



Religious Education Policy

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Introduction

At Norbreck Primary Academy we follow the recommendations of the 1988 School Standard and Framework Act. This states that all schools must provide religious Education for all of the pupils registered at the school. Religious Education is taught at the school in accordance with the Lancashire Agreed Syllabus.

The Aims of Religious Education

'Religious Education will support children and young people in reflecting upon, developing and affirming their own beliefs, values and attitudes, through an exploration of shared human experience and of the place and significance of religion in the contemporary world.'

(Lancashire Agreed Syllabus).

Aims for the school curriculum

The Lancashire Agreed Syllabus identifies two key aims to be considered when teaching Religious Education.

1. The school curriculum should aim to provide opportunities for all pupils to learn and achieve.

- Develop commitment to learning as a means of encouraging and stimulating the best possible progress and highest attainment for all.
- Provide rich and varied contexts for pupils to acquire, develop and apply a broad range of knowledge, understanding and skills, the curriculum should enable pupils to think creatively and critically, to solve problems and to make a difference for the better.

2. The school curriculum should aim to promote British Values through the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and prepare them for opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life.

- Develop principles for distinguishing between right and wrong.
- Develop knowledge and understanding and appreciation of their own and different beliefs and cultures and how these influence individuals and societies.
- Promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance.
- Promote equality of opportunity and enable pupils to challenge discrimination and stereotyping.
- Develop pupil's ability to relate to others and work for the common good.

The Aim of Religious Education

At Norbreck Primary Academy we aim that pupils might:

- Develop a knowledge and understanding of Christianity and its impact on our local community, and on our society today.
- Develop a knowledge and understanding of some of the other principle religious traditions represented in

Great Britain today.

- Develop a sense of respect for religious traditions, beliefs and practice.
- Grow in their spiritual development.
- Develop a sense of awe and wonder and mystery.
- Develop skills and attitudes which will support their personal, moral, social and cultural development.
- Explore some questions of meaning and consider how the world's religions have responded to them.
- Think about their own beliefs and values in the light of the beliefs of other, both religious and non-religious, and the values of the school community.

The Approach to teaching Religious Education

At Norbreck Primary Academy, the teaching of RE according to the Agreed Syllabus is approached with the following principles in mind.

There are no presumptions made as to the religious backgrounds, beliefs and values of the children and the staff. We respect the religious backgrounds of all members of the school community and hope that this will encourage individuals to share their own experiences freely with others. All religions are and their communities are treated with respect and sensitivity and we value the links that can be, and are made between home, school and a faith community. It is appreciated that all of the religions studied can contribute to the individual education of all our pupils.

Religious Education is taught in a way that encourages open enquiry and first hand experiences wherever possible. The Lancashire Agreed Syllabus is implemented in school by means of a sensory approach to learning. This encourages children to look at and handle a variety of unique Religious artefacts, listen to religious music and taste foods from Religious traditions.

Norbreck Primary Academy may adopt some of the following approaches in the delivery of effective Religious Education:

- Responding to, exploring and expressing Religious Education through Art and Music.
- Using a variety of resources including online resources, posters, pictures, books and artefacts.
- Developing thinking skills through Drama, Art and the use of periods of stillness and reflection.
- Visiting local places of worship or taking part in visits from members of local faith communities.

Planning and delivery

In accordance with the structure of the Lancashire Agreed syllabus the content of Religious Education at Norbreck Primary Academy takes account of pupils needs in RE. These include exploring shared human experience, exploring living religious traditions, exploring beliefs and values and the search for personal meaning.

The Lancashire and Blackpool Agreed Syllabus provides the long term plan for Religious Education. Each unit provides medium term planning for a half terms work in accordance with the recommended 5% of curriculum time, with teachers being expected to shape individual lessons to provide depth and breadth for their pupils. In the framework progressed study units are identified these are taught together with the schools own choice of units and with the Christianity units which make up 50% of the framework.

Learning in RE can be by means of direct teaching to the class or small groups, by providing direct experience with RE resources, such as the use of photographs or artefacts, by teacher prepared materials such as

worksheets, through stories, poetry, drama and through visits to places of worship . Establishing links with local faith communities is imperative and visitors from a range of faith communities are often invited into school to work with the children.

Cross Curricular Links

RE has links to other areas of the curriculum including English, History, Geography and Art. RE provides opportunities for teaching many cross curricular aspects including Citizenship, Personal and Social Education and Education for ethnic diversity.

Assessment and monitoring of Religious Education

In line with the school policy on assessment and monitoring it is expected that each teacher will be responsible for the regular assessment of their pupils through marking the work set. Planning and evaluation of any curriculum unit is undertaken on a weekly basis or by planning a themed day over the term by the class teacher. Evaluation includes a regular review of the content of the RE curriculum to ensure the requirements of the Agreed Syllabus are being fulfilled. This involves considering the coverage of programmes of study at each Key Stage. The RE subject leader will carry out assessment of the delivery of the curriculum, provision and resources available each year. The evaluation of RE may take place through a number of methods including the assessment of pupil's work, the analysis of teacher's planning, discussion amongst groups of staff or all staff, classroom observation and external inspection and advice.

Resources

A selection of resources and reference materials for RE are accessible to all staff wishing to teach a particular Religion or aspect within it. A resource box for the six major world religions has been created and these boxes are regularly updated with new materials. All of the RE resources available in school can be found in labelled boxes and are located in the Key Stage one corridor storage area at the opposite end from the reading books area.

Pictorial materials including poster and picture packs are also valuable resources and available to use in school. Teachers are also encouraged to use interactive videos, websites, relevant ICT programmes, iPads, RE books, and magazines. Children's reference books for RE can be found in the library.

Children and staff can borrow these resources using the usual library loan procedures. Staff are encouraged to use resources and return to the area they are stored in once they have been used.

Right of withdrawal

Norbreck Primary Academy recognises that parents have the right to withdraw their child from Religious Education in its entirety or in part.

This is stated clearly in the school prospectus.

Written by: RE team

Updated by WL in October 2023

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