

Christ Church CofE Primary School

Religious Education Policy



At Christ Church CofE Primary School Religious Education is taught in accordance with the Diocese Newcastle and Durham syllabus and the Understanding Christianity resource pack. We continually aim to embed Christian Values at the heart of our school life. Religious Education forms part of the basic curriculum along with other core and foundation subjects. The purpose of Religious Education is to enable the children to learn about religions and to learn from religion.

The principal aim of RE is to enable pupils to hold balanced and informed conversations about religion and belief.

This principal aim incorporates the following aims of Religious Education in Church schools:

- To enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living faith that influences the lives of people worldwide and as the religion that has most shaped British culture and heritage.
- To enable pupils to know and understand about other major world religions and non-religious worldviews, their impact on society, culture and the wider world, enabling pupils to express ideas and insights.
- To contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own beliefs and values.

Appropriate to their age at the end of their education in Church schools, the expectation is that all pupils are religiously literate and as a minimum pupils are able to:

- Give a theologically informed and thoughtful account of Christianity as a living and diverse faith.
- Show an informed and respectful attitude to religions and non-religious worldviews in their search for God and meaning.
- Engage in meaningful and informed dialogue with those of other faiths and none.
- Reflect critically and responsibly on their own spiritual, philosophical and ethical convictions.

RE is for all pupils

- Every pupil has an entitlement to Religious Education.
- RE is a necessary part of a 'broad and balanced curriculum' and must be provided for all registered pupils in state-funded schools in England, including those in the sixth form, unless withdrawn by their parents (or withdrawing themselves if they are aged 18 or over).
- This requirement does not apply for children below compulsory school age
- Special schools should ensure that every pupil receives RE 'as far as is practicable'.
- In Church schools RE has the status of a core subject.

In recognition of our distinctive context, Religious Education has a high profile, emphasising:

- The Christian foundation of the school
- A Christian ethos which permeates the whole curriculum yet has its own weight as a subject
- Christianity as a multi-world faith

- A close link with the local church family
- Allows pupils to engage seriously with and develop an understanding of the person and teachings of Jesus Christ
- A wide range of Christian resources, including artefacts

Aims

Religious Education should help pupils to:

Make Sense of Beliefs

Identifying and making sense of core religious and non-religious concepts and beliefs; understanding what these beliefs mean within their traditions; recognising how and why sources of authority are used, expressed and interpreted in different ways, and developing skills of interpretation.

Understand the Impact

Examining how and why people put their beliefs into action in diverse ways, within their everyday lives, within their communities and in the wider world.

Make connections

Reasoning about, reflecting on, evaluating and connecting the concepts, beliefs and practices studied; allowing pupils to challenge ideas and the ideas to challenge pupils' thinking; discerning possible connections between these ideas and pupils' own lives and ways of understanding the world.

The Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development lies at the heart of our curriculum; it takes place in the continuing Christian Values promoted by our School.

In Church of England schools the students and their families can expect a Religious Education curriculum that is rich and varied, enabling learners to acquire a thorough knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith: for example through the Understanding Christianity resource.

Objectives

Making sense of the text

Developing skills of reading and interpretation; understanding how Christians interpret, handle and use biblical texts; making sense of the meanings of texts for Christians.

Understanding the impact

Examining ways in which Christians respond to biblical texts and teachings, and how they put their beliefs into action in diverse ways within the Christian community and in the world.

Developing skills of reading and interpretation; understanding how Christians interpret, handle and use biblical texts; making sense of the meanings of texts for Christians.

Making connections

Evaluating, reflecting on and connecting the texts and concepts studied, and discerning possible connections between these and pupils' own lives and ways of understanding the world.

Learning and teaching

The school curriculum aims to provide opportunities for all pupils to learn and achieve and to prepare all pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life. RE is planned in line with the teaching and learning policy guidelines and follows an enquiry based approach.

Teachers follow the diocesan syllabus and the Understanding Christianity resource pack.

Teachers spend time planning RE in order to ensure that pupils have a high quality, coherent and progressive experience of the subject.

The teaching of Religious Education is organised as follows:

Foundation – Children may encounter a range of religious education related learning experiences and opportunities across all areas of learning.

KS1 & 2 – RE is organised either as weekly lessons, RE days/weeks depending on the area to be studied. There are also regular opportunities for visits/visitors to further enhance the children's learning and understanding.

February 2022

Date for next review – February 2026