OLD HUTTON VC CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

At Old Hutton VC CE Primary School we are committed to providing an effective, distinctive, inclusive and exciting education based upon Christian values. We work together to promote a school environment where children feel welcome and safe at all times, in line with our agreed Christian values of friendship, forgiveness, respect, responsibility, peace, perseverance, hope, humility, courage and trust. Faith and Spirituality are two of our key Curriculum Drivers.

Aims

- To provide children with an insight into the nature of religion and what it means to belong to a religion
- To encourage attitudes of openness and sensitivity towards people whose religious beliefs and customs may be different from their own
- Together with other areas of the curriculum, to contribute towards the child's moral and social development, encouraging responsible caring attitudes
- To develop an awareness and understanding of self and others
- To develop their own spirituality, personal reflection and a sense of awe and wonder at the world around them
- To encourage curiosity, asking and suggesting answers for BIG, challenging questions
- To help children as they grow and mature, to have sufficient confidence in their own beliefs to form personal opinions and judgements about right and wrong
- To help children towards an understanding of major world faiths and cultures
- To help children understand religion in the context of art, music, history, geography and other curriculum areas

Objectives

- Children will learn attitudes of tolerance to others of different faiths and customs
- Children will develop their understanding about how religious beliefs can inspire and influence the lives of themselves and others
- Children will able to relate religious beliefs, values and practices to their own and others' experiences of life
- Children will develop a sensitive and informed understanding of Christianity and the other major world faiths as having distinct traditions
- Children will develop, through a variety of experiences and activities, the necessary concepts, skills and attitudes for continuing exploration of religion.

Content, assessment and monitoring

As a VC school, we follow the current Cumbria Agreed Syllabus for RE (2011-2016), using the suggested learning experiences as starting points for an enquiry and theme-based approach. Values and Christian topics have key importance and RE work is often linked to daily Collective Worship themes. We also draw upon the Carlisle Diocese RE planning documents, the North Yorkshire Agreed Syllabus (2013) planning units and RE Today resources to support our planning and teaching. Children will be taught as a whole class or in groups, with appropriate differentiation, and their progress will be assessed using the Cumbria level scale and our own linked learning ladders, which interpret this scale in terms of unit-based 'I can' statements for pupils. A planned long-term cycle of work is in place for both KS1 and KS2, which is linked to whole-school termly themes of work, other curriculum areas and PSHCE. At KS1, children will have experience of Christianity and at least one other religion (Hinduism); at KS2 the faiths taught will be Christianity, Buddhism, Islam and Judaism. At times, other major faiths may be studied in addition to this in line with the long term plan when looking at broader themes such as Festivals. A wide range of local and global links (with our global partner schools), visits and visitors will be used to enhance teaching, providing engaging first-hand learning experiences. Teaching and learning will be monitored regularly by the RE subject leader to ensure they are effective.

Withdrawal

In accordance with the Education Acts 1996 and 2002 and DfE 'Religious Education in English Schools: Non-Statutory Guidance 2010', parents have the right to wholly or partly withdraw their child from Religious Education at school. We encourage parents to discuss any concerns with the Class teacher or Headteacher.

AMW - November 2014