St. Wulfram's National Church of England Primary School, Grantham

"SHOW FIRST IN DEEDS ALL THAT IS GOOD AND HOLY."

LINCOLN ANGLICAN ACADEMY TRUST
DIOCESE OF LINCOLN

Religious Education Policy

September 2024

Whole School Vision:

"Show first in deeds all that is good and holy."

CURIOUS, HOPEFUL, THRIVING

At St Wulfram's National Church of England Primary School, we honour our traditions, looking to the future with curiosity, hope and aspiration.

Our inclusive community supports each person to thrive academically, personally and spiritually.

Inspired by the life of St Wulfram, we travel together, taking time to value ourselves, others and our learning. Like St Wulfram, our school community is inspired by the Rule of St Benedict, which we use to underpin the work we do.

At the heart of our work to realise our vision is St Benedict's call to

"Show first in deeds all that is good and holy."

Vision and Values:

We aim to be a school where:

- Every individual in our school community knows they are treasured and loved as a unique child of God
- We strive to live out our Christian faith and values in every activity and relationship
- Children have a zest for learning, an aspirational outlook on their education and a love of life
- Our curriculum is inclusive, creative, rich and coherent and makes learning stimulating, meaningful and relevant
- Our staff are skilled, creative, reflective and collaborative practitioners
- Our pupils embrace the future with hope and confidence
- Parents are actively engaged as partners in their children's learning and in the life of the school
- Individuality and diversity is respected and celebrated
- We can experiment, make mistakes and have the confidence to try again

Introduction:

RE is central to the purpose of St. Wulfram's National school because, as a church school, we see that the Christian faith informs all aspects of our life together and commits us to a search for truth.

RE at St. Wulfram's National school explores how individuals and communities make meaning and sense of their lives through the major religions of the world. It enables pupils to know about, understand and respond to the important and ultimate questions of life. RE is taught in such a way that it inspires pupils to explore, develop and affirm their own faith and values and have respect for the faith, beliefs and values of others.

It is not the practice of this school to preach to or seek to convert children. Values education permeates the RE curriculum at St. Wulfram's National School.

Aims:

At our school, RE supports and strengthens the vision, ethos and values which are at the heart of what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. The importance placed on the development of the whole child spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in the RE curriculum.

Specifically, RE aims to enable pupils of all abilities and stages of development to:

- Develop knowledge and understanding of Christian beliefs and practices so that they understand the importance of the Bible, the role of the church and recognise that for Christians their faith provides a way of interpreting life and its meaning.
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- Develop knowledge and understanding of the beliefs and practices of some of the other principal religions.

- Understand how belief may impact on culture, relationships, values and lifestyle.

- Understand how belief can be expressed in a variety of ways including art, dance, music, ritual celebration and in different cultural settings.

- Develop spiritually, morally, culturally and socially by helping them to reflect upon personal feelings, responses and relationships.

- Explore ways in which religious values and teaching have an impact on actions and decisions for people of faith

- Be supported in their own search for meaning and purpose in life.

- Develop a sense of awe, wonder and mystery.

- Explore concepts of love, forgiveness and sacrifice.

- Develop skills of reflection, empathy, communication, analysis, investigation, interpretation, evaluation and synthesis.

- Develop attitudes of respect, sensitivity, open-mindedness and self-esteem.

Legal Framework:

Within our school, the Lincolnshire Agreed Syllabus for RE is our statutory document for the teaching of RE.
Parents have a legal right to withdraw their children from religious education lessons, but as RE is central to the life and identity of our school, we would ask parents to discuss this with the head of school, any reasons they might have for doing this.

Teaching and Learning:

- The scheme of work for RE will maintain a balance between the two attainment targets: Learning about Religions and Learning from Religions.

- There will be clear learning outcomes for all units of work, based on the appropriate expectations/levels as set out in the RE syllabus.

- The scheme of work will ensure that there is continuity to embed previous knowledge and support progression for pupils and opportunities for assessment in both areas.

- A range of teaching and learning activities will ensure that pupils learn effectively and with interest.

- Progress in RE will form part of pupils' annual report to parents.

- RE will be taught either as a discrete subject or as part of a cross curricular approach where appropriate.

- A range of visitors will be invited to support the teaching of RE, and where possible, there will be planned visits to places of worship.

- RE will be given at least 5% of curriculum time i.e. 1 hour per week in the foundation stage and key stage 1 and 1 hour and 15 minutes per week in key stage 2. This may also equate to 1 hour per week with themed R.E. days and visits throughout the year.

We deliver RE in accordance with the Church of England Education Office's Statement of Entitlement:

Within this framework our aims in RE are for pupils to:

- Acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and a range of world faiths and worldviews

- Develop an understanding of the ways in which religious and non-religious beliefs, teachings, practices, values and traditions influence individuals, communities, societies and cultures, from the local to the global contexts;

- Develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues, with reference to the beliefs, teachings, practices, sources of authority and ways of living associated with the principle religions represented in the UK;

- Develop positive attitudes of mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs;

Enhance their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development by:

- Considering the 'big questions' raised by human experience and reflecting on how religious and other traditions respond to them;
- Responding to such questions with reference to religious beliefs, teachings, practices, values and traditions, relating them to their own understanding and experience;
- Reflecting on their own beliefs, values and experiences in light of their study of religious and other traditions.

Resources:

As a school we have invested in a wide range of high quality RE resources including The Understanding Christianity Document, appropriate books and artefacts. The RE Subject Leader audits these resources annually. We take advice from the Diocesan RE Adviser and other RE professionals on the best resources to support the delivery of high-quality RE.

Visits and Visitors:

We consider that an essential element of the delivery of good quality RE is encounter with a range of religious and non-religious worldviews. We encourage our pupils to participate in visits to places of worship when the opportunity arises; these visits are arranged in line with the programme of study for RE and provide pupils with the chance to encounter world religions as living faiths in modern Britain. We also encourage faith leaders and other members of faith communities to visit our school.

Supporting All Learners :

Teachers ensure that the learning activities employed in RE are scaffolded to meet a variety of learning needs. We teach RE to all pupils, whatever their ability and individual needs. RE forms part of our commitment to provide a broad and balanced education to all children. Through our RE teaching, we provide learning opportunities that enable all pupils to make good progress. We strive to meet the needs of all pupils and we take all reasonable steps to achieve this.