

Clipston Primary School and Great Creaton Primary School Religious Education Policy



Religious Education Policy

Approved by the Governing Body – Autumn 2016

To be reviewed - Summer 2018

Signed
Mrs Dewinder Birk – Chair of Curriculum Committee

AIMS OF THE SCHOOL

Clipston Endowed VC Primary School aims to provide every child with high quality teaching and learning. It is the school's philosophy to give our pupils a measure of independence, a high level of self-confidence, a deep sense of self-worth, and an understanding and deeper appreciation of our Christian heritage. To achieve this, we aim to:

- a) Enable all children to achieve their full potential, both academically, socially, personally, and morally in order that children expect the best of themselves.
- b) Promote spiritual development and the ability to grow and flourish as human beings.
- c) Support children in building relationships which reflect Christian values.
- d) Deliver a broad, relevant and challenging education which is of a high standard and appropriate to an individual child's needs.
- e) Promote high standards of behaviour based on mutual trust and respect, developing responsibility and fostering self-discipline.
- f) Promote good citizenship, thus enabling individuals to make valuable contributions to wider society.
- g) Ensure equal opportunities for all.
- h) Provide a welcoming and stimulating learning environment in which everyone feels safe, happy and secure.
- i) Develop a sense of pride in belonging to Clipston Endowed VC Primary School.

AIMS OF GREAT CREATON SCHOOL

Great Creaton Primary School aims to provide every child with high quality teaching and learning. It is the school's philosophy to give our pupils a measure of independence, a high level of self-confidence and a deep sense of self-worth. To achieve this, we aim to:

- a) Enable all children to achieve their full potential, both academically, socially, personally, and morally in order that children expect the best of themselves.
- b) Promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural development to support the ability to grow and flourish as human beings.
- c) Deliver a broad, relevant and challenging education which is of a high standard and appropriate to an individual child's needs.
- d) Promote high standards of behaviour based on mutual trust and respect, developing responsibility and fostering self-discipline.
- e) Promote good citizenship, thus enabling individuals to make valuable contributions to wider society.
- f) Ensure equal opportunities for all.
- g) Provide a welcoming and stimulating learning environment in which everyone feels safe, happy and secure.
- h) Develop a sense of pride in belonging to Great Creaton Primary School.

To achieve these aims staff and governors will work in partnership with parents, carers and the local community for the benefit of all our pupils.

1. Statutory Requirements

Schools are required by the 1988 Education Reform Act (ERA) to provide Religious Education for all pupils aged 5-18.

The National Curriculum 2014 states:

Every state-funded school must offer a curriculum which is balanced and broadly based¹ and which:

- promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society, and
- prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.
- The school curriculum comprises all learning and other experiences that each school plans for its pupils. The national curriculum forms one part of the school curriculum.
- All state schools are also required to make provision for a daily act of collective worship and must teach religious education to pupils at every key stage and sex and relationship education to pupils in secondary education.

Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Religious Education. Any parent considering this action is encouraged to meet with the Head Teacher to discuss the matter and the alternative arrangements.

2. What guides the RE curriculum at our schools?

The legal requirements for the curriculum and assessment in Religious Education are arrived at locally for LA maintained schools and published by the local authority as an Agreed Syllabus for RE (Northamptonshire January 2011).

The aims of religious education are taken from the Agreed Syllabus for RE in Northamptonshire.

The agreed syllabus for Religious Education "Growing Together" has three main aims - For all children to become:

- 1) Successful learners – who enjoy learning, make progress and achieve
- 2) Confident individuals – who are able to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives
- 3) Responsible citizens – who make a positive contribution to society

We also use other resources to supplement the Agreed Syllabus, for example Discovery RE, which is an enquiry-based approach to the teaching of RE. In addition we use Understanding Christianity to support the delivery of this aspect of RE.

3. The distinctive nature of Clipston School as a Church of England School in the Community

Clipston School is a Voluntary Controlled Endowed primary school located in the small village of Clipston. Since 1667 it has held an important role in the village life and it is one that the school takes seriously.

The school has close links with the local church (All Saints' Church). The incumbent, the Reverend Angela Hughes regularly leads School Assemblies and is often involved in supporting RE lessons.

The church building features in the life of the school. The children make many visits there not only to find out more about the building itself but also to lead and take part in school services and celebrations.

The School also has close links with the community generally. Members of the local community come to school once a week to help the children with various activities e.g. reading, and they are in turn invited to concerts and special events as part of our policy of broadening the depth of relationships between the School and its Community.

As part of our policy of broadening our children's horizons, representatives of other local churches in the area are invited to lead our assemblies and enrich the RE curriculum, as well as representatives of the wider community (e.g. National Children's Home, Children United, Barnados, Royal British Legion).

4. Preparing our pupils for Life in Modern Britain

At present pupils from both schools are predominantly from a White British background. From time to time we have children on roll from other ethnic groups and all children are well integrated together.

Apart from the wide range of abilities within the school population which we recognize and cater for in our curriculum planning, the physical location of both schools means that we are a considerable distance away from other faith communities/places of worship. As a result, our children's everyday experience of the increasingly pluralistic nature of British society is limited. To compensate for this, we invite specialists to share their understanding and experience of a range of faith and cultural celebrations such as Sukkot and Diwali. We also have established links with a culturally diverse school in the city of Leicester; the children enjoy reciprocal visits to Sparkenhoe Primary School. We have rolling programme for RE to ensure that children have opportunities to visit other places of worship, such as a mosque in Northampton, and to welcome visitors from other major world faiths.

5. Objectives

At Clipston we consciously strive to achieve a positive, caring ethos as reflected by the distinctive ethos statement of our school:

"Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the church at parish and diocesan level. The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian Values through the experience it offers to all its pupils".

At both schools, we consider R.E. to be the vehicle through which we support pupils in developing their own identity, beliefs and values as well as growing in knowledge and understanding of the subject. Religious Education is regarded as fundamental in fulfilling each school's Aims.

The Agreed Syllabus states:

"Religious Education can be seen as a journey during which pupils should have the opportunity to explore questions of human existence and behaviour and questions of meaning and value".

6. Other Curriculum Links

RE is seen to play an important contributory role in the implementation of other subjects within the curriculum.

Culturally diverse activities: RE helps the children to have a positive regard for other faiths, as well as adding breadth and interest to the curriculum.

Inclusion: The teaching of RE will be related to the ages and individual abilities of the children. This will take into account their special needs and previous learning experiences and thus will be at a level appropriate to their stage of development.

Collective Worship: RE makes a significant contribution to worship at Clipston school. Although Worship and RE are distinct activities, they should complement and cross-reference with each other, so that pupils can understand the relationships between the activities. RE should help children to interpret the experience of school worship.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development: Our schools recognize that RE makes a distinctive contribution to this area of school life, but not an exclusive one.

7. The Organisation of the Curriculum

RE plays an integrated role within the school's creative curriculum plans.

The nature of the Agreed Syllabus means that some areas are taught discretely. Thus RE is taught with integrity and is not compromised in order to fit in with a topic/theme. The schools take account of the mixed-age classes through careful planning to ensure that the children are exposed to a wide variety of religions during KS1 and KS2.

RE is taught mainly during specific timetabled sessions each week. For example, a Whole School Devised Unit might reflect a particular religion for a particular year, across the whole school. Other religions might be explored during class based topics. Distinctively Christian elements will be explored annually, as we move through the church year. The Understanding Christianity resource is key to the Christianity aspect of RE.

Planning for RE will reflect the two Attainment Targets:

- 1) Learning about Religion and Belief
- 2) Learning from Religion and Belief

The broad aim of RE is to develop the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to enable children to understand the connections between religion, human experience and an individual's own search for meaning.

8. RE Management and Leadership

The Leader for RE at Clipston is Mrs Emma Mercer. It is her role to:

- Work with the Governors and the external Diocesan Advisor to review the RE Policy
- Oversee the organization of the RE syllabus and resources
- Ensure that teachers make judgements about pupil's attainment at the end of each year.

9. Continuity, Liaison, Progression and Coherence

The schemes of work set out in the Agreed Syllabus and the use of Attainment Descriptors lend themselves to continuity and progression. They are developmental and progressive, and by planning as a school and working together, we aim to ensure that the issues of continuity and progression are addressed so that as the children move through the school, their understanding and appreciation develops as their maturity allows them to reflect and question their own beliefs and values.

10. Assessment, Recording and Reporting

The school assesses the pupils' attainment against the Descriptions in the agreed syllabus (p 94 – 96) and the National Curriculum statements as set out in the Symphony Grids. The Understanding Christianity assessment statements are used for this aspect of RE. These assessment components combine to provide an overall attainment which is reported to parents at the end of each academic year. At Clipston, assessment results are also reported to the LA and thus the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE), when required.

11. Training and Development

Clipston School subscribes to the Diocesan Service Level Agreement and staff, the Headteacher and Governors attend a variety of training events.

We recognise the right of individual teachers to exempt themselves from teaching RE as legal entitlement.