



Religious Education (RE) Policy

Aims and Objectives

Religious education enables children to investigate and reflect on some of the most fundamental questions asked by people. At Thornhill Primary we develop the children's knowledge and understanding of the major world faiths. We enable children to develop a sound knowledge not only of Christianity but also of other world religions. Children reflect on what it means to have a faith and to develop their own spiritual knowledge and understanding. We help the children learn *from* religions as well as *about* religions.

The aims of religious education are to help children:

- Develop an awareness of spiritual and moral issues in life experiences.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other major world religions and value systems found in Britain.
- Develop an understanding of what it means to be committed to a religious tradition.
- Be able to reflect on their own experiences and to develop a personal response to the fundamental questions of life.
- Develop an understanding of religious traditions and to appreciate the cultural differences in Britain today.
- Develop investigative and research skills and to enable them to make reasoned judgements about religious issues.
- Have respect for other people's views and to celebrate the diversity in society.

Legal Requirements:

The ERA 1988 requires that the basic curriculum will include RE for all pupils of statutory school age. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from RE lessons and assemblies.

In Key Stage 1 we are required to teach 36 hours per year.

In Key Stage 2 we are required to teach 45 hours per year.

Agreed Syllabus

All RE is taught in accordance with the Bedfordshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2006. We follow the Discovery Scheme of Work which has the same aims and



weighting as the Bedfordshire Agreed Syllabus. Furthermore it ensures that each topic studied builds upon prior learning and has taken into consideration planned progression.

Teaching and Learning Style

We base our teaching and learning style in RE on the key principle that good teaching in RE allows children both to learn about religious traditions and to reflect on what the religious ideas and concepts mean to them. Our teaching enables children to extend their own sense of values and promotes their spiritual growth and development. We encourage children to think about their own views and values in relation to the themes and topics studied in the RE curriculum.

Our teaching and learning styles in RE enable children to build on their own experiences and extend their knowledge and understanding of religious traditions. We aim to invite people of different faiths or parents into school to talk to the children about special events/celebrations within their religion.

Trips

It is our aim that children from Thornhill Primary School visit at least one place of worship during their primary school life. We visit places of worship as guests and learners NOT as worshippers.

Curriculum Planning in RE

We recognise the fact that all classes in our school have children of widely differing abilities, and so we provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child. We achieve this through teachers annotating and differentiating the plans from the Discovery scheme for each lesson they teach and by differentiating the work and the level of support given.

Foundation Stage

We teach religious education to all children in the school and develop awareness of different faiths in EYFS.

In nursery and reception classes, religious education is an integral part of the topic work covered during the year. We relate the religious education aspects of the children's work to the objectives set out in the Early Learning Outcomes which underpin the curriculum planning for children aged three to five.

Through teaching religious education in our school, we provide opportunities for spiritual development. Children consider and respond to questions concerning the meaning and



purpose of life. We help them to recognise the difference between right and wrong through the study of moral and ethical questions. We enhance their social development by helping them to build a sense of identity in a multicultural society. Children explore issues of religious faith and values and, in doing so, they develop their knowledge and understanding of the cultural context of their own lives.

Assessment and Recording

The standard of work in RE is expected to meet the targets children are following in other core subjects.

Work should be recorded in books. All relevant photographs of places visited etc. can be pasted in children's books or displayed on the walls.

To assess the children's levels in RE, teachers are expected to give an overall level e.g. level 1, level 2 etc. not sub levels, for each child using the level descriptors provided in the Bedfordshire Agreed Syllabus for both AT1 (Learning about Religion) and AT2 (Learning from religion).

Resources

We have a wide variety of resources in our school to be able to teach the lessons approved by the Bedfordshire scheme of work. There is also an allocated budget for additional resources, which may be required for trips.

Health and Safety

Staff will ensure that all activities and the use of artefacts follow Health and Safety guidelines. Any outings or journeys linked to the RE curriculum will follow the agreed procedures.

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