

Our Vision for Religious Education - INTENT

Here at Chester Blue Coat, RE expresses and strengthens our 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.

In our school where pupils and staff come from all faiths and none, religious education (RE) is a highly valued academic subject that enables understanding of how religion and beliefs affect our lives. We provide a RE curriculum that is rich and varied and study a range of world religions and worldviews. At the heart of RE in this school is the teaching of Christianity, rooted in the person and work of Jesus Christ which enables enabling learners to acquire a thorough knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith and.

Our aim is to provide a wide range of opportunities for learners to understand and to make links between the beliefs, practices and value systems of the range of faiths studied. Links with the Christian values of the school are intrinsic to our RE curriculum. In accordance with our vision, (see Pg.1), in every class we aim to provide suitable learning opportunities that are matched to the needs of all children. This may be done through providing support, differentiating activities and using a range of teaching and learning styles within lessons. Where possible, teaching will be supplemented with trips to places of worship and/or visits from people from religious communities or from people who hold a non-religious worldview.

Pupils are encouraged to know about, understand and respond to the important and ultimate questions of life. Our 'Big Questions' books found in each classroom, capture some of these responses. Our curriculum inspires pupils to explore, develop and affirm their own faith and values whilst having respect for the faith, beliefs and values of others.

Encountering religion and belief includes enquiry into and investigation of the nature of religion, its key beliefs and teachings, practices, their impacts on the lives of believers and communities, and the varying ways in which these are expressed. It also includes the skills of interpretation, analysis and explanation. Pupils learn to communicate their knowledge and understanding using specialist vocabulary. It also includes identifying and developing an understanding of ultimate questions and ethical issues.

When responding to their learning encounters, religious education is concerned with developing pupils' reflection on and response to their own experiences and their learning about religion. It develops pupils' skills in applying, interpreting and evaluating what they learn about religion, and the ability to consider and relate their learning to questions of: identity and belonging; meaning, purpose and truth; values and commitments. As pupils communicate their responses to learning their religious literacy is developed and enhanced.

Aims

The aims of Religious Education at Chester Blue Coat are:

- To know about and understand Christianity as a diverse global living faith through the exploration of core beliefs using an approach that critically engages with biblical text.
- To gain knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews appreciating diversity, continuity and change within the religions and worldviews being studied.
- To engage with challenging questions of meaning and purpose raised by human existence and experience.
- To recognise the concept of religion and its continuing influence on Britain's cultural heritage and in the lives of individuals and societies in different times, cultures and places.
- To explore their own religious, spiritual and philosophical ways living, believing and thinking.

National Society RE Statement of Entitlement 2019

Legal Framework - IMPLEMENTATION

As a voluntary aided school, we are free by law to provide RE in accordance with our trust deed.

Chester Blue Coat's RE curriculum is based on the Chester Diocesan Guidance which fulfils all legal requirements and embodies the RE Statement of Entitlement from the Church of England Education Office 2016.

Parents have a legal right in accordance with the Education act 1996 to withdraw their children from religious education lessons, but as RE is central to the life and identity of Chester Blue Coat CE Primary School, we would ask parents to discuss with the head teacher any reasons they might have for doing this.

Teaching & Learning

- We follow the Chester Diocesan syllabus. There are clear learning outcomes for all units of work, based on the appropriate expectations as set out in the RE syllabus. Understanding Christianity is used alongside the Diocesan syllabus and specific units are planned in for each year group to use.
- RE will be given at least 5% of curriculum time i.e. 50 minutes per week in the foundation stage and key stage 1 increasing to 1 hour per week in key stage 2.
- The school scheme of work long term plan, which is based on a 4-year rolling programme, ensures that there is depth, continuity and progression for pupils and opportunities for assessment.
- A range of teaching and learning activities inspires pupils learning.
- Pupil progress and attainment in RE is tracked and recorded half termly and the school keeps an up to date portfolio of evidence to support assessment data. Progress in RE is part of pupils' annual report to parents.
- Inclusion and differentiation for children with SEND and EAL are considered in our planning and teaching as they are in all areas of the curriculum.
- RE will be taught either as a discrete subject or as part of a cross curricular approach where appropriate. We may plan RE days or weeks to study a theme in more depth. For example, we have a yearly prayer day, held in September, and two further half days (one each term) during which prayer is the focus. We also have a yearly Easter/Christmas Pause Day, during which these special times of year are the focus.
- A range of visitors is invited to support the teaching of RE, and whenever possible, there will be planned visits to places of worship
- At Chester Blue Coat the faiths taught in essential RE in more depth at KS1 are Christianity and Judaism and at KS2 Christianity, Judaism, Islam and Hinduism. Other religions and worldviews may be taught implicitly or when comparing ideas or as thematic studies.
- Of the RE taught, 70% is Christianity and 30% is other faiths.
- Wherever possible, links are made between Religious Education and other curriculum subjects.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development/ British Values

- Religious Education is a key opportunity for children to develop morally, spiritually, socially and culturally. In RE lessons children are invited to reflect on their personal responses to issues, consider other people's responses, and appreciate that for some people belief in a spiritual dimension is important.
- We encourage children to consider the answers offered by faith groups to questions of meaning and purpose and problems within society and their own experience.
- Religious education also strongly supports the school's citizenship programme by introducing pupils to the significance of belonging to a community, the diversity of communities in the wider community, faith rules and their application to moral and ethical issues and cultural influences on religious practice. This includes work on British values.

Assessment & Achievement - IMPACT

Curriculum statement: challenging, accurate and diverse

At Chester Blue Coat, religious education is considered an academic subject. All pupils are entitled to religious education that is delivered in an objective, critical and pluralistic manner. Pupils are entitled to a balanced RE curriculum which enquires into religions and worldviews through theology, philosophy and the human and the social sciences.

It should be a coherent curriculum that enables progress through ordered and sequential learning developing both knowledge and skills. There should be a clear curriculum vision and intent, a structure for implementation and provision and a process for evaluating impact.

National Society RE Statement of Entitlement 2019

Appropriate to age at the end of their education at Chester Blue Coat the expectation is that all pupils are religiously literate and as a minimum pupil are able to:

- Give a theologically informed and thoughtful account of Christianity as a living and diverse faith.
- Show an informed and respectful attitude to religions and world views in their search for God and meaning.
- Reflect critically and responsibly on their own spiritual, philosophical and ethical convictions
- Engage in meaningful and informed dialogue with those of other faiths and none.