

Religious Education at St Cleopas

Intent, Implementation and Impact



Our School Vision is inspired by this bible verse:

John 13:34 "As I have loved you, so you must love one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples".

Our School Vision: St Cleopas is an inclusive community that nurtures and develops opportunities for lifelong learning on our journey walking alongside Jesus, opening our eyes and hearts to all.

Our School Values: At St Cleopas, we aim to develop all pupils so that they achieve and succeed. This happens in a caring, welcoming and loving environment based firmly on our Christian values

Friendship – Respect – Joy – Compassion – Forgiveness – Courage

Religious Education Intent, Implementation and Impact

Intent

As a Church of England School; our vision and values are at the heart of everything we do and play a vital part in our pupils' education, spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development.

In line with our overall curriculum intent: We want our children to develop opportunities for lifelong learning on our journey walking alongside Jesus, opening our eyes and hearts to all, not just whilst they are with us but for the rest of their lives.

Our RE curriculum is based on a sound understanding of theology, educating through a love of learning, rooted in Biblical text - Deuteronomy 6:6–9: "These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children.

At St Cleopas, we endeavour to ensure that Religious Education is rich, varied, and inspiring, enabling children to explore big questions, reflect critically, and develop skills to analyse, interpret and apply the biblical text. We aim to provide a curriculum that promotes Christian values and is inspired by the life and example of Jesus Christ.

As a result of an excellent RE curriculum we want our children to:

- Understand Christianity as a Global living faith.
- Understand the Big Story (God's salvation plan) and the big ideas in Christianity (concepts).
- Become Courageous Advocates, making reasoned and well-informed judgments about religious and moral issues.
- Positively engage with their religion and use this to make a positive impact on their friends, families, and the local and wider communities.
- Have an understanding and respect for other people's faiths and beliefs and the difference it makes to their lives, deepening their understanding of the world and their own experience within it (respect for other cultures and faiths).
- Leave school as well-rounded individuals with respect and appreciation for their own religion, beliefs, morals as well as those of others.

We want children to engage with the living faith of our school and understand how religious faith can provide a vision for both their spiritual and personal lives. By strengthening an understanding of our Christian values (*Friendship – Respect – Joy – Compassion – Forgiveness – Courage*), we will empower children to make positive choices and develop themselves as unique and significant individuals in our world.

Implementation

Our school follows the LA RE syllabus (RE today) and this is supplemented with elements from the Blackburn Diocesan syllabus Questful RE, alongside some units from Understanding Christianity, due to our school being 1 ½ form entry. This format was chosen with involvement of our Governors in consultation with the Headteacher and with guidance from the Diocese and support from Liverpool SACRE. The syllabus supports our commitment to offering a rich, inclusive RE curriculum that nurtures spiritual development and encourages personal reflection. The guidance given within the syllabus leads to a study of up to 80% Christianity and 20% non-Christian faiths (pupils will study aspects of the practices and beliefs of the other five major world faiths: Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism as well as worldviews of Humanists.) Questful RE is designed to take children on a journey of discovery and encourage them to be curious.

The children record work in individual RE books (EYFS observations through Tapestry). Throughout their learning, the children are given opportunities to explore the 'big ideas' of Christianity through 8 core concepts. These 8 core concepts make up God's Big Story which is displayed in each class and referred to in each lesson. Pupils are regularly reminded of where a particular text occurs in the Big Story to build up a coherent understanding of the core concepts and the relationship between them.

Each unit sets out clearly the knowledge and skills that the children are expected to acquire as well as specific key vocabulary. In addition to the weekly RE lesson, activities are complemented by a variety of visits to places of worship and visitors. The children are also given the opportunity to explore their own spirituality through daily worship and have free access to the reflection areas in classrooms and around the school.

Impact

As a result of our RE Curriculum and the explicit teaching of Christian concepts and God's big salvation story, the children of St Cleopas Primary have a deeper understanding of Christianity.

Children can better understand themselves and others and to cope with the opportunities, challenges and responsibilities of living in a rapidly changing, multicultural world. Children celebrate the diversity of the school community and promote positive images of people in the wider community, including their beliefs, traditions, culture, language and history. Children mature spiritually, academically, emotionally and morally to enable them to become well-rounded successful citizens in future life and have a positive impact on their friends, family, local and wider community. They develop a powerful sense of advocacy and know how they can challenge injustice and improve their community and the wider world.

In addition, children:

- Are inspired by the RE Curriculum and want to learn more.
- Show progression in their skills of Making Sense of the Text, Understanding the Impact and Making Connections.
- Can discuss their learning and remember what they have learned.
- Identify different stories from the Bible, place them on the Christianity Timeline and talk about the learning that can be taken from each story.
- Talk about the 8 concepts of the Understanding Christianity Timeline.

The intended impact of the RE Curriculum is that the majority of children in each year group are working at or above the expected level for their age. We monitor the impact of our curriculum through deep dives, pupil voice exercises, work scrutiny and teaching and learning observations.