.g. goodness, truth, love, compassion.
- To help pupils communicate their thoughts, feelings and insights. To develop their thinking by reflection and questioning.

Learning from Religion to develop beliefs, values and attitudes

- To help pupils reflect on and come to a view about life's ultimate questions.
- To help children develop their own beliefs.
- To help children understand Christian beliefs.
- To help pupils develop caring and understanding attitudes towards others.
- To show children that religion and faith matter to individuals and society, and makes a difference to believers' lives.
- To contribute to the pupils' experience of Christianity as a living faith.
- To encourage children in their own faith.
- To develop a positive attitude towards religion.

Religious Education's Contribution to the Pupils' Personal Development

Religious Education has a particularly important contribution to make to the spiritual, moral, cultural and social development of children.

The pupils at Hornby St Margaret's C of E Primary School have a restricted everyday experience of the increasingly pluralistic nature of British society, they have few contacts with faith communities other than Christianity. Religious Education has a crucial contribution to make towards children's greater understanding of our multi-faith society.

To extend the children's knowledge of other cultures we are using Religious Education as a tool to give the pupils some understanding of Jewish and Islamic beliefs and way of life.

Equal Opportunities

Religious Education allows time for the discussion of many equal opportunity issues such as discrimination by belief, ethnicity or social circumstance. We aim to develop in the children an appreciation, understanding and respect for the rights, needs and feelings of others.

Approaches to Religious Education

Religious Education is timetabled as a separate subject but is also taught implicitly at many times. Ideas and concepts that underpin faith arise in everyday situations e.g. the wonder of nature, the recognition of pattern or order, the understanding of love and trust.

A wide range of activities are used within RE teaching – visits, meeting believers, handling artefacts, visual resources e.g. videos, wall charts, role play, discussions, story, dance and music.

Progression

It is important to recognise the progression through the school so that the children's understanding and appreciation develops as their maturity allows them to reflect and question their own beliefs and values. By using the Diocesan material content areas are re-visited with increasingly complex ideas. For example, the main Christian Church festivals that are covered throughout the school every year show progression. Teachers choose activities appropriate to the age group from the mixed-age planning sheets in the syllabus.

Reflection

There is a need to develop and refine beliefs and values. We expect children to mature in relation to their personal values by reflecting on religious beliefs and practices and their response to these aspects of shared human experiences such as the natural world and relationships with others.

Provision for Pupils of Differing Ability

We aim to provide differentiated work for differing pupil ability. All children benefit from work that is relevant and this is particularly so for those with Special Needs. Every child has an entitlement to be taught the full range of subjects including RE.

Assessment, Record Keeping and Reporting to Parents

RE is assessed within a topic using suggestions from the Diocesan syllabus. Teachers record observations in the form of notes, relating to written, oral, practical work and recognition of artefacts.

No judgement must be made about whether a pupil's religious beliefs are right or wrong.

An annual written report is sent to parents during the Summer Term.

Links with St. Margaret's Church, Hornby

Visits to the church building are used to gain factual information, to sense the atmosphere and to gain inspiration. The Incumbent is keen to support us in the use of the building and is prepared to assist in visits if wished. Members of the church are willing to discuss their role in the church community.

Staff Development

INSET is provided when necessary.

The Legal Requirements for Religious Education

Religious education is governed by both the 1944 and 1988 Education Acts as well as by the school's Trust Deed. This legislation requires Religious Education to be provided for all pupils (1988 Education Reform Act, Section 2(1) (a).) The Headteacher and Governors will try to respond sympathetically if there are strong conscientious grounds for parents requesting withdrawal. The type of Religious Education provided must be in accordance with the Trust Deed. (Church of England)

Right of Withdrawal

Parents of pupils in VA schools are permitted, by law, to request that their child is withdrawn from receiving all or part of religious education and/or collective worship given at the school and any such request shall stand until such time that the parent's request is withdrawn.

Complaints about the Provision of Religious Education

It is hoped that any complaint will be resolved informally by the Head Teacher, in consultation with the Governors, and possibly with advice from the Diocese. However, if the complaint is not satisfactorily resolved then formal procedures come into play and the matter will be adjudicated by a specially constituted sub-committee of the Diocesan Board of Education acting on behalf of the Bishop of the Diocese.

Request for RE according to the LEA Syllabus

Parents may request governors to provide Religious Education according to the LEA Agreed Syllabus. This can only be requested when parents cannot, with reasonable

convenience, arrange for their children to attend another school where RE is provided according to the Agreed Syllabus. Governors may make such provision but equally may not. The responsibility for so doing then falls on the Local Authority who can decide whether or not to supply such non-denominational Religious Education.

Siams Report 17th March 2017

Our last church school inspection found; *The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding.*

It identified the following area to improve below which will inform School Improvement Planning:

Areas to improve

Strengthen the awareness of all learners of the rich diversity of Christianity as a multicultural, world faith.