Appendix

Name of Academy: Greens Norton CE Primary School

Name of Headteacher: Barbara O'Brien

Name of RE Subject Leader: Emily Whitwood

Our Academy Vision

"At Greens Norton Primary School, we aim to educate, inspire and nurture every child, staff member, parent and governor in a loving Christian environment, so we have the confidence and skills to excel in our achievements and flourish as fair and kind children of God.

Be fair, be kind and trust in God. Micah 6:8"

Religious Education (RE) plays a vital role in contributing to our whole school vision. RE enables our children to investigate and reflect upon some of the most fundamental questions asked in life. Throughout a child's journey at Greens Norton, RE develops the children's knowledge and understanding of the Christian and other world faiths. This enables our children to make informed, balanced decisions about their own views and faith. RE at Greens Norton makes an important contribution in providing a safe environment where pupils can express their own views and beliefs in a respectful way and ask their own 'big questions' for enquiry. Alongside this, the children develop a respect and sensitivity for the views of others. At Greens Norton, we want the children to make knowledgeable decisions and develop a clear understanding of the core concepts of each faith. This is achieved through looking at each faith's key texts and beliefs (making sense of the text), examining how members of that faith might put their beliefs into action (understanding the impact) and through reflecting on their own lives and understanding of the world (making connections). This encourages our children to understand the world around them and the importance of their own contribution within our school, community and the wider world. From this, each child can develop a sense of their own values and deepen their spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding. Children are encouraged to show respect for each other and an appreciation of the value of differences and similarities.

Local context

Greens Norton Primary school is a small, rural school serving children in the age range of four to eleven. We welcome the diversity of our families and we intend to be sensitive to the home background of each pupil.

At Greens Norton we have close links with St Bartholomew's Church, the vicar and members of the congregation from the village. The Church supports our RE and Collective Worship through joining with us in celebrations of the key Christian festivals throughout the year, many of which take place in the Church. The Vicar is well known to the children and joins us to lead our Collective Worship regularly. The children also have other opportunities to visit St Bartholomew's Church through Easter experiences, Prayer Spaces and Sunday family praise services each month.

We also have close links with the local community. This includes welcoming visitors to the academy from a variety of religious and non-religious backgrounds to support RE lessons and Collective Worship. For example, Anna Bayman creatively paints Biblical stories with a message, the Lighthouse trust help us develop the children's understanding of Christianity, CSALT telling stories using felt and visitors from other faiths present and discuss aspects of their faith, e.g. a member of the Jewish faith and a member of the Hindu faith. 11 As well as close connections with our local Christian place of worship, pupils also experience visits to diverse places of worship throughout their time at Greens Norton. All such visits are fully educational in nature and no confessional religious practice takes place. With the support of the school's Educational Visit Lead, the RE lead organises visits for different classes to a different place of worship including a mosque, a gurdwara and a Church. Here faith leaders and other members of the community are willing to meet with the pupils and share their faith. This is a valuable resource for the children and provides the opportunity for them to experience the celebration of different cultures and festivals other than their own. Our pupils also have the opportunity to experience the celebration of different cultures and festivals other than their own, within RE and the other areas of the curriculum and Collective Worship.

Time Allocation

At Greens Norton we organise our RE learning time by following our RE Long Term plan. This Long-Term plan details a yearly plan for each age group. Teachers follow a spiral curriculum for RE supported by Understanding Christianity and The Diocese of Peterborough Syllabus for RE. RE is taught on a weekly basis in both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. In Key Stage 2, the children will learn about four other faiths at least in addition to Christianity. Our 'thematic' units allow for children to develop their understanding further through comparing the key world faiths. In addition, teachers have the flexibility to adapt their lesson plans to meet the needs of individual classes, 'big questions' asked by the children or to cover recent news headlines. RE may also be delivered in flexible ways: for example, through RE days, RE weeks and visits. Where possible RE is linked closely to other topic areas to allow children the opportunity to develop schemas, connections and links throughout their learning. For example, the Understanding Christianity unit 'Creation', is taught alongside our Science unit 'Earth and Space'. Our thematic unit 'What will make our town/village a more respectful place?' is taught during our local history topic.

Teaching and Learning Styles

At Greens Norton we believe that it is important for all children to experience a rich and varied RE Curriculum. We ensure that a variety of teaching and learning styles are adopted by teachers in RE to allow access by all pupils. The teaching and learning styles used promote a range of skills such as thinking skills, reasoning, enquiry and research. We recognise that all classes in our school have children of widely differing abilities, including children with special educational needs, and that the children have different experiences of religion. We provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child, and by providing a wide range of activities. We use teaching assistants to support the work of individuals or groups of children where relevant and available.

Examples of active learning strategies and activities, which we use at Greens Norton, are;

- Dramatic conventions;

• Group work;
• Individual reflection;
• Use of music and art;
• Artefact handling;
• Multi - sensory approaches; 12
• Visits and visitors;
• Use of ICT and Multi Media;
• Use of photos, posters, DVDs.

Quality Assurance

At Greens Norton RE is monitored by a Diocesan Schools Consultant, alongside the RE Lead. In addition, the Governors of the school also monitor RE and are kept updated on RE developments within the school. The RE Subject Leader is involved with an RE network consisting of RE Subject Leads from other local Northamptonshire schools. The school completes a self-evaluation of RE as part of the SIAMS inspection framework and also the REQM status award as a process of reflection to ensure high standards within the subject.

Resources

A wide range of resources are in place for each theme within RE. These are all individually boxed according to religion and a list of contents for each resource box can be found in the RE subject folder. Resources are kept in an accessible place for teachers and they should be returned after use. Teachers make use of high quality online RE resources to support the children's exploration of different faiths. For example: https://www.natre.org.uk/ and https://www.reonline.org.uk/. In addition, there is also a section within our school Library where the children can choose to research about different world faiths and beliefs or enjoy stories from other cultures. Each class has a set of Bibles to which the children have access. Staff are invited to suggest gaps in the resources for future spending. The RE coordinator will source additional resources for the staff if they are needed to enhance the children's learning.