



Member of staff responsible: Catherine Parkin
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LONGRIDGE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

In Longridge Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, the Religious Education provided is in conformity with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England as laid down in the Trust Deed. RE plays a major part in promoting the Christian aims, values and ethos of the school as expressed in the Mission Statement.

The school has adopted the RE syllabus produced by the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education and the North Lancashire District of the Methodist Church. Following Diocesan guidelines, the proportion of the curriculum time to be allocated to Religious Education is at between 5 and 10% of the working week but may be blocked into different time units as appropriate for children and the timetable.

Within that, the balance of time allocated to Christianity should be 80%, with at least 20% to two other faiths. If appropriate, the non-Christian faiths should be drawn on when studying the syllabus units to develop and deepen understanding. This will also keep the balance of time spent on Non-Christian faiths while following all the units of the Diocesan syllabus. 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. Our 'Open The Book' Worship is an example of this. The school has very close links with the Parish of St Lawrence with St Paul, Longridge and also has good and positive links with other local Christian churches. For example, the school participates in an annual Advent Carol Service within the Longridge Cluster.

Mission Statement

Living, Learning and Sharing in a Loving Christian Family

At Longridge CE Primary School, we aim to:

- provide a caring, loving Christian environment based on our Christian Values: Friendship, Trust, Peace, Compassion, Courage, Forgiveness, Truthfulness
- ensure that worship and prayer is central to our daily lives
- deliver high quality lessons and learning opportunities both inside and outside the classroom
- foster a genuine love of learning
- work in close partnership with parents, families, the church and the community

The aims of Religious Education in Longridge CE Primary School are:

- To enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living faith that influences the lives of people worldwide and as the religion that has most shaped British culture and heritage.
- To enable pupils to know and understand about other major world religions and world views, their impact on society, culture and the wider world, enabling pupils to express ideas and insights.
- To contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own beliefs and values.

(RE Statement of Entitlement: The Church of England Education Office 2016)

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 other faiths and none.
- Reflect critically and responsibly on their own spiritual, philosophical and ethical convictions.

(RE Statement of Entitlement: The Church of England Education Office 2016)

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 Longridge CE Primary School should also help pupils to:

- learn *about* other 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 Longridge CE Primary School 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 other 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 Longridge CE Primary School 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 other 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.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

Longridge CE Primary School ensures all children, including those with SEND, achieve well and make good progress. This is done primarily through quality first teaching. Teaching staff differentiate tasks and provide appropriate resources for groups and individuals.

British Values

Our Christian values of Friendship, Trust, Peace, Compassion, Courage, Forgiveness and Truthfulness are embedded throughout our curriculum. By extension we uphold and teach our British values: democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

Content of Religious Education

The Christian and other faiths elements of the Religious Education curriculum will be based on the objectives within the Diocesan syllabus (Questful RE) and the teaching activities and resources recommended.

A variety of approaches will be used to ensure understanding, progression and enjoyment, including direct teaching, real experiences through visits and handling artefacts, dance, drama, singing, discussion and art opportunities.

The use of the church building, clergy and congregation will be used where possible to aid teaching and learning in RE. Where possible, links are made with other denominational churches and religious buildings of other faiths.

There will be provision for SEND children to access the curriculum. The school follow 'Questful RE', as recommended by the Blackburn Diocesan Board. 'Understanding Christianity' is also integrated into the syllabus.

Resources

Resources for the teaching of Religious Education are situated in the Head Teacher's office/in the RE resource cupboard/ in the Staff Shared RE folder (Staff Shared (W)- Co-ordinator Files – Policies and Grids – RE). These include;

- Blackburn Diocesan Materials
- Understanding Christianity
- Denominational artefacts and posters

The library also has reference books easily accessible for children's own use and each class has their own reference materials.

The church, parish clergy and various visitors and speakers are also valuable resources.

In-Service Training and Staff Development

The R.E. subject leader is the Head Teacher. 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.

There is a separate policy on assessment, marking and record keeping. Assessment in RE is carried out using the 5 point scale to track progression in RE throughout the school. Work is moderated by staff at least once each term and annotated pieces of work form an accurate portfolio.

Monitoring

The quality and content of Religious Education will be reviewed annually. The RE Leader's responsibility for monitoring and evaluating may include:

- Reviewing teachers' plans, and monitoring Diocesan 'Expectations of Attainment'
- Reviewing pupils' work, including book scrutiny and discussion
- Leading curriculum review/update opportunities
- Supporting and working alongside colleagues where possible
- Observe the teaching and learning in classrooms

Parental Rights of Withdrawal

Parents have a statutory right to withdraw their child from all or part of collective worship and R.E. although this cannot insulate them from the religious life of the school.

The Head teacher should be notified in writing if parents wish to exercise this right.

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

Complaints about the Provision of Religious Education

It is hoped that any complaint will be resolved informally by the Head Teacher in consultation with the Governors, and possibly with advice from the Diocese. However, if the complaint is not satisfactorily resolved the matter will be adjudicated by a specially constituted sub-committee of the Diocesan Board of Education acting on behalf of the Bishop of the Diocese.