



Filey C E Nursery & Infants Academy

'Inspiring Confident Learners, Reflecting Christian Values'

We endeavour to uphold Christian teaching to:

"Shine as lights in the world and love as Jesus loves us" (Philippians 2:15, John 13.34)

Our school is a Church of England School rooted in 'Compassion, Community and Friendship'.

Religious Education Policy

Definition:

Religious Education (RE) enables children to investigate and reflect on some of the most fundamental questions asked by people. At Filey CE Nursery and Infants Academy we develop the children's knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other world faiths. Children reflect on what it means to have a faith and to develop their own spiritual knowledge and understanding. We help the children to learn from religions (exploring and responding to human experience) as well as about religions (developing knowledge).

Introduction:

The teaching of RE allows children both to learn about religious traditions and to reflect on what the religious ideas and concepts mean to them. Our teaching enables children to extend their own sense of values and promotes their spiritual growth and development. We encourage children to think about their own views and values in relation to the themes and topics studied in the RE curriculum. The RE curriculum forms an important part of our school's spiritual, moral and social teaching. It enables the school to inspire confident learners and reflect our Christian values of Community, Compassion and Friendship. It also promotes education for citizenship. Children are encouraged to build on their own experiences and extend their knowledge and understanding of religious traditions. Strong links with St. John's Church in Filey and with the clergy of the Parish enriches their experiences and helps to develop their religious thinking. Direct experience comes from organised visits to local places of worship and visits from representatives of local religious groups who come into school and talk to the children or lead collective worship. Volunteers from St John's Church also run a lunchtime 'Sparklers' group and lead an 'Open the Book' Collective Worship once per half term. A programme of study sets out what children should be taught and lesson content is based upon the North Yorkshire LA's Agreed Syllabus for RE. The Units are set out so they can be used alongside the new curriculum. Lesson content may

be adapted to meet the needs of individual classes or to make links with other subject areas. RE is often linked to PSED and to collective worship and staff have access to SEAL materials to aid planning.

Aims and purposes of Religious Education:

RE at Filey CE Nursery and Infants Academy provides children with the opportunity to:

- Develop their knowledge and understanding of, and their ability to respond to Christianity and other major world religions represented in Great Britain;
- Understand and respect different religious beliefs, values and traditions;
- Consider questions of life from beginning to end;
- Learn about religious and ethical teaching;
- Develop their sense of identity and belonging, preparing them for life;
- Reflect on, analyse and evaluate their beliefs, values and practices and communicate their responses.

How Religious Education supports our School Aims:

RE enables children to develop values and attitudes that support our school aims. In particular children work both independently, encouraging them to be independent learners, and with others, listening to others' ideas and treating these with respect. They take pride in, and celebrate their achievements and the achievements of others by reviewing their work, experiences and knowledge, and recognising the progress made in reaching that result. The subject enables children to develop a respect for each other, to develop their own cultural awareness and understanding, and appreciate the value of differences and similarities. They develop an understanding that all people are equal regardless of age, race, gender or ability. RE at Filey CEVC Nursery and Infant School enables the school to inspire confident learners and reflect Christian values.

Legal Requirements:

Our school curriculum for RE meets the requirements of the Education Acts 1996 and 2002, the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, the Children Act 2004 and the Education and Inspections Act 2006. These stipulate that Religious Education is compulsory for all children, including those in Reception classes. The above acts allow parents to withdraw their child from RE classes if they so wish. Our school RE curriculum meets all the requirements set out in the North Yorkshire Agreed Syllabus document. As a school we have worked closely with children, staff and Governors to select the most significant Christian Values that reflect the ethos that we consider most pertinent to our community. Similarly we uphold, respect and teach core 'British Values' that are embedded within the 'EYFS Framework' and our own 'Creative Curriculum'.

Cross Curricular Opportunities:

Literacy:

Religious Education contributes significantly to the teaching of Literacy within our school by actively promoting the skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening and drama. Children are encouraged to write their own prayers.

Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship:

Through our RE lessons, we teach the children about the values and moral beliefs that underpin individual choices of behaviour. We promote the values and attitudes required for citizenship by teaching respect for others and the need for personal responsibility. In general, by promoting tolerance and understanding of other people, we enable children to appreciate what it means to be positive members of society.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development:

Through teaching RE in our school, we provide opportunities for spiritual development. We help the children to recognise the difference between right and wrong through the study of moral and ethical questions. We enhance their social development by helping them to build a sense of identity in a multicultural society. Children explore issues of religious faith and values and, in so doing they develop their knowledge and understanding of the cultural context of their own lives.

Progression in Religious Education:

We plan our RE curriculum in accordance with the North Yorkshire Agreed Syllabus. We ensure that the topics studied in RE build upon prior learning. We offer opportunities for children of all abilities to develop their skills and knowledge in each unit. And we ensure that the planned progression built into each unit offers the children an increasing challenge as they move through school. In the Foundation stage RE is linked to knowledge and understanding of the world and personal, social and emotional development sections of the Early Years Curriculum. We build on children's own previous experiences, beginning with those brought into Nursery.

Equal Opportunities:

We believe that it is important for all children to experience a rich and varied RE Curriculum. We recognise the fact that all classes in our school have children of widely differing abilities, and that the children have different experiences of religion. We provide suitable learning opportunities for all the children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child, and providing a wide range of activities to address all learning styles. We use teaching assistants to support the work of individuals or groups of children where relevant and available.

Role of the Co-ordinator

- To lead the development of RE in school
- To provide guidance to individual members of staff
- To keep up to date with local, diocesan and national developments in RE and disseminate relevant information
- To review the position and use of RE resources and regularly update staff on new resources, ideas, materials etc.
- To review and monitor planning to ensure that RE is being taught effectively throughout school.
- To be responsible for the organisation and maintenance of RE resources.
- To collaborate with all class teachers and produce medium term plans that reflect our Christian Values and underpin our daily teaching of collective worship.

Assessment and Record Keeping:

Evidence of the children's religious experiences are evident throughout a range of sources within our school.

- Within the school hall we have a designated area where religious artefacts are shared and displayed during Daily Worship. A 'Collective Worship Book' highlights some of the assemblies that we have celebrated and shared together as a school community.
- The Foundation Stage classes share an 'RE Big Book' that highlights how the children have explored their 'Understanding of the World' in which they grow and learn.
- Each child in KS1 has a 'Caring Book' that reflects the religious teachings that have been taught.
- Classroom diaries highlight photographs, drawings, prayers and other media that support all classroom activities including RE.
- The Sparklers Group have a page on our website and enjoy sharing their teachings with the wider community.
- In KS1 pupil progress is tracked using attainment targets from the SACRE syllabus.

This policy was reviewed and amended in September 2023

To be reviewed September 2024

M Monks