



St Lawrence C of E (Aided) Junior School Curriculum Statement

Religious Education



Intent:

Why do we teach it? Why do we teach it in this way?

Through Religious Education and the Christian ethos of St Lawrence pupils will develop spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding of the Christian religion, while respecting those of other faiths and viewpoints. We will nurture and encourage self-awareness, respect for all, open-mindedness and a sense of awe and wonder. Pupils will have a sense of responsibility for themselves and others.

RE is fundamental to understanding, appreciating and responding to the world in which we live. It is therefore a subject that will be essential to pupils beyond their school life as they navigate their own lives and encounter ways of life and beliefs that are different from their own.

Pupils at St Lawrence, will gain a secure knowledge and understand of the beliefs, practices and traditions of Christianity, starting from an Anglican perspective while learning about other world religions. Pupils will be able to consider moral, ethical and philosophical issues. Through RE, pupils will develop a range of skills through subject-specific and cross-curricular links. Pupils will have their thinking challenged. Pupils will be able to use and understand a range of religious vocabulary. Pupils will be able to compare, question and debate religious practices and ethical issues. Pupils will be able to explain clearly their personal opinions.

Implementation:

How do we teach it? What does this look like?

Pupils are taught RE weekly for an hour and a quarter in RE subject specific lessons. An hour in RE lessons, which follow our Medium Term RE Planning and a reflective activity each of 15 minutes week which links to the weekly assembly theme. Pupils participate in regular RE days such as Easter Pause Day, Christmas Pauses and Summer Days, which often include cross curriculum links.

In St Lawrence, we follow the Guildford Dioceses Agreed Syllabus to extend pupil knowledge of Christianity, Judaism and Islam, and be introduced to aspects of Hinduism & Buddhism. Curriculum overview and medium-term plans have individual learning intentions and success criteria and ensure both sufficient challenge and support is built into each lesson. Within our planning children also begin to consider moral, ethical and philosophical issues, and where appropriate, they may also encounter non-religious belief systems such as Humanism. Pupils will also further develop important subject-specific and cross-curricular skills, which are identified within each unit of study. Where possible, pupils are encouraged to make links between different aspects of their learning in RE, utilising higher level thinking skills and creating opportunities for greater progress and challenge in RE. Teaching strategies employed in RE lessons are varied to suit the wide range of learning styles and abilities of our pupils. Lessons are planned to enable all children to participate and contribute in an ability appropriate way. The lessons are designed to provide lively, engaging experiences which do not always rely on



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reading/writing ability to succeed. There are lots of opportunities for creative expression through drama, art, debate, examining artefacts, music, games and role play. Throughout their time at St Lawrence children are given the opportunity to visit places of worship such as a synagogue and gurdwara.

Religious Education is an integral part of St Lawrence and entwined through all aspects of school life.

Legal requirements for Religious Education:

Religious Education is a statutory subject of the curriculum for all pupils in each year group and 'should be provided for all registered pupils except those withdrawn at the request of their parents.' (s 71 SSFA 1998)

Parents have the right to request that their son or daughter be excused from all or part of the RE provided at school.

Impact:

By the time children leave St Lawrence they will:

- Ask and offer possible answers to challenging questions about the meaning of life, beliefs, nature of reality and morality.
- Have a secure understanding and knowledge of the religions studied and be confident to answer ultimate questions.
- Have the ability to ask significant and reflective questions about religion and demonstrate a good understanding of issues relating to the nature, truth and value of religion.
- Have a sense of self, identity and belonging to flourish within the community and be responsible citizens.
- Show respect, tolerance and understanding of all religions and beliefs.
- Have a strong understanding of how the beliefs, values, practices and ways of life within any religion come together.
- The ability to link the study of religion and belief to personal reflections on meaning and purpose.
- The ability to exemplify the School's Christian values in all aspects of life that are rooted in the teachings of the Bible.

The Impact of RE is monitored and assessed in a number of ways. Including continued questioning throughout lessons, which allows teachers to challenge pupils' thinking. We also use assessment sheets completed at the end of every topic to determine the children's understanding and inform the teachers' planning. The impact of our RE curriculum is also sought directly from the pupils as surveys and questionnaires are used to gather pupils' voice on this subject and together with summative assessment, action can be taken to further develop the RE curriculum.

By the end of year 6 pupils at St Lawrence have a secure knowledge and understanding of the beliefs, practices and traditions of Christianity and have explored other world religions. Pupils are able to consider moral, ethical and philosophical issues and use religious vocabulary to compare, question and debate religious practices and ethical issues. This understanding is reflected in their behaviour towards



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and respect of ideas and beliefs which differ from their own. Pupils have a sense of self, identity and belonging to and flourishing within the community and be responsible citizens. Pupils understand the schools Christians values are rooted in the Bible.

The Christian ethos of Achieving Believing Caring, which runs throughout the school is implemented daily by both pupils and adults reflecting the success of the Religious Education Teaching within the school.