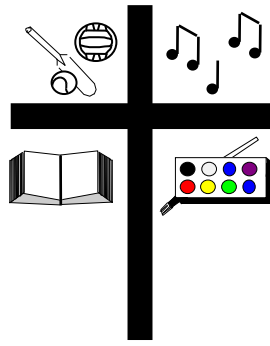


Telephone: 01928 788230
Head Teacher: Miss. H. Bettley
e-mail: head@crowton.cheshire.sch.uk



We **A**chieve, we **B**elieve, we **C**are

Crowton Christ Church C of E Voluntary Aided Primary School

Religious Education Policy - November 2020

Religious education in a Church school should enable every child to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate for dignity and respect encouraging all to live well together.

-A Statement of Entitlement, The Church of England Education Office
February 2019

At Crowton Christ Church C of E Aided Primary School we aim to promote the highest academic standards in all areas of the curriculum and provide a foundation in the Christian ethos, so that our pupils can value and live their faith to realise and achieve their full potential.

Our actions are guided by adherence to our Christian values, British Values and our concern to do the best for our children and wider school communities. We aim to teach a full curriculum that prepares our pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and diversity of life in modern Britain and the wider world through use of the Chester Diocese Syllabus.

Introduction

This document is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for the teaching and learning of Religious Education at Crowton Christ Church C of E Aided Primary School.

The spiritual and moral development of our children underpins all aspects of our school life.

Legal Requirements

Crowton Christ Church is a Church of England Aided school, therefore Religious Education must be taught in accordance with the Trust Deed and should reflect the rites, practices and beliefs of the Church of England. The governing body is responsible

for the subject in the school. This is delegated to the Head Teacher and the Religious Education subject coordinator on a daily basis.

Following the Diocese of Chester Guidelines for Religious Education, the majority of work in Religious Education will be based on the Christian faith with the introduction of one other major world religion - Judaism - at Key Stage 1. Further concepts of world faiths (Judaism, Islam, Sikhism, Hinduism and Buddhism) are taught at Key Stage 2 where knowledge and understanding can be built upon.

Religious Education will be allocated not less than 5% of the timetable. In Key Stage 1 this amounts to between 40-50 minutes per week totalling 36 hours over the year. In Key Stage 2 children should be taught Religious Education for 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ hours per week totalling 45 hours over the year. At our school, staff ensure coverage by block planning units of work for each term, classes then have an additional RE afternoons to embed key concepts and big questions.

Withdrawals

Parents have a right by law to withdraw their children from the Religious Education curriculum. In this event, the school will undertake responsibility for the supervision of withdrawn pupils with regard to health and safety, alternative work will be provided.

Aims

The purpose of teaching Religious Education in school is to:

- To show children that Christianity is about following the living God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and is relevant to their daily lives.
- To extend children's ability to reflect upon themselves as whole people, experiencing life through body, mind and spirit.
- To help pupils understand the significance of religion and its contribution to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of themselves and others.

Principles

We aim through our teaching

- To provide a course of Religious Education within the framework of the Diocese of Chester Agreed Syllabus appropriate to the educational needs of the children in our school, at their different stages of development. It is supported, where possible, with the Understanding Christianity resource.
- To contribute to the spiritual, social and moral development of the school as a caring community and the pupils as individuals.
- To assist and encourage experience of Christian life and worship.
- Through study of major world religions, to encourage understanding and appreciation of the rich diversity of religious belief and practice in society today.

We aim to encourage children in our school

- To grow in awareness of others through learning activities involving sharing and co-operation and to develop trust and respect for others.

- To formulate their own sense of purpose in life and to embark upon a personal search for a faith by which to live.
- To learn something of the religious experiences of others.
- To develop their own beliefs, values and ideals in the light of their experiences.
- To develop respect for other people, their beliefs and their life-styles.
- To develop an enquiring attitude towards religion and to explore the purpose of activities such as prayer and worship.
- To develop their understanding of The Bible and how elements sit in The Big Story.
- To develop a wide range of skills including enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection of the theology, philosophy and social sciences of faiths.

Entitlement

The children's entitlement is based upon the *Governors'* agreement to follow the *Chester Diocesan Agreed Syllabus*, supported by the high quality resource *Understanding Christianity* and these provide the basis for our planning and teaching.

- In the main, Religious Education will be taught as a discrete subject although the approach may vary in certain lessons during the year.
- Religious Education in school is organised using a whole school overview or plan. This lays out which units, or themes, should be studied by each year group.
- Wherever possible all children will learn from primary source material as well as through the use of outside speakers with relevant experience and audio-visual aids. Visits to places of worship and drama workshops and visiting theatre companies also support the work of Religious Education in school.

Implementation

- Religious Education will be taught throughout the school, by the class teacher and may be supported from time to time by clergy from local churches and visiting speakers.
- Religious Education may be taught in a 'whole class' setting but with flexibility to allow for discussion, questioning and reflection in small groups and individually.
- Visits to *Crowton Christ Church* and other local churches and places of worship will enhance children's knowledge and understanding.
- A variety of teaching approaches are encouraged:
 - Teacher presentations, role play and storytelling.
 - Questions and answer sessions, discussions and debates to develop enquiry skills.
 - Individual and group research.
 - Photographs, pictures and maps.
 - ICT, television, video, film, tape, CD, radio and PCs to research and communicate ideas.
 - Inter-faith workshops led by visitors of different faiths.
- Mind Friendly strategies will support teaching and learning as appropriate.

- Progression will be guided by the Diocese of Chester Agreed Syllabus supported by Understanding Christianity.
- Religious Education may be integrated with other subjects as appropriate for example ICT, History and PSCHÉ.
- Religious Education resources will be reviewed regularly
- Classroom support will be welcomed under the guidance of the teacher, e.g. skilled individuals and parents etc.
- INSET will all be supported by the Diocese of Chester

Special Educational Needs.

Children with special educational needs will work alongside the other children in their group, as in other curriculum areas, but differentiation in approach, language and expected outcome will be appropriate to the varying needs in the class. We aim to meet the full entitlement of every child in our school. To optimize inclusion the children's differing needs for learning (including children with special educational needs) will be addressed through differentiated activities.

See separate SEN school policy

Equal Opportunities

Religious Education as an essential part of the curriculum should be relevant, worthwhile and accessible to all. It should express that all pupils are loved and valued by God as part of creation.

We aim to help the children in our school to respect themselves and to be sensitive to the needs of others.

Planning, Assessment, Reporting and Record Keeping

- RE is planned, delivered and assessed in line with the Diocese of Chester Agreed Syllabus. A Big Question is linked to each unit of study or concept to provide a focus for learning.
- Children record their learning, thoughts and development in RE books and class books as appropriate
- Appropriate to the end of their education in our Church School, the expectation is that all pupils are religiously literate and as a minimum pupils are able:-
 - To know about and understand Christianity as a diverse global living faith through exploration of core beliefs using an approach that critically engages with biblical text.
 - To gain knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews appreciating diversity, continuity and change within the religions and worldviews being studied.
 - To engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose raised by human existence and experience.

- To recognise the concept of religion and its continuing influence on Britain's cultural heritage and in the lives of individuals and societies in different times, cultures and places.
- To explore their own religion, spiritual and philosophical ways of living, believing and thinking.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- The Headteacher has overall responsibility for monitoring and evaluation.
- The coordinator/RE subject leader will assist the Headteacher by monitoring Long Term and Medium Term plans.
- The coordinator will manage resources.
- The coordinator will endeavour to keep up to date with information, initiatives and developments in Religious Education and disseminate this as appropriate.
- The coordinator will be aware of staff development needs and encourage continuing professional development.
- The coordinator will facilitate the sharing of good practice.
- The coordinator will be responsible for drawing up an action plan for Religious Education. Generally, this will be an annual plan and should be informed by this policy.

RE Subject Leader is Miss Megan Porter

Date: 16.11.2020

Headteacher Miss Heather Bettley

Date: 24.11.2020