



Member of staff responsible: Catherine Parkin

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LONGRIDGE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Mission Statement

Living, Learning and Sharing in a Loving Christian Family (Acts 2 v 42-47)

Longridge Church of England Primary School is a Voluntary Aided School and, as such, has a distinctive nature of Religious Education. RE in this school does not only teach about religion but aims to develop the personal beliefs, values and attitudes of pupils.

The Governors of Longridge Church of England Primary School have adopted the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education Syllabus for RE, Questful RE, which reflects the National Framework for RE, the National Society Statement of Entitlement and the requirements of SIAMS.

At minimum of 5% of teaching time is spent on RE. Within that, the balance of time allocated to Christianity is 80%, with at least 20% to other world faiths. As recommended by the Diocese, Judaism and Islam will be the non-Christian faiths studied, with reference to Hinduism and Sikhism where appropriate.

Elements of the Religious Education syllabus may be reinforced through Collective Worship within the school but this does not make up part of allocated teaching time. Links made between RE, Collective Worship and other subject areas are seen as beneficial and help children to retain information and reflect on their learning.

RE Statement of Entitlement for the Church of England 2019

"In a Church school the pupils and their families can expect an RE curriculum that enables pupils to acquire a rich, deep knowledge and understanding of Christian belief and practice, this should include the ways in which it is unique and diverse. Parents can expect the use of high-quality resources, for example, the Understanding Christianity resource. Pupils can expect that teaching and learning in Church schools will use an approach that engages with biblical text and theological ideas. Pupils can expect that a Church school RE curriculum will engage and challenge them through an exploration of core concepts and questions. They can expect Church schools to provide meaningful and informed dialogue with a range of religions and worldviews. There should be opportunities for them to understand the role of foundational texts, beliefs, rituals, and practices and how they help form identity in a range of religions and worldviews. Pupils should explore how these may change in different times, places and cultures. RE will go beyond a sociological study of religious phenomena and will introduce pupils to a range of relevant disciplines including theology, philosophy and the human and social sciences. In all Church schools progress in RE should be significant and attainment high enabling pupils to develop confident religious literacy."

The aims of Religious Education in Church Schools are:

- To know about and understand Christianity as a diverse global living faith through the 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 religious, spiritual and philosophical ways living, believing and thinking. RE Statement of Entitlement: The Church of England Education Office 2019

Appropriate to 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 world views in their search for God and meaning.
- Engage in meaningful and informed dialogue with those of all faiths and none.
- Reflect critically and responsibly on their own spiritual, philosophical and ethical convictions.

This can be expressed in more detail and distinctively as:

We learn about

- God who reveals the truth about himself and humanity through creation, the giving of the law, his action in history and through the prophets;
- God who reveals himself ultimately in Jesus his Son, living among us and dying and rising for us;
- God who reveals himself in his Spirit working in the living faith of the Church experienced through scripture, tradition and reason.

We learn from

- an empathetic response to the Christian faith and a critical engagement with it;
- responding personally to the stories and teachings of Jesus Christ;
- examples of Christian living which give priority to the values of unconditional love, forgiveness, reconciliation, justice, compassion and faith.

Religious Education in Church Schools should also help pupils to:

- learn about all faiths, their beliefs, traditions and practices and from them through encounter and dialogue;
- recognise and respect those of all faiths in their search for God;
- recognise areas of common belief and practice between different faiths;
- enrich and expand their understanding of truth while remaining faithful to their own tradition;
- enrich their own faith through examples of holy living in other traditions.

Religious Education in Church Schools should help pupils to:

- reflect theologically and explore the ultimate questions and challenges of life in today's society;
- reflect critically on the truth claims of Christian belief;
- see how the truth of Christianity is relevant today;
- understand the challenge faced by Christians in today's pluralist and post-modern society;
- develop the skills to handle the Bible text;
- recognise that faith is based on commitment to a particular way of understanding God and the world;

- begin to develop their own commitments, beliefs and values;
- develop a sense of themselves as significant, unique and precious;
- experience the breadth and variety of the Christian community;
- engage in thoughtful dialogue with all faiths and traditions;
- become active citizens, serving their neighbour;
- find a reason for hope in a troubled world;
- understand how religious faith can sustain believers in difficult circumstances and in the face of opposition.

Religious Education in Church Schools should enable:

- pupils and teachers to talk openly and freely about their own personal beliefs and practice without fear of ridicule;
- pupils to make excellent and appropriate progress in their knowledge and understanding of Christianity;
- pupils from Christian families to talk openly about their beliefs and values in lessons and to grow in their faith;
- pupils from all faith backgrounds to understand and be encouraged in their faith;
- pupils with no religious background to be given an insight into what it means to be a person of faith;
- pupils of all backgrounds to have a safe place to explore the ultimate questions and challenges of life in today's society.

RE makes a significant contribution to pupils' Spiritual, Moral Social and Cultural development. For examples of how this is done please see the SMSC audit on our school website. <https://www.longridge-cofe.lancs.sch.uk/spiritual-moral-social-cultural/>

SEND provision

It is the school's policy to ensure that work is matched to pupils' needs. Each teacher will plan work accordingly to provide for pupils of differing abilities. RE is planned to be creative and challenging for the children. RE is delivered through a variety of teaching methods to increase accessibility of all children. Challenging work is planned to enable children to achieve their full potential.

Resources

Resources are kept in the relevant classrooms or stored centrally in the school library. A variety of resources – books, artefacts, posters etc are available. The school has two beautiful, whole-class sets of Bibles, The Lion Storyteller Bible and The Good News Bible. These are kept on bookshelves in the library and can be borrowed by classes as needed.

The RE Lead

The R.E. subject leader is the Headteacher. She attends in-service training courses and receives support from the Diocesan Advisor (Lesley Brookbanks). Materials and relevant ideas are then disseminated amongst the staff. Sometimes whole staff training takes place in staff meeting time. Other staff members may also attend courses if appropriate.

RE work is moderated termly through environmental audits, book scrutiny, pupil interviews, lesson observations or a combination of these. The RE governor is often actively involved in the monitoring process. The RE Lead reports to Governors termly on standards in RE and progress towards the RE action plan.

Assessment and Record Keeping

Assessment and record keeping is in accordance with guidance given in the BDBE RE Syllabus, Questful RE. Work is planned and marked with the 'ladder of expectation' in mind. Class teachers complete end of unit assessments (where available) to determine whether children have met key expectations in RE.

The RE subject Lead collates assessment information to ensure pupil attainment is at least in line with other subject areas.

Parental Rights of Withdrawal

The Parental Rights of Withdrawal in a Voluntary Aided School. Parents may request the governing body to provide Religious Education for their children according to the Agreed Syllabus. This can only be requested when parents cannot, with reasonable convenience, arrange for their children to attend another school where Religious Education is provided according to the Agreed Syllabus. The governing body should make provision unless the circumstances make it unreasonable to do so. Should the governing body be unable to make such arrangements for Religious Education to be delivered according to the Agreed Syllabus, the responsibility for doing so then falls on the Local Authority. The Local Authority may decide that such a request for separate Religious Education is unreasonable and the parental request then fails.

Parents may withdraw their children from Religious Education as they may in any school 'The Worship and Religious Education provided by the school is in accordance with the Church of England. This foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school community. Since the conduct of the school as a whole reflects the Church of England, removal of pupils from Worship and/or Religious Education (as parents are legally entitled to do) cannot insulate them from the religious life of the school.'

If such a request for withdrawal is made, the Head teacher should explore the reasons for the request and seek to arrive at an accommodation. It may be that only some elements of Religious Education or Worship are objected to. For more information about the right to withdraw a child from RE, please get in touch with the headteacher via the school office.

RE Lead: Catherine Parkin (Headteacher)