



Aughton St. Michael's C. of E. School

Religious Education Policy

Date Approved: September 2018

Review Date: September 2020

Mission Statement

Achieving all we can to develop fully our hearts and minds.

Sharing in a loving, caring, Christian community.

Making sure everyone is valued.



Introduction

Aughton St Michael's CE School is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled 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.

As a Church of England school, our Christian vision and values are central to all we do. Christian values are constantly reinforced through school and through our RE curriculum and these are explored through the example of Jesus and teachings in the Bible.

By offering pupils positive encounters with the Christian faith we maintain that we are equipping them to be the person God wants them to be. We recognise our children as individuals and educate them according to their rights in law.

Aughton St. Michael's CE School provide opportunities for them to fulfil their potential and in accordance with the Church of England vision for Education to experience 'life in all its fullness'.

The RE curriculum contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the children. These aspects of development can be found in many of the school curriculum areas and are implicit in the ethos of the school.

- Spiritual development enriches and encourages pupils' discovery of God the Creator and wonder of his work. We actively seek to nurture children's spirituality through the teaching of RE.
- Moral development is based on the teachings of Jesus and offers pupils a secure foundation stone for their lives.
- Social development enriches pupils' understanding of what it means to live in a Christian community where to love, accept and forgive one another is put into practice.

- Cultural development provides opportunities to develop an understanding of Christianity as a global faith and the impact this has on millions of people.

1. Fundamentals

Religious Education plays an important role in promoting the Christian ethos of Aughton St Michael's C.E. School.

Religious Education is delivered with a Christian emphasis, we aim to give pupils a sound knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith through which they can live their lives.

Religious Education Syllabus

Aughton St Michael's CE School uses schemes of work based on: -

1. The Liverpool/ Blackburn Diocese Syllabus
2. Understanding Christianity

Through these, children are taught about Christianity and other World faiths. Respect for other faiths is accurate and sympathetic, consistent with the schools' loyalty to its Christian foundation. RE enables pupils to have informed conversations about religious beliefs and practices.

5% of curriculum time at Aughton St Michael's is devoted to the teaching of Religious Education.

Links with Local Church

Aughton St Michael's CE School has strong links with St Michael's Church. The pupils attend services and events at the church building throughout the course of the school year. Members of St Michael's congregation and clergy are regular visitors at school, taking part in calendar celebrations, class discussions, Worship, community functions and class or school performances. Parents, teachers and pupils value the strong links in place between home, school and Church.

2. Statement of Broad Aims

At Aughton St Michael's we aim to support our pupils as they develop their own beliefs, values and attitudes through exploration of shared human experience and the place and significance of Christianity and other religions in the contemporary world. Although the emphasis is on Christian beliefs and practices, we value the religious backgrounds of all members of our school community. We encourage individuals to share their experiences with others freely and all religious traditions are treated with respect and sensitivity.

We aim to;

- 1) Explore shared human experience (i.e. those experiences which are valuable in that they raise fundamental questions about life)
- 2) Develop pupils own beliefs, values and attitudes

- 3) Experience Christianity as a living faith ("within the context of a Church School, with such emphasis on Anglican beliefs and practices as is appropriate...)
- 4) Learning about the place and significance of Christianity and other religions in the contemporary world including their traditions, beliefs and values

We seek to meet these aims by:

- 1) Developing children's ability to make reasoned and informed responses to religious and moral issues
- 2) Developing children's skills of exploring, investigating and learning about religion in relation to Christianity and other principle world faiths
- 3) Helping children develop positive attitudes towards beliefs, cultures and traditions different to their own
- 4) Developing children's understanding of the influence of beliefs, values and traditions on individuals, communities, societies and cultures

Spiritual Development

Aughton St. Michael's C.E. School promotes the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils through the Christian ethos of the school, the balanced and broad curriculum and Collective Worship. It is recognised that Religious Education plays an important role in promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our children by:

- Encouraging pupils to consider their own values and attitudes
- Encouraging reflection on questions about religion and the meaning of life
- Developing a sense of awe and wonder
- Providing opportunities to view issues from alternative perspectives

Content and Approaches

At Foundation Stage and Key Stage one R.E. strives to build on the children's understanding of themselves and their experiences of family life and relationships. The pupils learn that they are personally valued from the attitudes which they encounter in school. They are encouraged to become increasingly aware of things which are special and important to themselves and other people. The children will sometimes benefit from opportunities to develop their awareness of the local environment through journeys and visits, and by having a chance to experience awe and wonderment in the natural world. They are introduced to symbolism in religion and hear stories about the lives of key figures.

In Key Stage 2, the children continue to build on the opportunities and experiences they have already encountered in Key Stage 1. The curriculum aims to develop a greater understanding of themselves and an awareness of the needs and feelings of other people from a variety of faiths and cultures. The curriculum offers opportunities to interact with the natural world and the local environment. By the end of Key Stage 2, pupils will have had opportunities to explore a range of religious ideas and themes. They will have heard stories about the life and teaching of Jesus and other religious figures and have been given opportunities to consider their own questions and concerns.

Equal Opportunities

Religious Education teaching includes provisions for pupils of differing ability levels, e.g. Special Educational Needs, different ages and experiences.

Cross Curricular Links

Religious Education has links with other areas of the curriculum including Collective Worship, English, Drama, History, Geography, ICT and Art.

Management and Review

The Role of the Religious Education Co-ordinator

It is the responsibility of the Religious Education Subject leader to;

- Lead development of Religious Education in school
- Support staff with planning of Religious Education
- Review and monitor planning and progress throughout the school
- Order, store and maintain Religious Education artefacts, books and other resources
- Keep up to date with subject knowledge and developments in Religious Education through attending courses, area cluster meetings and reading literature and relevant information
- Update the SLT & Governors on the quality of Teaching & learning of RE throughout school and of any key issues.

Assessment and Record Keeping

Assessment is carried out to enhance the teaching and learning of Religious Education within our school. It is the responsibility of all of the staff to monitor and evaluate the teaching and learning, to enable pupils' progress and achievements.

Whole school evaluation of standards and the quality of Teaching & Learning is monitored by the Religious Education Subject Leader.

Appendix - The Legal Requirements for Religious Education

A) Legal Requirements

Religious Education in Church Schools is governed by the 1996 and 1998 Education Act as well as by the Trust Deed.

The legislation requires Religious Education to be provided for all pupils. (1996 Education Act, Section 352)

The curriculum must 'reflect the fact that the religious traditions of Great Britain are in the main Christian, whilst taking into account the teaching and practises of other principle religions represented in Great Britain'.

B) Parental Right

If the parent asks that a pupil should not be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious education given in school, then the school must comply.