

St Giles CE Primary School, RE and Collective Worship Policy

As a Church of England Aided School, the RE and Collective Worship reflects the overall Christian ethos of the school.

Aims

To teach religious education so that children may –

- Acquire a knowledge and understanding of the origins, content and development of the Christian religion and of other religions, their traditions and beliefs
- Understand the importance of religious experience and recognise the ways by which these experiences have been interpreted and expressed through a variety of religious traditions
- Appreciate the contribution that religious and spiritual ideas and concepts can make to their personal search for meaning and purpose in life, enabling them to develop their own spiritual values
- Look beyond self and recognise the contribution of religion in the establishment of relationships and responsibilities in the family among friends, in school, the community and the world at large
- Explore the consequences of religious belief and experiences in the development of personal attitudes
- Develop a positive attitude towards other people, respecting their right to hold different beliefs from their own, and towards living in a society of diverse religions

Objectives

In RE we foster a reflective approach to learning by encouraging an open and honest enquiry, an awareness of prejudice, a growing self – understanding and respecting the rights of others to hold beliefs different from their own by Learning about Religions and Learning from Religions

The two attainment targets with their associated statements set out the broad objectives in terms of knowledge, understanding and skills for the RE curriculum.

AT1 Learning about Religions

Identify, name, describe and give an account, in order to build a coherent picture of each religion

Explain the meanings of religious language, stories and symbolism

Explain similarities and differences between, and within, religions

AT2 Learning from Religions

Give an informed and considered response to religious and moral issues

Reflect on what might be learnt from religion in the light of personal beliefs and life experience

Identify and respond to the questions of meaning within religion

Planning

In order to ensure that our aims are met and the Programme of Study is covered at each Key Stage the school follows the Agreed Syllabus. This is planned at the beginning of each academic year in each Key Stages.

Medium term plans give details of the work covered for each term.

Short term planning of individual lessons is a matter for the class teacher.

Cross Curricular Connections

There have always been links between religion and the arts and consequently RE fits naturally with subjects such as Art, Music and Drama. Wherever possible RE will be planned to link with the main topic in the class (examples include Inspirational people – Anne Franks in KS2 World War 2 topic).

Assessment, recording and reporting

The Scheme of Work follows the Agreed Syllabus which sets out a structure for recognising pupil achievements and each pupil can work progressively towards achieving the statements of attainment as outlined in the “I Can” grid.

Through activities such as discussion with pupils, group activities, marking work, observations, asking and answering questions teachers are constantly finding out about their pupils’ achievements. This information is then recorded against the statement of attainment.

As a staff we have undertaken a moderation exercise to ensure that we are familiar with the statements and what they mean in the context of a of a pupil's work.

School reports are sent home in the summer term of each year and the RE report is written with reference to the records made and work completed.

(see school Assessment Policy)

Collective Worship

At St Giles our aims in Collective Worship are to –

- Introduce children to Christian worship in a meaningful and honest way
- Strengthen the community spirit of the school
- Raise children's sensitivity to the wonder and mystery of God's world
- Provide children with the opportunity to reflect on their own experiences and the experiences of others
- Demonstrate the Christian belief that God cares about us and the world
- Introduce children to the Bible and offer them the opportunity to have quiet reflection and thought
- Enable children to come to regard regular prayer as natural and normal
- Offer children the opportunity to have quiet reflection

Organisation

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children. Our current schedule is as follows –

Monday

Key Stage 1 and 2 assembly led by a class teacher on a rota basis

Tuesday

Whole school Worship led by the Headteacher

Wednesday

Whole school Worship / hymn practice led by the Headteacher

Thursday

Whole school assembly, led by a different class each week (am)

Friday

Whole school worship held at St Giles Church. This is co-ordinated by Father John and either led by him or another member of the school / local community. There is also a celebration of Children's learning in this assembly (Child of the Week and Birthdays). Parents are invited to join this assembly.

A termly Eucharist is held in the Church led by Father John. We also have other special services including Boy Bishop, Santa Lucia, Harvest, Carol Service and a Leaver's Service.

School based assemblies begin with the children entering the hall accompanied by a piece of music for the week. The title of this piece of music is displayed for the children to see and includes music from a variety of cultures.

School assemblies can promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Collective Worship can provide opportunities for –

Spiritual development – through helping pupils to consider and respond to questions of meaning and purpose in life, and questions about the nature and values in human society

Moral development – through helping pupils to consider and respond to areas of morality using their knowledge and understanding of religious and ethical teachings

Social development – through helping pupils to develop their sense of identity and belonging, preparing them for life as citizens in a diverse society

Cultural development – through fostering pupils' awareness and understanding in a range of beliefs, practices and values in their own society and wider world

Parents have a right to withdraw their child from lessons of Religious Education and acts of Collective Worship. However, RE lessons in particular deal with moral and social issues which are of importance to all pupils. The lessons have an important part to play in the moral and spiritual development of children.

Any parent who wishes to withdraw their child should consult the Headteacher.

2015