

THE CANONS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL



Religious Education Policy

Life in all its fullness

Adopted by Governors

School Vision and Values

Our school vision at The Canons CE Primary is deeply rooted in a strong Christian tradition and biblical theology. It is centred around developing our pupils to 'Live life in its fullness' by being curious, have enquiring minds, aspire to be the best they can be, have respect for themselves, each other and the world around them so that they can grow and adapt to life as they get older.

Our vision has been drawn from the story of The Good Shepherd which is found in the gospel of John 10:1-21- but particularly John 10:10 where Jesus says 'The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.'

We strive to provide our pupils with an abundance of opportunities to excel and develop across all parts of our curriculum and life at school. We support all pupils to achieve as highly as they can in all areas of their educational, personal and spiritual development. We aim to instil an attitude of resilience and perseverance especially when confronted with difficulties or problems. This provides a platform for their unique talents, strengths and skills to flourish and be celebrated.

As a Church of England School, our mission is to provide an education that ensures all children and adults reach their full potential in an environment that promotes positivity, high aspirations, team-work and independence.

To help us realise our mission, we live out our school vision through:

Life in all its fullness

Christian Values are also intertwined through our curriculum and are demonstrated in the day to day behaviours of our pupils. These values play a large role during our collective worship sessions and how we establish these positive behaviours across all of our school.

We have a motto of 'Respect-Believe-Achieve' which embeds how we would like our pupils to live:

Respect- Have respect for people and property

Believe – Have belief in yourself and develop your own personal beliefs

Achieve – Achieve success in many areas of life and celebrate achievements together

We work hard together to ensure that all people in our school community feel equipped and able to 'Live life in its fullness' through our simple vision, values and motto.

Equalities statement

We have carefully considered and analysed the impact of this policy on equality and the possible implications for pupils with protected characteristics, as part of our commitment to meet the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) requirement to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The Canons CE Primary school belongs to a family of schools which are part of The Nicholas Chamberlaine Trust and Coventry Diocese.

Our aim, at the Canons CE Primary School, is to provide a happy, stimulating, safe and secure environment which develops caring and confident children with enquiring minds. At the very heart of our school lies an education of depth and quality in a Christian environment that allows our pupils to 'Live life in its fullness' and secure a lifelong love of learning.

We strive to ensure that all members of our school community become independent learners with an ability to work collaboratively and respectfully. We aim to meet the needs of our pupils in terms of: education, physical, spiritual and creativity. We hold fast to our Christian values and vision and firmly believe every one of us is special in the eyes of God.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Religious education is a statutory subject for all pupils as it is necessary part of a broad and balanced curriculum. In the UK, parents have the right to withdraw their children from RE on the grounds that they wish to provide their own religious education (section 71 of the School Standards Framework Act 1998).

At the Canons CE Primary School, we aim to talk to our parents to ensure that they fully understand the aims and principles of RE to inform their decision, however, as a C of E school with a strong Christian foundation, we necessitate that those families who have chosen to send their children to our school uphold and are respectful of our Christian ethos and vision which is explored directly during RE lesson time.

By law, each local authority is required to have a Locally Agreed Syllabus with the establishment of Statutory Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE). Currently Coventry and Warwickshire SACRE's work in collaboration in creating an RE curriculum that will promote 'good effective and thought provoking RE across the city and county' (2017-2022)

RE is multi-faith. The curriculum designed by SACRE 'shall reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are, in the main, Christian whilst taking account of the teaching and practises of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain'. The RE curriculum we provide at The Canons CE Primary School is based on Understanding Christianity and The Warwickshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

At The Canons CE Primary School, we strongly believe that RE is of extreme importance in helping children learn about the foundations of our vision and values that underpin all aspect of our church school life. These values are woven through all areas of our RE curriculum and all other subject areas. We firmly believe that our RE curriculum enables our pupils to gain a deep awareness of their own and others unique identities as they explore 'Big Questions' that are presented through Christianity and by a wide variety of other world religions.

We also strongly believe that RE is of great importance in helping children understand what is of real value in our world today. Through RE children can become literate and articulate about religion and beliefs in order to become caring, respectful members of society. This subject strongly encourages the pupils to be curious about faith and recognise how it can impact the lives of individuals, communities, society and culture. Through their work in RE, children continuously reflect on their own beliefs and values in light of their learning and by doing so, demonstrate respect for themselves and others. We believe that this will equip our children to contribute towards a better world for all and to Live Life in all it's fullness. o

RE AND BRITISH VALUES

British values are promoted within the SACRE document and RE will help our children to recognise that religions are committed to morality, social justice, personal development and stewardship of the world. The children will explore British Values in relation to religions and belief through studies of places of worship and meeting people from a diverse range of religions and belief societies. In doing so, our desire is that they will become better informed and empathetic, which will in turn promote cohesion and integration in society.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

In a Church of England aided primary school the importance of religious education should be reflected in high achievement as an outcome of effective teaching and learning. Our curriculum aims to ensure all children:

- Know and understand a range of religions and world views.
- Express ideas and thoughts about the nature of and impact of religions and world views.
- Gain and use skills needed to engage with religion.
- To enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living world faith by exploring key theological concepts.
- To enable pupils to develop skills and knowledge in making sense of biblical texts.
- To develop pupils abilities to connect and critically reflect upon their learning and understanding of themselves as humans in the modern world.

MANAGING THE RE CURRICULUM

Understanding Christianity weaves approaches to teaching about Christianity that build on biblical concepts. Units of work address a key Christian concept through Big Questions, texts and the impact they have on Christians and possible implications for the children themselves. Each unit incorporates elements of:

Making sense of the text- skills of interpretation, how Christians interpret and use biblical texts, making sense of differing meanings of texts for Christians.

Making connections – examining different ways in which Christians respond to biblical texts, how belief is put into action in diverse ways within the Christian community and in the wider world.

Understanding the impact- Evaluating, reflecting, connecting texts and concepts and making links to our own lives and the world around us.

The main Christian concepts explored through Understanding Christianity are God, Creation/Fall, People of God, Incarnation, Gospel, Salvation and Kingdom of God. They fit into a spiral curriculum where concepts are frequently revisited and explored in more depth.

At The Canons Church of England Primary we also promote learning opportunities through Art, DT, Music ,for example, as well as class discussion and group collaboration. This helps all pupils to feel engaged and be able to participate fully in all of our lessons.

TIME ALLOCATION

RE is ordinarily taught on a weekly basis but may also feature focussed RE days or special event days that enrich the Pupils' experiences and understanding. RE is often, where possible, linked to other areas of our curriculum and our daily routines of life here. It is a vital role of the class teacher to support the children to make specific links across all areas of our curriculum in order to continually Live life in all its fullness.

EYFS-RE is taught as part of their curriculum, particularly personal and social development and understanding of The World. Understanding of RE is set out in specific early learning goals which underpin curriculum planning for this group of pupils.

Years 1-6 are taught in a weekly RE lesson in line with statutory guidance. RE is taught as a discreet subject but teachers are encouraged to plan with flexibility and identify key links with other areas of the curriculum. During special times of year e.g. Christmas and Easter, further enhanced curriculum time may be utilised to deepen children's understanding.

PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT

Units from Understanding Christianity and The Warwickshire Agreed Syllabus form the basis of our planning. Children will acquire knowledge and understanding of people that follow the six principal world religions as well as Humanists and people of no faith.

Teachers use the excellent example resources provided by Understanding Christianity and The Agreed Syllabus to support the creation of stimulating and relevant learning opportunities for their pupils.

Teachers will use the end of unit outcome descriptors from Understanding Christianity and SACRE to make best fit judgements on pupils attainment of knowledge and their application and understanding of the key concepts involved. Pupils will be judged as working towards, working at or working above (greater depth) of age related expectations. In line with other subject, this is uploaded onto our Learning Ladder System for leaders to monitor and track.

EVALUATION, REVIEW AND REVISION

This policy was written in Autumn 2023 and will be reviewed in three years time or before if it is felt appropriate.