



Long Marston VA C of E Primary School

RE Policy

Introduction

This policy outlines the teaching, organisation and management of Religious Education at Long Marston VA C of E Primary School.

As a Church of England Voluntary Aided School, we have a responsibility to support children in their understanding of the Christian faith and its values. Our Religious Education reflects our school Vision and Values and makes a strong contribution to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. A further aspect of our Christian commitment is that we promote respect for and understanding of all cultures and faiths and those of no faith.

Vision and Values

At Long Marston, we believe that our Religious Education teaching and learning reflects our school Vision and Values, providing pupils with opportunities to reflect on **God's love**, to **rejoice in their learning** and to **respond to challenge**.

RE both strengthens and supports what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos and the value that we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually, is reflected in our RE curriculum. Children have many opportunities in RE to encounter our school Christian Values, for example: they are taught the value of **respect** when learning about other faiths and cultures to their own; consider values such as **truthfulness**, **friendship** and **trust** when learning about Bible stories and stories from other faiths; and put into practice values of **generosity**, **compassion**, and **service** through learning about and supporting charities.

Intent

At Long Marston we aim to achieve high quality RE for all pupils, enabling them to **rejoice in their learning**. RE teaching provides pupils with a knowledge and understanding of Christianity, principal religions and worldviews. It aims to enable pupils to become religiously and theologically literate so that they can develop as active citizens and engage in life in an increasingly diverse society. It is not about telling pupils what religious views they should have, but rather supporting them in gaining understanding, developing personal identity and searching for meaning in the context of evaluating different viewpoints.

Aims

Our RE curriculum aims to ensure all pupils develop knowledge and understanding of sources of wisdom and their impact whilst exploring personal and critical responses.

Pupils should:

- Develop knowledge and a deeper understanding of the Christian faith and values and the effect on our lives, relationships and responsibilities

- Develop knowledge, understanding and respect of major world faiths
- Know, understand and explore the significance and impact of sacred texts, other sources of wisdom and ways of expressing meaning
- Express ideas and insights about beliefs, values and practices and their impact on individuals and communities
- Recognise and explore the diversity within and between religious tradition
- Express their personal reflections, critical responses and connections to faith
- Engage with challenging questions and answers offered by religions and worldviews concerning ultimate questions and human responsibility
- Demonstrate respect for other people's views and celebrate diversity within society

Planning

Our Scheme of Work is informed by the school Trust Deed alongside the Hertfordshire Agreed Syllabus and covers the eight key areas of learning from this. We make full use of the resources provided by the Understanding Christianity project. Alongside this each class focus on a series of Bible Stories as well as further themes covering aspects such as prayer, ultimate questions, festivals and the church. These are planned on a two year rolling cycle to ensure coverage and prevent repetition of themes.

The 5 major world faiths (Buddhism, Judaism, Hinduism, Islam, Sikhism) are each covered in turn as a whole school theme on a 5 year rolling programme. Pupils will encounter all of these faiths during their time at Long Marston School.

In line with the requirements of the Hertfordshire Agreed Syllabus, RE is taught for approximately 10 hours per term in KS1 and 13 hours per term in KS2. This comprises regular RE lessons as well as RE days, visits to places of worship and visitors from all faiths. The majority of RE teaching is based on Christianity (two thirds).

Teaching and Learning

The RE curriculum provides many opportunities for cross curricular learning. Objectives may be covered through art, computing, music, literacy or drama, and this variety enables children to **rejoice in their learning**. Pupils are given opportunities to develop higher order thinking skills to enable them to **respond to challenge** and we use Blooms Taxonomy (Appendix 1) to support planning and delivery of a wide range of skills.

Our curriculum supports and promotes pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and presents opportunities to consider British Values and our Christian Values.

Many resources are available to class teachers when planning and delivering RE, including:

- Understanding Christianity resource and frieze
- Picturing Christianity resource
- Visits and Visitors
- Artefacts
- 'Puddles' resources for EYFS

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

In line with the Hertfordshire Agreed Syllabus, pupil achievements are assessed against the end of phase/key stage outcomes for the eight key areas of learning. Assessment in RE is seen in its broadest sense and is not limited to measurement and testing.

A range of activities are used to enable teachers to monitor pupil achievement, for example, discussions, group work, marking, observing, asking and answering questions. This information is recorded against the outcomes. It informs our end of year judgements for each child and is used to inform RE comments on our annual reports.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of RE is carried out through lesson observations, learning walks and book scrutiny on a regular basis. This is completed by the RE Subject Leader and may be in conjunction with the head teacher and/or governors. Feedback is given to all members of staff and an outline is shared with staff and governors.

Leadership and Management

The RE Subject Leader manages the RE curriculum in line with our job description for subject leaders.

Withdrawal

All parents have the right to withdraw their children from Religious education. It is expected that any concerns will be discussed with the head teacher and curriculum leader prior to a request for withdrawal.

Date of next review: November 2021