



St Ippolyts C of E (VA) Primary School
Diocese of St Albans

*Our principle aim:
To provide the best possible education for each
child, within the context of a caring, Christian community.*

Religious Education Policy



ST. IPPOLYTS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

POLICY FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

AIMS

At St. Ippolyts we pride ourselves on being a school which celebrates the Church of England, in our social, moral and cultural understanding and our method within school. It links with our first school aim where we promote a Christian and caring ethos within every lesson, the way we learn, the way we treat others and the way we behave as an individual within our community.

Our Religious Education is not only something which we teach discretely within part of our timetable is something which we thread through everything we do within school, whether it be in lessons, during collective worship or on the playground.

Religious Education is of course also taught as a distinct and separate subject where we will enable all children to explore religious beliefs and practises, some of which are located in the local community. Pupils will be encouraged to explore the fundamental questions of life raised by human experiences.

Pupils will extend their thinking and analytical skills and their creative, imaginative and emotional development, with a particular focus on the AT1 objectives stated in the agreed Hertfordshire curriculum, where children can show a mature response to questions relating to their own religion, to make links with their own lives and compare between different religions forming opinions about their own beliefs.

Religious Education will foster mutual understanding between students of differing religious and cultural backgrounds. Pupils will be encouraged to develop a reflective approach to life in an atmosphere of openness, exploration and enquiry. Pupils will be encouraged to respect the differences and help in the promotion of a harmonious society.

CONTENT

Children will have a main focus on Christianity during the autumn and spring terms, with an emphasis on special events on the Christian calendar taught progressively across the school, such as Christmas and Easter.

During the Summer term each class will learn about a different religion, being encouraged to draw on personal experiences and extending to make links between their own lives and those lives of others from a different religion.

Children will have the opportunities to learn about religion from a variety of resources.

Children will have opportunities to explore their own response to profound human experiences and universal symbols.

Children will be encouraged to respond freely to experiences and questions which have a profound or puzzling quality and to use a range of different forms of expression to convey their responses. This will take place each term as a part of the school's timetabled assessment week. A 'Big Question' will be chosen and all children will produce a piece of work, this will also help to see the range of ability throughout the whole school at age appropriate expectations.

REVIEWED AND REVISED 06/03/2014

Our average notational time teaching RE is 1 hour per week in every classroom, with additional themes taught and discussed in whole school collective worships and assemblies.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

R.E. is a fundamental way of supporting the ethos of the school. All children have equal access to the curriculum, regardless of their gender, race or ability. Staff should promote equal opportunities and enable pupils to challenge discrimination and stereotyping.

APPROACHES

St. Ippolyts has developed its' own scheme of work, being supported by the Hertfordshire agreed syllabus, as well as support from the Diocesan units which are allocated across the school.

RE is approached through stories, cross curricular themes with a particular emphasis on links with the creative arts, RE topics, festivals and whole school topics, discussion on specific ideas and spontaneous enquiries.

Regular staff meetings/INSET are held where staff are encouraged to reflect on their religious education teaching and ensuring that we deliver a rich and stimulating approach to allow children to think broadly about their beliefs and opinions, expressing these with confidence. Developing their understanding of AT1 and AT2.

METHODS

Teaching methods are stimulating and engaging, providing all students with access to religious education. Consideration is paid to different learning styles and the differing abilities of students so that all students make progress in their learning. A range of teaching and learning strategies which are effective for inclusive teaching of religious education include:

- Visits to places of worship, museums or art galleries
- The use of representatives from religious traditions as visitors to the class
- The use of artefacts, big books, posters, videos, artwork
- The use of picture or word cards for matching, classifying, prioritising, Sequencing, etc
- The use of art and craft to enable students to express their ideas
- The use of drama, role play, gesture or dance
- The use of music to create an atmosphere or for expression of ideas and emotions
- The use of information and communication technology, such as digital cameras, interactive whiteboards, websites, etc.

ASSESSMENT AND RECORD KEEPING

The RE planning each half term identifies opportunities for assessment. Teachers will be asked periodically across the year for samples of work to be kept in the coordinator file to assess standards across the school and to enable the subject leader to make comparisons of our

REVIEWED AND REVISED 06/03/2014

standards nationally. Teachers' will also monitor the enjoyment of RE learning within their classroom by using pupil voice to express lessons they have particularly enjoyed at the end of the unit, they will also have an opportunity to comment freely on lessons which have been taught over the term. Teachers will also mark children's work with appropriate questions to encourage children to further develop their skills in articulating their deeper feelings about religion.

RESOURCES

Resources are used to enhance the children's understanding. There are a large range of resources, well organised within the RE resource cupboard. Separate faith boxes are available and are kept on top of the cupboard.

E.g.:

- Videos
- Teacher resource books
- Discussion cards
- Samples of religious art
- A set of class bibles
- Artefacts
- Values Education

Artefacts should be used with great respect as many must be handled with certain 'rules' in mind. Teachers should read the artefact notes very carefully before showing them to the class. Each concept box contains most of the resources needed to explore the concept. Other resources can be found in the artefact boxes, Video library and poster drawers.

Each class has their own bible, wooden cross.

LINKS

We are affiliated with the St. Albans Diocese. We have developed links with local churches and ministers. In particular, Reverend Ann, the Vicar at St. Ippolyts Church, where regular services are given throughout the year and often an integral part of our Christian RE is linked with the church, with regular visits being made within relevant RE lessons. Children also receive small gifts throughout the year at important times of the religious calendar, e.g. Advent and Easter booklets, candles (Candlemas).

We also work closely with other small schools similar to our school, these are not all faith schools, but they provide a valuable opportunity to discuss the quality of teaching and learning in RE.

All pupils will be given equal opportunities to access this area of the curriculum, but we accept that on some occasions parents may wish to exercise their right of withdrawal. However, the class teachers and/or Head teacher should discuss the matter sensitively with any parent who wishes to exercise their right to withdraw their child.

SCHOOL/ PARENT INVOLVEMENT

- Annual parents consultation meetings
- Formal reports at the end of every academic year
- Inviting parent to class assemblies

REVIEWED AND REVISED 06/03/2014

- Open Sessions for parents/family members
- Termly class topic curriculum leaflets which refer to the learning focus for R.E.
- Attractive and informative R.E. displays throughout school. Celebrating children's work and presenting key concepts.

ST. IPPOLYTS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL **GUIDELINES FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Content

The agreed syllabus outlines the following elements. Students are, however, required to complete all the elements of the sequence in order to make sense of what they are studying and its implication for themselves and others.

Apply their own beliefs and values to situations in their own and others' lives

Enquire into religious/non-religious concepts

Contextualise what is being studied in religious practice and belief and specific situations

Evaluate what has been discussed, taught and learnt.

Communicate their own responses to what has been discussed, taught and learnt.

Students can be guided to enter into the process at key points. There are two obvious starting points – students' own responses or the enquiry into religious concepts.

Cross-curricular opportunities

Links are made between Literacy, PHSE, Education for Sustainable Development, Art and Design Technology within a heavy emphasis on the use of art work explore religion in a range of ways, in particular the way that children can feel free to express their own beliefs in a creative way.