

# Newquay Primary Academy



## R.E. Policy

Developed: **01/10/2022**

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## **Religious Education (RE) Curriculum - Intent**

At Newquay Primary Academy, the principal aim of religious education is to explore what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live, so that pupils can gain the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to handle questions raised by religion and belief, reflecting on their own ideas and ways of living. Religious Education (RE) is taught in line with the current Cornwall Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education alongside Understanding Christianity. The intent of Religious Education at our academy is to help pupils to: engage confidently, constructively and reflectively with beliefs, values and lifestyles in a religiously diverse world. A religiously educated pupil at Newquay Primary Academy will have the opportunity to:

- acquire knowledge and understanding of religions in Cornwall and around the world in the present day;
- acquire knowledge and understanding of how religious traditions have shaped the identity of Cornwall;
- acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and the other principal religions represented in Great Britain;
- develop an understanding of the influence of beliefs, values and traditions on individuals, communities, societies and cultures;
- develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about issues arising from the study of religions;
- reflect on their own beliefs, values and experiences as part of their study;
- know about and understand Christianity as a living world faith, by exploring core theological concepts;
- develop knowledge and skills making sense of biblical texts and understanding the impact in the lives of Christians;
- develop abilities to connect, critically reflect upon, evaluate and apply their learning to their own growing understanding of religion and belief (particularly Christianity), of themselves, the world and human experience.

## **Religious Education (RE) Curriculum - Implementation**

- Religious education is taught in Newquay Primary Academy according to the Cornwall Agreed Syllabus Religious Education 2020-25.
- RE is taught weekly in half-term blocks, planned by the teacher, using the RE progressive long-term maps, with Understanding Christianity to supplement and support learning. Work is recorded in Learning Journals and can be evidenced with a variety of outcomes including written pieces, artwork and photographs.
- Each half term consists of five one hour sessions (or the equivalent), with an additional lesson to present work in Learning journals.
- To enable pupils to gain a knowledge and understanding of world religions, and be able to make links between different world religions and views, we aim to re-visit and build on existing knowledge using the Cognitive Load Theory.
- Subject knowledge for both staff and pupils will be supported by both teacher and child friendly knowledge organisers.
- Flashback 4 will be used at the start of every lesson and will include keywords/knowledge linked to both current and previous learning. Constantly re-visiting learning, will support pupils understanding of key religions by breaking the RE curriculum down into small steps, enabling knowledge needs to be transferred to the long term memory, ready for retrieval and transfer (CLT).

- Quizzes will be used as an assessment tool at the end of each half term, to assess and build on pupils growing knowledge and understanding of world religions. Questions will be linked to learning from this term (1 point), last term (2 points) and last year (3 points).
- By the end of Year 6, pupils will have learnt about the beliefs, teachings and practices of the great religious traditions of the world, with a particular focus on Christianity. This will include celebrating Harvest, Easter and Christmas in special assemblies.

Pupils would have been given time to reflect on their own faith, values and responses and to develop the qualities of commitment, fairness, respect, self-understanding, enquiry and openness. These qualities are also explored further during a half-termly focus on a value such as respect, linking with PSHE teaching.

### **Religious Education (RE) Curriculum - Impact**

By following the current agreed Religious education syllabus along with Understanding Christianity, we will contribute 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. Pupils will:

- Have a knowledge about religions and beliefs in local, national and global contexts, to discover, explore and consider different world views.
- Have acquired skills to enable them to learn about religion such as investigation, interpretation, reflection, empathy, evaluation, analysis, application, expression and collaboration.
- Learn to weigh up the value of wisdom from different sources, to develop and express their insights in response and to agree or disagree respectfully.
- Should develop an aptitude for dialogue so that they can participate positively in our society, with its diverse religions and beliefs.
- Should gain and deploy the skills needed to understand, interpret and evaluate texts, sources of wisdom and authority and other evidence. They should learn to articulate clearly and coherently their personal beliefs, ideas, values and experiences while respecting the right of others to differ.

By continually building on previous learning by re-visiting key learning (keywords and key beliefs), new knowledge will be transferred to the long term memory as seen through the Cognitive Load Theory. This knowledge will then be ready for retrieval and transfer for children to connect, critically reflect upon, evaluate and apply their learning to their own growing understanding of religion and belief (particularly Christianity), of themselves, the world and human experience. Teaching will therefore equip pupils with systematic knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and beliefs, enabling them to develop their ideas, values and identities.

At Newquay Primary Academy, RE is taught as an engaging, inclusive and enquiry-led subject, open to all and at the centre of the curriculum, and we would hope that all parents would understand the value of this for all children. However, parents do have a right by law to withdraw their children from Religious Education lessons. In this event, we will undertake responsibility for their supervision with regard to health and safety. The school follows the guidance offered by **the Diocese of Exeter** and we always encourage parents to discuss any concerns they may have about the RE curriculum with the headteacher before making a final decision. Requests for full or partial withdrawal need to be made to the headteacher in writing.