



**Little Houghton CEVA Primary School
Religious Education (RE) Policy**

**Our Vision for Little Houghton CE Primary School
'Learning for Life'**

Through:

- ❖ **Growth – realising our potential**
 - ❖ **Community – sharing and contributing**
 - ❖ **Spirituality – reflecting and thinking deeply**
 - ❖ **Environment – appreciating local and global environments**
- So that each child can flourish – like a flower of the field (Psalm 103:15)**

Mission Statement:

We aspire to attain high academic and moral standards, and to encourage emotional and spiritual development, based on the values of the Christian faith.

Our sense of community is reflected in our Ethos Statement:

We are a Christian school working in partnership with parents and the wider community:

- Which maintains a welcoming, secure and inclusive environment
- Where God's love is demonstrated and taught and where the emphasis is on the value God places on each individual
- Where we promote personal responsibility, good citizenship and Christian and British Values that develop high behavioural and moral standards based on the teachings of Jesus Christ
- Where we aspire to attain high academic standards, enable pupils to achieve their full potential and develop a lifelong love of learning
- Where true faith and sound learning flourish within the traditions of the Church of England
- That reflects on the spiritual values of the Christian church
- That epitomises core Christian values:
Community (Koinonia) – Generosity - Truthfulness – Dignity – Justice – Courage

Little Houghton CEVA Primary School strives to educate the individual according to Christian principles and values, to be caring in attitude, purposeful in approach and responsible in behaviour.

At this school, we consider Religious Education to be an introduction to an individual's religious quest, during which a child is able to explore questions of meaning and value, together with how religious traditions, beliefs and practices are a response to the fundamental questions of human existence.

This quest is undertaken from within the traditions of the Church of England, whilst promoting attitudes of tolerance and respect towards the values and beliefs of other cultures and faiths and those of no faith.

Religious Education is unique in the school curriculum in that it is neither a core subject nor a foundation subject but the 1988 Education Act states that 'Religious Education has equal standing in relation to core subjects of the National Curriculum in that it is compulsory for all registered pupils.

Little Houghton CEVA Primary School is a Church of England Voluntary Aided School therefore the provision of RE must be in accordance with the Trust Deed of the School. (An extensive search has been made for the school's Trust Deed, but it has not been found). The school follows the current Diocesan Agreed Syllabus, together with Understanding Christianity for the teaching of R.E. Little Houghton is a small village school taking pupils from a variety of rural and town backgrounds. Although we are a church aided school, the children do not necessarily come from a background of faith.

Aims and Objectives (As linked with the Statement of Entitlement)

In Religious Education at this school, we aim that pupils might:

- Develop a rich, deep knowledge and understanding of Christianity and its impact on our school, our local community, and our society today. This includes the ways in which it is a diverse global living faith.
- Develop a knowledge and understanding of some of a range of religions and world views appreciating diversity, continuity and change within the religions and worldviews being studied.
- Access a curriculum which engages and challenges through an exploration of core concepts and questions.
- Develop a sense of respect for different religious traditions, beliefs and practice and an awareness of people who have no faith.
- Grow in their spiritual development and engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose raised by human experience and experience.
- To understand the role of foundational texts, beliefs, rituals and practices and how they help form identity in a range of religions and worldviews.
- Develop a sense of awe, wonder and mystery.
- Develop skills and attitudes, which will support their personal, moral, social and cultural development.
- Explore some questions of meaning through termly Christian values and consider how the world's religions have responded to them.
- Think about their own beliefs and values in the light of the beliefs of others, both religious and non-religious, and the values of the school community and show respect for all.

Subjects are divided into termly units of work, planned in consultation with reference to the Diocesan Syllabus and Understanding Christianity. These termly units from Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) to Year 6 follow a two-year rolling programme with progression built in across the school. Progress in RE is expected to be significant and attainment high enabling children to develop confident religious literacy. Christianity is the major religion in each year group (see Curriculum Statement for RE for further detail)

Inspection (Section 48)

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS). The school is subject to inspection every 5 years.

Teaching and Learning

RE has a high profile within our curriculum and is a priority for senior leaders.

To make religious education a lively, active subject we employ a variety of teaching methods including art, music, discussion, the development of thinking skills, drama, the use of artefacts, pictures, Information Technology (IT), stories and the use of periods of stillness and reflection.

Where possible we want our pupils to have opportunities to encounter local faith communities through visits to local places of worship or visits from members of local faith communities to the school.

R.E. will be taught for an average of one hour per week over the year in both Key Stages 1 and 2. R.E. and our focus on Christian Values will provide a major contribution to a child's Personal, Social and Health Education as well as their Moral, Social, Spiritual and Cultural Education as they move through the school. In the Foundation Stage, children will experience R.E. through their knowledge and understanding of the world.

Children may be taught as a class or in mixed or ability groups to suit the learning outcome. Input, resources, level of teacher/ adult support and extension activities provide differentiation and adaptive teaching. Children in KS2 also have opportunities to visit the Prayer Space for reflection and thinking time.

Assessment and Monitoring of R.E.

Assessment and monitoring is carried out in line with the School's policy. It is expected that each teacher will be responsible for the assessment of their pupils through marking work/ activities and any comments made should be in line with the lesson objective. Termly assessments in R.E. should be made in line with the Hexperts Assessments, developed by the Peterborough Diocese, created for Attainment Target 1 (Knowledge and Understanding)

and Attainment Target 2 (Responding to questions of meaning and value) in each specific R.E. area studied.

The subject leader will monitor R.E. within the school through analysis of assessments, looking at planning, scrutiny of work and classroom observations. The governors' Faith Committee will also monitor the learning in R.E. and will discuss this with the R.E. subject leader.

Resources

Resources for R.E. are stored either centrally or in classrooms, but all staff may share all resources.

CPD

It is our priority to build up staff expertise in RE through specific specialist training, and staff having access to appropriate and timely professional development. It also includes a governing board which monitors standards effectively.

S.E.N. and Equal Opportunities

All children should have the opportunity to fulfil their potential in R.E. regardless of gender, culture or ability. We acknowledge the needs of the more able and less able and tailor work to develop individual skills.

The Right of Withdrawal from R.E.

At Little Houghton CEVA Primary School, we wish to be an inclusive community but recognise that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from religious education on the grounds of conscience. We would ask any parents considering this to contact the head teacher to discuss any concerns or anxieties they may have about the policy, provision and practice of religious education at the school.

Carolyn Fairbrother
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