



Religious Education

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Our School Vision

Our school vision is based on the theme of '*Taking Care*'. We strive to encourage our children, staff and wider community to 'take care' of one another through the core Christian Values of:

Kindness, Hope, Courage and *Respect*.

Our vision is inspired by the words in Corinthians:

"Let love and kindness be the motivation behind all that you do."

(1 Corinthians 16.14)

Ravenshead C of E Primary School is committed to valuing diversity and to equality of opportunity. In biblical tradition, children in particular are seen to hold a special place in the priorities of God. Furthermore, we hold to the foundational belief that all people are created in God's image and are intrinsically valuable. Everyone should be treated as fundamentally precious, irrespective of behaviour, achievements or potential.

Therefore, we aim to create and promote an environment in which pupils, parents/carers and staff are treated fairly and with respect and feel able to contribute to the best of their abilities. The school's biblical foundation provides a model of Christian community described as the 'body of Christ', in which everyone has a part to play, and everyone without exception has God-given gifts which are to be used for the benefit of others.

Introduction

This policy outlines the teaching, organisation and management of RE learning and teaching at Ravenshead C of E Primary School. We believe that Religious Education is knowing about and understanding a range of religions and worldviews. Throughout the school, the children will express ideas and insights of their own into the significant human questions which religions address, gaining and deploying the skills needed to study religion.

Aims

Our aim is to ensure that all children are taught the study of RE as specified by Nottinghamshire Locally Agreed Syllabus 2021 'Religious Education for All' and the RE Today publication 'Understanding Christianity', taking into account the school's Christian ethos.

Our aims in RE are:

Understanding Christianity Resource:

- 1. Making Sense of the text**
- 2. Understanding the impact**
- 3. Making connections**

Notts Agreed Syllabus 2021-2026:

1. Know about and understand a range of religions and worldviews, so that pupils can:

Describe, explain and analyse beliefs and practices, recognising the diversity which exists within and between communities.

Identify, investigate and respond to questions posed by, and responses offered by some of the sources of wisdom found in religions and worldviews.

Appreciate and appraise the nature, significance and impact of different ways of life and ways of expressing meaning.

2. Express ideas and insights about the nature, significance and impact of religions and worldviews, so that pupils can:

Explain reasonably their ideas about how beliefs, practices and forms of expression influence individuals and communities.

Express with increasing discernment their personal reflections and critical responses to questions and teachings about identity, diversity, meaning and value.

Appreciate and appraise varied dimensions of religion.

3. Gain and deploy the skills needed to engage seriously with religions and worldviews, so that pupils can:

Find out about and investigate key concepts and questions of belonging, meaning, purpose and truth, responding creatively.

Enquire into what enables different communities to live together respectfully for the wellbeing of all.

Articulate beliefs, values and commitments clearly in order to explain reasons why they may be important in their own and other people's lives.

Intent

As a Church of England VC school, Religious Education is a central and active part of our curriculum. The planning and teaching of RE has been planned carefully using the Understanding Christianity resource, as well as the Agreed Syllabus for RE in Nottingham and Nottingham City 2021-2026. Our aim is to engage, encourage, inspire and challenge children, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to answer challenging questions. RE allows children to ask deep and meaningful questions about their own faith and beliefs, and the beliefs, faith and opinions of others. At Ravenshead, we aim to develop the children's knowledge and understanding of the major world faiths and give them opportunities to reflect and develop their own spiritual knowledge and understanding. Links are made between RE and other curriculum areas, particularly PSHE and RHSE. We use the three areas of learning from the Nottinghamshire Agreed Syllabus to ensure that our pupils: know about and understand a range of religions and worldviews so they can express ideas and insights of their own into the significant human questions which religions address, gaining and deploying the skills needed to study religion, as well as the three areas of Understanding Christianity: Making Sense of the text, Understanding the impact and Making connections.

Implementation

The RE long term plan was reviewed during 2020-21, taking into account the new Nottinghamshire Agreed Syllabus and the Understanding Christianity resource, and was fully implemented in September 2021. Each year group focus on units from the Understanding Christianity resource for two terms and another world religion for one term per year. The whole school focuses on the Incarnation unit of Understanding Christianity leading to Christmas and the Salvation unit in the lead up to Easter. Collective Worship reinforces this learning as well as other religious celebrations. RE is taught for at least one hour each week in a discrete lesson; it is often developed further through CW themes and seasonal celebrations. Lessons are creatively taught so that pupils of all abilities can engage in the learning. We ensure that RE is taught in an open and unbiased way in order to help instil respect for different views, faiths and opinions. Lessons are creatively presented and children are encouraged to explore and express their thoughts through art, music and drama. We encourage visitors to take part in RE sessions and have the local clergy from St Peter's, Ravenshead to come to join lessons in person for discussions and Q&A sessions with pupils.

Impact

Pupils at Ravenshead are confident at sharing their knowledge and understanding, and expressing their thoughts and feelings linked to their RE learning. They are enabled to develop their love of learning and their religious literacy is strong. This means that they have a deeply rooted respect for the range of beliefs and cultures they study and a thirst for discovering more about the world around them. Pupils are also able to talk about their own journey of faith and are confident in articulating their thoughts and opinions, in a safe and unbiased learning environment. RE work is evaluated and monitored through termly teacher assessment and ongoing formative assessment.

Legal requirements of the Agreed Syllabus for RE

In order to deliver the aims and expected standards of the syllabus a minimum of 5% curriculum time is strongly recommended.

In practice, this means that the following is allocated to the teaching of RE:

Key Stage 1: 36 hours of tuition per year.

Key Stage 2: 45 hours of tuition per year.

As a Church of England Primary school, our teaching will focus 2/3 on Christianity and 1/3 on teaching other faiths (see RE Long Term Plan for further details.)

Parents have the right to request that their children be withdrawn from Religious Education lessons. If you wish to withdraw your child, please let us know. The staff also have the right to withdraw from the teaching of RE.

Equal Opportunities

We are committed to providing a teaching environment conducive to learning.

Each child is valued, respected and challenged regardless of race, gender, religion, social background, culture or disability. Consequently, RE contributes considerably towards both the Equality Policy and SEND Policy (see each policy for further information).

Assessment and Reporting

Assessment in RE takes place on a continuous monitoring basis involving informal techniques such as teacher observation, small group discussions, questioning about tasks and informal summative termly assessment. In addition to this, each child will produce a formative assessment task towards the end of each term, relating to the work they have completed. This will be stored in an assessment folder and passed up throughout the school, along with the individual RE books. Reporting to parents occurs annually with a written report and also through parents' consultations. Please refer to Assessment Policy.

Resources & Organisation

- All planning is available on SharePoint (Ravenshead Planning, Documents, Curriculum Subjects, RE).
- Each year group is planned into termly modules. Each year group will focus specifically on the Understanding Christianity resource and planning for two terms per year. The third term will focus on investigation other religions. These will depend on year group with KS1 studying Judaism, and KS2 investigating Islam, Hinduism and other religions on the local community. (See RE LTP for details).
- Religious artefacts – These are organised into KS1 and KS2 resources which are then further subdivided into religions.