

Barkisland CE (VA) Primary School

Religious Education & Collective Worship Policy



Purpose of RE

Vision

At Barkisland School our vision is “We Believe, We Nurture, We Succeed” this is embedded through our RE curriculum which follows the Leeds and York Diocesan Syllabus for Religious Education 2022 including Understanding Christianity 2017. The syllabus states that “*the principal aim of RE is to enable pupils to hold balanced and informed conversations about religion and worldviews*”. We endeavour to believe in our children through our teaching and nurture them to encourage such conversations. We will enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a diverse global living faith. It is our aim for pupils to be successful in gaining knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews appreciating diversity, continuity and change within the religions and worldviews being studied. Our pupils will be given opportunities to explore their own religious, spiritual and philosophical ways living, believing and thinking through a carefully planned, varied curriculum.

Our world is enriched by a wide and profound diversity of cultures and beliefs. Human beings are strengthened and empowered by learning from each other. Engaging and stimulating RE helps to nurture informed and resilient responses to misunderstanding, stereotyping and division. It offers a place of integrity and security within which difficult or ‘risky’ questions can be tackled within a safe but challenging context. Religious education contributes dynamically to children and young people’s education in schools by provoking challenging questions about meaning and purpose in life, beliefs about God, ultimate reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human.

In RE pupils discover, explore and consider different answers to these questions, in local, national and global contexts, through learning about and from religions and other world views. They learn to appraise the value of wisdom from different sources, to develop and express their insights in response, and to agree or disagree respectfully.

Teaching should equip pupils with knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and other world views, enabling them to develop their ideas, values and identities. It should develop in pupils an aptitude for dialogue so that they can participate positively in society with its diverse understanding of life from religious and other world views.

Pupils should gain and deploy the skills needed to understand, interpret and evaluate texts, sources of wisdom and authority and other evidence. They learn to articulate clearly and coherently their personal beliefs, ideas, values and experiences while respecting the right of others to differ.

We acknowledge that the community which Barkisland serves is a fairly homogenous one, therefore it is critical we equip our pupils with the skills, knowledge, open-mindedness, compassion and acceptance for life beyond Barkisland Primary School and in Modern Britain.

Uniqueness will be celebrated at all levels and will include the dimensions of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economics, status, age, physical abilities, religious beliefs, political beliefs or other ideologies.

Diversity is about recognising and respecting these differences to create an all-inclusive atmosphere to support our community to thrive together and be proud of who they are.

RE Curriculum

In school, we follow the Dioceses of Leeds and York Diocesan Syllabus for Religious Education including Understanding Christianity.

This principal aim of the syllabus incorporates the following aims of Religious Education in Church schools:

- To enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living faith that influences the lives of people worldwide and as the religion that has most shaped British culture and heritage.
- To enable pupils to know and understand about other major world religions and non-religious worldviews, their impact on society, culture and the wider world, enabling pupils to express ideas and insights.
- To contribute to the development of pupils' own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own beliefs and values.
- 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

The Diocesan Syllabus requires that pupils must study in depth the beliefs, practice and ways of living of the following groups:

EYFS- Children will encounter Christian and other worldviews represented in the local area.

Key Stage 1- Christians for at least 50% of study time and Muslims and Jewish people. Pupils may also learn from other religions and non-religious worldviews in thematic units.

Key Stage 2 - Christians for at least 50% of study time and Jewish people, Muslims, and Hindus and/or Sikhs Pupils may also learn from other religions and non-religious worldviews in thematic units.

Assessment

Class teachers assess the children at the end of each unit taught against the key stage statements in the syllabus; they will be levelled as emerging, expected or exceeding.

RE lessons

RE is timetabled so that pupils are provided with 60 minutes per week for EYFS and Key Stage 1 and 75 minutes per week for Key Stage 2, class teachers will make cross curricular links with other subjects where possible.

In order 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, 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. We will also hold RE focused days and themed weeks when appropriate.

Withdrawal from RE

Parents have a statutory right to withdraw a child from religious education. If a parent is considering withdrawal from RE we will listen to their concerns, inviting them to do so with the head teacher or other representative of the school. We work hard to ensure that any reservations or doubts may be accommodated to avoid withdrawal but recognise that a parent has this right if reservations cannot be resolved. Any formal decision to withdraw should be made in writing to the head teacher. The school will arrange for appropriate arrangements to be made to supervise the pupil in school during RE lessons.

Collective Worship Overview

Barkisland CE (VA) Primary School is a Church of England Primary School maintained the Diocese of Leeds.

The law requires all schools to provide a daily collective act of worship that is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian nature for most of the time. At Barkisland School we will meet the requirements of the law in full and collective worship has a high profile within school. Where parents request it, their children will be withdrawn from the collective worship and alternative arrangements will be made for them.

The Headteacher carefully plans the themes for worship taking into account the Christian calendar in addition to other major world faiths. Our collective worships are themed to underpin our schools 10 core values;



Aims & Objectives of Collective Worship

1. Each day all children will have the opportunity to participate in a high quality occasion of worship and quiet reflection.
2. A variety of different opportunities will be used to meet our statutory duty.
3. Strong links will be made between spiritual, moral, social and cultural education and religious education.
4. Collective worship will contribute to pupil's experience of awe and wonder.
5. A good ethos will be created for worship enabling children to enjoy music, singing and celebration.
6. Worship helps children understand and experience the meaning of religious festivals and holy days.

Strategy

1. On some occasions the school will meet corporately and in other groupings to join in worship.
2. On some occasions worship will be held in classrooms and be led by teachers and children at appropriate times during the day.
3. Children will have an opportunity say grace before meals and prayers of thanks after meals.
4. Pupils will learn well known prayers and hymns.
5. Worship will be used for celebration and thanksgiving.
6. Pupils will be given opportunities to participate in worship and lead worship.
7. On some occasions parents will be invited to participate in collective worship.
8. Occasionally outside speakers will be brought in to address the children and where appropriate, lead acts of worship.
9. On special occasions worship will be linked to religious festivals e.g. Christmas and Easter.
10. Records of religious worship will be kept to show that the requirements of the law have been met.

Outcomes

At Barkisland, pupils will be offered excellent opportunities to experience enjoy and participate in a variety of different kinds of acts of worship. They will have the opportunity to experience an ethos conducive to spiritual development through prayer and reflection. They will learn develop positive attitudes to worship and worshipping communities.

*Subject Co-Ordinator: Felicity Goldthorpe and Becky Schofield
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