



PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, HULME

RE Policy

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1. Introduction

At St Philip's Church of England Primary School we welcome children with a range of cultural and religious backgrounds. We acknowledge that many of our pupils are not members of the Christian faith which is always respected.

As a voluntary aided school we work with guidelines issued by the Diocese of Manchester and we follow the 'Understanding Christianity' scheme of work. At St Philips we teach RE through Christian values such as love, compassion and respect with no pressure to believe. The school however remains Christian in its foundations, teaching the values of Christianity that then can be seen as a cross over into other faiths.

Our parish church is The Church of The Ascension, Hulme. We work closely with Father Azariah France-Williams and his team to ensure we are providing opportunities which nurture a full moral and spiritual understanding for our children. The church is currently undergoing extensive redevelopment work, which once completed will offer ample space for school artwork displays, school concerts and services throughout the year.

2. Aims

St. Philip's is a Church of England voluntary aided school linked to the Church of the Ascension and its Parish.

Religious Education at St. Philip's School aims to:

- Enrich and develop the character of the child to help them grow into the person they are meant to be.
- Give children opportunities to apply their understanding of Christianity to make reasoned and informed responses to life issues and moral choices.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of other principal religions especially those represented in the local and school community.
- Develop sensitivity and respect towards all people no matter what their beliefs.
- Develop the ability to reflect on and communicate with others issues of truth, belief and faith.
- To explore a personal quest for meaning.
- To find reason for hope in a changing world.
- Develop a sense of themselves as significant, unique and precious.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith and the Anglican tradition through the 'Understanding Christianity' scheme of work issued by the Diocese of Manchester.

We will continue to develop our strong links with the Church of the Ascension and its people.

3. Links to Legislation

Our school curriculum for religious education meets the requirements of the Education Reform Act 1988 (ERA). The ERA stipulates that religious education is compulsory for all children, including those in the reception class who are less than five years old. The ERA also allows teachers to refuse to teach religious education, but only after they have given due notice of their intention to the school governors. The religious education curriculum forms an important part of our school's spiritual, moral and social teaching. It also promotes education for citizenship. The ERA states that the RE syllabus should reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, and that it should, at the same time, take account of the teachings and practices of other major religions.

4. Intent

The principle aim of RE is to engage pupils in an enquiry approach where they can develop an understanding and appreciation for the expression of beliefs, cultural practices and influence of principle religions and worldviews in the local, national and wider global community.

In our school every effort is made to develop the whole child through the teachings and values of the Christian faith. We achieve this by following the Manchester Diocesan Syllabus 'Understanding Christianity' (2016) which reflects the national framework for RE, the National Society "Statement of Entitlement" and the requirements of SIAMS.

Collective Worship is a key factor of how we reflect the Christian ethos of our school. Collective Worship is embedded throughout the school day through assemblies, reflection times and prayer.

More information please see the Collective Worship Policy.

5. Assemblies

Special assemblies will be held at key points in the Christian and School Year including:

Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Leavers' Assembly. There will also be assemblies led by each class and members of other Christian denominations. Occasional assemblies may be led by visitors from other faiths or from organisations involved in the life of the community. Parents and carers are invited to attend these assemblies.

6. School Prayers

School has a lunchtime prayer (see Appendix 1) and a prayer for the end of the day (see Appendix 2).

7. Diocesan Policy

The Diocese states that as part of the Religious Education curriculum, school is to teach 80% Christianity and 20% other faiths. The provision in this policy is in line with Diocesan policy on worship in voluntary aided schools.

8. Parent's Right of Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Religious Education and collective worship as identified in the Education Act 1944 and in subsequent legislation. The worship and religious education provided by the school is in accordance with the Church of England foundation. This foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school community. Since the conduct of the school as a whole reflects the Church of England ethos, removal of pupils from worship and/or religious education (as parents are legally entitled to do) cannot insulate them from the religious life of the school.

In order to preserve the distinctiveness of this church school community we encourage everyone to participate in RE. Parents who have concerns about this should contact the Head Teacher.

9. Reflection Areas

Each classroom has a designated space for quiet prayer and reflection. Each area will include the classes' floor book, a bible, 3 candles and a crucifix. Additions to these will

vary throughout the year and will be tailored according the current RE topic, age and spiritual needs of each class.

10. Appendix 1

Whole school lunchtime prayer:

For health and strength and daily food,
We thank You God
Amen

11. Appendix 2

Whole school end of day prayer:

God our Father, I come to say,
Thank You for Your love today.
To help me aspire and do what's right
Please shine on me Your guiding light.
Amen