



POTT SHRIGLEY CHURCH SCHOOL

'Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you'

RE Policy – March 2024

The Importance of Religious Education

RE has a very high profile within the Pott Shrigley Church School curriculum and learning activities provide fully for the needs of all learners. Learners will be inspired by the subject and develop a wide range of higher level skills such as enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection to deepen their understanding of the impact of religion on the world. Attainment should be high and progress significant in developing an understanding of Christianity and a broad range of religions and world views.

Religious Education at our school provokes challenging questions about the ultimate meaning and purpose of life, beliefs about God, the self and the nature of reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human. We strive for excellence, reflecting the schools distinctive Christian character.

Religious Education will be allocated not less than 5% of the timetable and move towards 10% of the timetable.

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(Religious Education the non-statutory national framework)

Withdrawals

Parents have a right by law to withdraw their children from the Religious Education curriculum. In this event, the school will undertake responsibility for the supervision of withdrawn pupils with regard to health and safety, alternative work will be provided.

Pott Shrigley places the highest value on religious education and Our Church of England School seeks to express the Christian faith in all aspects of school life. Our actions are guided by adherence to our Christian values, British Values and our concern to do the best for our children and wider school communities. We aim to teach a full curriculum that prepares pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and diversity of life in modern Britain and the wider world through use of the Chester Diocese Syllabus.

Legal Requirements

Pott Shrigley Church School is a Voluntary Aided school. The management of Religious Education is a distinctive role of our governors and headteacher. RE must be provided in accordance with the school's Trust Deed and in accordance with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England and/or Methodist Church. The Governing Body as a whole are responsible for determining the nature of Religious Education provided in this school. In order to fulfil the above we have adopted Quesftful RE as our RE syllabus. This is the Chester diocese board of Education syllabus and fulfils all legal requirements and the RE Statement of Entitlement from the Church of England Education Office.

Collective worship

At Pott Shrigley Church school although Religious Education and Collective Worship naturally compliment and enrich one another, they are managed separately (see collective worship policy).

The spiritual and moral development of our children underpins all aspects of our school life.

Aims

The aims of Religious Education at Pott Shrigley Church School are:

- ❖ To know about and understand Christianity as a diverse global living faith through the exploration of core beliefs using an approach that critically engages with biblical text.
- ❖ To gain knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews appreciating diversity, continuity and change within the religions and worldviews being studied.
- ❖ To engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose raised by human existence and experience.
- ❖ To recognise the concept of religion and its continuing influence on Britain's cultural heritage and in the lives of individuals and societies in different times, cultures and places.
- ❖ To explore their own religious, spiritual and philosophical ways living, believing and thinking.

RE Statement of Entitlement: The Church of England Education Office 2019

Our end of key stage expectations are 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 all 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 our school will also help pupils to:

- ❖ Learn about all 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 our school will also 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 all 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 our school will 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 all 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.

Entitlement

The children's entitlement is based upon *The Statement of Entitlement 2016* (CofE Education Office)

- ❖ In the main, Religious Education will be taught as a discrete subject although the approach may vary. For example, in reception and Key Stage one we sometimes integrate some areas of the Religious Study programme into a general topic with a thematic approach.
- ❖ Religious Education in our school is organised using a whole school overview or plan. This lays out which units, or themes, should be studied by each year group. The Agreed Syllabus and Schemes of Work are referred to and the units of work about the Christian faith will use these materials (Questful RE)
- ❖ Wherever possible all children will learn from primary source material, will be taken on trips to places of worship, will meet outside speakers representing their beliefs.

Implementation

Religious Education will be taught throughout the school. Mainly by the class teacher and may be supported from time to time by clergy from local churches and visiting speakers. Religious Education may be taught in a 'whole class' setting but with flexibility to allow for discussion, questioning and reflection in small groups and individually.

Visits to local churches such as St Christopher's, the chapel in Macclesfield hospital, Chester or Liverpool cathedral and other places of worship such as synagogues and mosques when possible.

Special Educational Needs.

Children with special educational needs and disability will work alongside the other children in their group, as in other curriculum areas, but differentiation in approach, language and expected outcome will be appropriate to the varying needs in the class. We aim to meet the full entitlement of every child in our school. To optimise inclusion the children's differing needs for learning (including children with special educational needs) will be addressed through differentiated activities.

Planning, Assessment, Reporting and Record Keeping

All pupils will be assessed based on the assessment procedures use throughout the school and the guidance offered by the Local agreed Syllabus and Diocesan advice. Children's work is evaluated and assessments for each child are carried out at agreed points in the academic year. These statements will inform future planning assessment; reporting to parents; and curriculum monitoring by the coordinator and the Headteacher.

Records are kept in staff share so all staff have access. Samples of work are kept by the Religious Education Coordinator.

Summative reports to parents will be made at the end of the year.

Long Term Planning is informed by guidance offered by the Diocese, the Agreed Syllabus and The Church of England's Education Office.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- ❖ The Headteacher has overall responsibility for monitoring and evaluation.
- ❖ The RE subject leader will monitor Long Term and Medium Term plans.
- ❖ The RE subject leader will monitor RE through work scrutinies
- ❖ The subject leader will keep a file of examples of work to demonstrate continuity and progression.
- ❖ The subject leader will manage resources.
- ❖ The subject leader will endeavour to keep up to date with information, initiatives and developments in Religious Education and disseminate this as appropriate.
- ❖ The subject leader will be aware of staff development needs and encourage continuing professional development.
- ❖ The subject leader will facilitate the sharing of good practice.
- ❖ The subject leader will be responsible for drawing up an action plan for Religious Education. Generally this will be an annual plan and should be informed by this policy.

Signature and date

Policy last reviewed : March 2024

Next review date : March 2027

Worship Co-ordinator: Headteacher

Governor responsible for Religious education: Sally Winstanley