



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Rationale

'Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in the principals of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at Parish and Diocesan level. The School aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice.

The School Vision, Strapline and Bible quote.

We will all achieve our very best by loving learning, remaining inquisitive, showing resilience and by developing Christian values within our community.

Growing, Believing, Succeeding.

I am able to do all things by the one who strengthens me.
Philippians 4:13 (Lexham Bible)

Aims

- To acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and the other principal religions represented in the United Kingdom.
- To develop an understanding of the influence of beliefs, values and traditions on the individuals, communities, societies and cultures.
- To develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues, with reference to the teachings of the principal religions represented in the United Kingdom.
- To positively enhance their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development by:
 1. Developing awareness of the fundamental questions of life raised by human experiences and how religious teachings can relate to them;
 2. Responding to such questions with reference to the teachings and practices of religions and other belief systems, relating them to their own understanding and experience.
 3. Reflecting on their own beliefs, values and experiences in the light of their study.
- To develop positive attitudes of respect towards other people who hold views and beliefs different from their own, and towards living in a society of diverse religions.

Attainment targets

There are two attainment targets for RE which reflect these aims concisely:

1. *Learning about religions (Exploring)*
This includes exploring and examining religious beliefs, spirituality, teachings, worship, practices, behaviour, and ways of expressing meaning.
2. *Learning from religion. (Responding)*
This includes exploring and responding to questions of identity, diversity, belonging, meaning, purpose, truth, values and commitments.

National and LEA Documentation

Religious Education is taught in accordance with the Derbyshire Agreed syllabus for Religious Education 2014-19, which is produced by Derbyshire County Council and is the legal basis for RE in Derbyshire.

Policy approved.....at a Full Governors Meeting

Date of meeting:24th October 2018

Minute Number: 12.6

Renewal Frequency: Tri annually



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Role of RE Co-ordinator

The Co-ordinator will:

- raise awareness amongst all staff of their contribution to the pupils' religious education and agree the overall aims, objectives and priorities
- establish a shared view of best practice to which all pupils are entitled
- lead policy development
- agree the main priorities for the pupils' religious education and identify the major opportunities for meeting these priorities across the curriculum
- provide appropriate support and training for staff
- monitor and evaluate the planning, teaching, work samples and pupils' responses to the scheme of work.
- carry out a continuous process of review and development of the scheme of work as part of the annual cycle of school improvement
- attend relevant LEA courses and network meetings
- order and monitor resources.

Planning

Religious Education is taught 45mins per week in Reception/Key stage 1 and 1hr per week in Key stage 2 and is distinct from the time spent on Collective Worship.

RE units of work are sometimes block taught. The RE Curriculum taught is Enquiry led with units of work and lessons centred on Key questions and core concepts. Teaching is differentiated and structured to meet the learning needs of all pupils and a creative approach to delivering the material is encouraged.

We teach RE as part of our topic based curriculum. Each year each Class contrasts a major world religion with Christianity exploring beliefs, practices, festivals and places of worship. As a Church school two thirds of our curriculum time is focused on exploring the core concepts of Christianity through use of the resource 'Understanding Christianity'. Staff use this and the Derbyshire agreed syllabus to plan their units of work. Staff have the flexibility to deliver their sessions in a preferred learning style for the pupils while still maintaining continuity and progression across the school.

RE is also taught through other curriculum areas. I.e. Literacy, drama, Art, DT and through Visits and Visitors.

Resources

The school has a wide range of resources which are regularly reviewed and updated by the co-ordinator. These include 'Understanding Christianity resource', enquiry RE resources, books, posters, photographs, DVDs, and boxes of artefacts relevant to each major religion studied. These resources are kept centrally in the store cupboard and organised into the major religions. There is a separate section of the library dedicated to RE related texts.

Assessment

Formative assessment is used as a guide to the progress made by pupils and as a tool to aid future planning. This is carried out informally by teachers in the course of their teaching. This can be recorded following sessions on the weekly plans. At the end of each unit of work children are assessed against the given assessment statements. This is recorded on assessment grids and collated by the co-ordinator.

Summative assessment takes place at three points in the year and this is tracked on the schools tracking system.

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Equal Opportunities

This subject is taught with a high regard for equal opportunities. We ensure that the subject is accessible for all pupils. Pupils are organised to ensure there is no discrimination according to race, colour, gender or physical disability. The teacher actively challenges negative images, language and stereotypes.

Special Educational Needs

Religious Education is taught to all children, whatever their ability. We provide learning opportunities that are matched to the needs of the children. Teachers will try to address children's need through modified tasks or by use of support staff.

Health and Safety

The health and safety of each child will be ensured at all times.

Withdrawal from RE

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from RE lessons after consultation with the Headteacher.