

GREAT ECCLESTON COPP Church of England

(VOLUNTARY AIDED) PRIMARY SCHOOL

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

*See also: Collective Worship Policy
Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development Policy*

Reviewed and updated September 2018

OUR FOUNDATIONS

The Religious Education (RE) syllabus at Copp School conforms with the provision as laid down in the Trust Deed of 6th February 1866.

"The religious instruction shall comprise the Bible and Bible History, and (subject to the provisions herein-after contained) the Church Catechism, and shall be consonant with the principles and doctrines of the Church of England".

Our collaborative mission statement and motto promote our caring Christian ethos and forms the basis for the academic, spiritual, moral, social and cultural education of our pupils.

*Talk to me and I will listen,
Show me and I will remember,
Involve me and I will learn,
Encourage me and I will thrive.*

Copp, the village school, where everyone is special and where God will help us grow.

Copp Cares

In October 2013 the new Blackburn Diocese syllabus was adopted by the Governing Body.

AIMS

The *General Aim* is as stated in the Diocesan Syllabus:

"Within the context of a Church School, RE will support children and young people in developing their own beliefs, values and attitudes through an exploration of shared human experience and the place and significance of Christianity and other Religions in the contemporary world with such emphasis on Anglican beliefs and practices as is appropriate to the school situation."

Further aims are linked to our School Mission Statement and aim to:

- give pupils a sound knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith
- help pupils to develop personal moral values, respect for religious values, and tolerance of other races, religions and ways of life
- maintain good links with the local church and community
- encourage enquiring minds concerned with values, morals and attitudes to life
- make pupils aware of themselves and their world in which they live and the inter-dependence of individual groups and nations
- make pupils aware that religion is a living experience but that due regard needs to be given to human achievements and aspirations, both past and present.

CONTENT AND APPROACHES

RE is taught for at least an hour a week. Christianity plays a central role, taking up approximately 80% of the time available (as agreed by the Governing Body in December 2007). The rest of the time (20%) is devoted to appropriate teaching about other faiths and world views.

In preparing the schemes of work - thought has been given both to the progression of pupils' level of understanding and the organisation for mixed classes. As with every subject, differentiation will be an important factor when planning work. The class teacher holds separate schemes of work for each class.

At Copp, we have developed different methods for teaching RE so that pupils are engaged through art, music, dance and drama.

Our Religious Education Curriculum maintains a balanced approach of:

- Learning about Religion (Attainment Target 1 QCA)
- Learning from Religion (Attainment Target 2 QCA)

It also helps pupils to:

- think theologically and explore the great questions of life and death, meaning and purpose
- reflect critically on the truth claims of Christian belief
- see how the truth of Christianity is relevant today and face the challenge of Jesus' teaching in a pluralist and post modern society
- develop the skills to handle the Bible text
- recognise that faith is not based on a positive balance of probabilities but on commitment to a particular way of understanding God and the world
- respond in terms of beliefs, commitments and ways of living
- develop a sense of themselves as significant, unique and precious
- experience the breadth and variety of the Christian community
- engage in thoughtful dialogue with other faiths and traditions
- become active citizens, serving their neighbour
- find a reason for hope in a troubled world
- understand how religious faith can sustain them in difficult circumstances and in the face of opposition

As a Church School our RE curriculum has distinctive content. This includes:

- opportunities to explore the experience of the church's year
- regular visits to the local place of worship - St. Anne's Church

- welcoming visitors from the local parishes to share their experience of Christian belief and life
- child-friendly Bibles
- access to Christian artifacts that are used with care, respect and confidence
- encouragement of mutual respect based on Christian values, where pupils and teachers are able to talk openly about beliefs and practice
- provision for Christian families talk openly and share their beliefs (Christian Club)
- pupils of all backgrounds having a safe place to explore doubt and certainty in maturing faith.

Further elements are delivered through worship, PSHE and Citizenship.

Church

Close links with our parish church - St. Anne's - are maintained with regular assemblies taken by the vicar on a Wednesday (Wow Worship). A Christian club is held weekly in school, led by a member of St. Anne's. Other local church ministers also regularly lead our worship for example, Reverend Jim Williams who is the Minister of the United Reformed Church in Elswick.

The church is used for celebrations at times of main festivals for example Harvest and Education Sunday.

The church building and grounds are also studied as part of the school curriculum.

Church uses the school premises for Sunday Club and various other activities throughout the year.

Meetings are held each term between members of St. Anne's church and the school to further the links between church and school and enhance communication.

A section of the Copp Church Parish Magazine is devoted to school news. Speakers from other local churches or Christian Groups are also invited to lead Collective Worship, this being particularly important as many of the children in our care are of other denominations and attend Churches other than St. Anne's.

Children from Year 6 report any exciting or creative R.E. activities carried out using their end of week power point in the achievement assembly.

There are strong links with the wider community through our environmental work and school choir.

POLICY STATEMENT

This policy has been discussed as a staff and the scheme of work has been agreed.

Teachers select units of work from the Blackburn Diocese syllabus suitable to meet the needs of the children within their class, including mixed year groups classes. These units are held by individual staff. They are used for long/short term planning. The RE curriculum leader collates the units of work into a whole school grid. The Blackburn Diocese syllabus ensures that the National Curriculum learning outcomes are achieved and the children make progress.

Working in such a way allows for individual styles and approaches to teaching and allows for some flexibility with use of resources and yearly coverage of the National Curriculum and Blackburn Diocese syllabus.

CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

We must remember that within this country there are varieties of culture within which children are brought up. These variations have their origins in such matters as:

- age
- ethnic inheritance
- places of abode
- social class
- leisure preferences
- religion

Bearing in mind the ages and background of the children at Copp, it is our responsibility to ensure that the children learn about the variety of faiths and cultures found in our society:

- in the children's own locality
- in other parts of the United Kingdom
- in other countries

with respect to such matters as jobs, diet, dress, religion, language, dialect, leisure pursuits and customs.

We shall, as a Voluntary Aided Church of England Primary School, still embrace Christianity as our first and foremost belief but throughout our work in RE and SMSC development, we will teach the importance of mutual tolerance and respect of others and help the children in our care to recognize the widely shared values of love, peace and justice which is common to all faiths and at the core of Christian practice.

ASSESSMENT

Due to the very nature of the subject we are handling and the concepts involved, any written RE work is marked according to the learning objective, seeking to promote further thinking or spirituality and, as such, questions might be asked or comments written that encourage the children to reflect or evaluate their own work. Children will be given time to 'assess' their own learning at the end of a unit of work or at other times, when appropriate.

Progress and attainment in RE are measured through analysis of work, discussion at staff meetings and the use of the syllabus assessment scheme to determine a level. This is monitored by the RE Leader.

Scrapbooks are developed in each class to show the work done in RE. This will typically involve questions to which the children may respond, photographs and comments by the children.

Every adult in school will praise, encourage and give acknowledgement to children's personal moral attitudes and individual achievements. Records of these will take place through celebration worship. Children will have time to reflect on their own actions and the actions of others throughout the school week.

Attitudes to and knowledge gained through RE lessons, respect for Christian attitudes and tolerance of others will be commented upon when reporting to parents.

THE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR R.E.

Both the 1994 and 1988 Education Acts as well as the Trust Deed of the School govern RE in Church Schools.

The legislation requires RE to be provided for all pupils (1988 Education Reform Act, Section 2(1)(a)). The type of RE provided must be in accordance with the Trust Deed.

Parental rights of withdrawal (as appears on The School Prospectus)

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Religious Education and should approach the Headteacher if this is their wish. However, the teachings of the Gospel enter all aspects of the School. As a result, withdrawal of pupils from formal Religious Education or Worship would not isolate them from the Anglican religious teaching which the school gives.

Complaints about the provision of RE

It is hoped that any complaint will be resolved informally by the Headteacher, in consultation with the members of the Governing Body and possibly with advice from the Diocese.