



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Religious Education Policy

'Let all that you do be done in Love' 1 Corinthians 16:14

At Arnside National School, our school vision is at the very centre of everything we teach. We aim to ensure that the children "Aspire, Believe and Achieve" We ensure that they will do this through high quality learning experiences, and we believe this is reflected in the RE curriculum.

Religious Education should provide children with opportunities to explore their own and other world views. RE is a highly valued subject at Arnside National School where the main teaching reflects Christian values and traditions but will also foster sympathetic understanding of other systems of belief. We believe that we have "a commitment to generous hospitality, being true to our underpinning faith, but with a deep respect for the integrity of other religious traditions (and worldviews) and for the religious freedom of each person." (Statement of Entitlement 2019)

The school provides an RE curriculum that offers children the opportunity to explore their own and other people's experiences. Our curriculum has the teachings of Christianity at its core, enabling students to acquire a deep and thorough knowledge of the Christian faith through exploration of Jesus Christ and his teachings.

Although the main teachings reflect the Christian traditions of this country, we also aim to provide a wide range of opportunities for students to have a sympathetic understanding of the range of faiths studied. In an increasingly multi-cultural society, we believe we have a duty to provide children with knowledge to make informed decisions and develop respect and tolerance for those who follow other faiths.

Our RE curriculum is intricately linked with the school's Christian values and vision. This means that the emphasis is on education rather than instruction, fostering understanding, and not on evangelisation. Students are encouraged to ask questions and explore ideas whilst maintaining respect for the faith and beliefs of others.

Aims:

1. To provide students with knowledge and understanding of Christianity and to recognise it as a worldwide religion that has deep roots in our British culture.
2. To experience Christian worship and be able to participate in it with understanding. We wish the church to become like a second classroom for the children, where they feel at home to ask questions and participate in discussion. This will be achieved through weekly church school visits.
3. To assist pupils in their own search for meaning and purpose in life by examining those aspects of human experience which give rise to fundamental questions about belief and values.
4. To enable students to know and understand other faiths and world views, and to develop an awareness and tolerance for these.
5. To foster a caring concern for members of the school and the wider community.
6. To provide a spiritual dimension to the process of educating the whole child.

Curriculum content:

- The provision of Religious Education is the responsibility of the Governors of the school. The Religious Education Governor is Father Andrew.
- We follow the Understanding Christianity planning and supplement it with the Carlisle Diocese resources.
- There are clear learning outcomes for each unit of work. These are based on the RE syllabus.
- Pupil progress is tracked through teacher assessment in a variety of ways. End of year reports detail pupil attainment in RE.
- RE is taught from Nursery as both a discrete subject and as part of a cross-curricular approach where appropriate.
- RE has at least 5% of curriculum time- 50 minutes a week in foundation stage and KS1 increasing to 1 hour in KS2.
- A strong emphasis is placed on sharing ideas through group discussions. This is to encourage respect and tolerance for the opinions and beliefs for other's and so the children can reflect and begin to develop their own set of values and beliefs.
- Curriculum maps have been developed to ensure full coverage of the RE syllabus and progression throughout the years.
- Inclusion and differentiation for children with SEND and EAL are a crucial part of RE planning and the class teachers' responsibility.
- Of the RE taught, 70% focusses on Christianity and 30% focusses on other faiths and world views.

Wider learning:

- The children will have the opportunity to take part in various festivals and celebrations throughout their time at Arnside School. As a church school, the major dates of the Christian calendar will be a time for whole school celebration.
- Visitors to the school and trips out to gain knowledge about the Christian faith or other religions will help the children gain a deeper understanding.
- Each classroom has a selection of non-religious books, suitable for teaching moral and social values as well as suitable selection of Bible stories.

Parents have a legal right in accordance with the Education act 1996 to withdraw their child from the teaching of RE. As this subject is considered crucial to the essence of Arnside School, we ask parents to discuss this with the Headteacher before arrangements are made.