

Austrey RE Policy

Policy Owner: Local Academy Board

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Sign off signatory: Chair of Local Governing Body

Introduction.

As a Church of England School, our Christian ethos is at the heart of every aspect of school life at Austrey C.E. Primary. There are close links with the local church and the overall Christian education provided for our pupils, together with these church links, contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils.

As a school we have an agreed definition for spirituality which has been agreed by stakeholders.

‘Spirituality is the opening of hearts and minds, through reflection, and questioning of the world; which lifts the soul and makes the heart sing. For some, it will be experienced through faith and worship

Aims

(Based on ‘Understanding Christianity’ programme and Coventry and Warwickshire Agreed Syllabus for RE aims 2017-2022)

- To enable pupils to develop an awareness of the spiritual and moral dimensions of life experiences, identify questions and issues which they raise and respond in a variety of ways to them.
- To value and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other principle religions represented in Great Britain.
- To reflect on their own experiences, beliefs and values and develop personal responses to questions.
- To develop an understanding of commitment to a religious tradition.
- To have confident viewpoints, whilst engaging in open and honest enquiry, respecting others’ beliefs which may be different in a religiously diverse society.

Organisation, General:

- Religious Education is taught in accordance with the law as set out in the Education Reform Act 1988 and our R.E. is taught [in accordance with The ‘Understanding Christianity’ framework alongside the Coventry and Warwickshire agreed syllabus for RE \(2017-2022\)](#).
- There is a designated member of staff to co-ordinate R.E. and to develop the subject in the school. Regard is given to adequate in-service training in R.E.

- R.E. is compulsory for all registered pupils in full-time education, although parents or guardians have the right to withdraw their children from R.E. if they wish.
- Parents wishing to do so are asked to inform the Headteacher, in writing. They do not have to give a reason. In such an event, the school is responsible for the supervision of these pupils.

Organisation, Subject Content:

There is a long term plan for RE across the school based on a 2 year rolling programme to accommodate mixed age classes.

The planning and teaching of RE:

- ensures that the key processes: learning about religion (AT1) and learning from religion (AT2) and their elements are addressed and linked
- identifies appropriate key concepts for pupils to explore throughout the key processes
- makes judgements on pupils' attainment for recording and reporting

A time allocation of 1 hour a week for the teaching of RE. The Christian year of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Ascension form a structure for the years' work along with the observance of the principal festivals as they occur.

As a Church of England school the RE content is mainly from Christianity though the Understanding Christianity scheme but other religions are explored through the Coventry and Warwickshire agreed syllabus for RE (2017-2022).

Children will encounter Judaism in EYFS and KS1, Islam in lower KS2 and Hinduism, Buddhism and Humanism in Upper KS2.

At Austrey Primary School, with mixed aged classes, the traditions covered and time allocated throughout the term is for the teacher(s) of each class to arrange to suit the needs of the children, while adhering to the guidance above, to ensure coverage.

Special Educational Needs and R.E.

All pupils should be given opportunities to participate and have their achievement and experience in R.E. recognised and celebrated.

We aim to ensure that there is differentiation in the planning and teaching of R.E. so that it meets the needs of all pupils.

Equal Opportunities and R.E.

The diversity of religious beliefs, including none, in society and amongst pupils should be recognised. Similarities between individuals and traditions are emphasised, but without compromising the integrity and distinctiveness of each. Links with the Multi-faith forum enables children to engage with a variety of religions on an annual basis. Pupils are encouraged to regard people of all faiths, races and cultures with respect and tolerance.

Resources

There are resources and visual aids housed in boxes (in the shelving unit in the hall) as well as a number of books and some artefacts in the library. Each classroom has a prayer area which will include class prayers as well as focus objects – these and any other items relating to the delivery of RE which are in individual classrooms are shared among teachers as required.

This policy for R.E. has been written by Headteacher, R.E. co-ordinator, staff and governor consultation. It takes into account the statutory requirements of the Education Act 1988, Understanding Christianity and the L.A. agreed syllabus. It will be reviewed on an annual basis, as we work through our topic cycle, when necessary amendments may be required as become evident.