



## **Religious Education Policy**

### **Introduction**

Religious Education enables pupils to explore what a religion is and what it would mean to take a religion seriously.

- Religious Education helps pupils to achieve knowledge and understanding and insight into differing beliefs and practices, thereby encouraging empathy, respect and tolerance. Pupils should be encouraged to explore the place and significance of religion in human life and so make a distinctive contribution to each pupils' search for a faith by which to live.
- Religious Education also gives pupils the opportunity to learn that there are those who do not hold religious beliefs and have their own philosophical perspectives, and subject matter should facilitate the integration and promotion of shared values.
- We are committed to providing our children with an exciting and positive learning environment, in which they have the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of religions while contributing to their spiritual, moral social and cultural development.

### **Aims**

- To give opportunities to explore religion through lessons which have a clear RE focus. However, some lessons may have a well-planned cross curricular perspective. Through this, we aim to promote the spiritual, moral, and cultural development of all pupils.
- To promote an understanding of the nature of religious belief and practice.
- To develop understanding of concepts and mastery of skills to make sense of religion and belief, at an appropriate level of challenge for their age.
- To encourage pupils to work collaboratively in order to appreciate differing values and ideas which are found within any age group.
- To help pupils develop their social and moral development by encouraging a positive attitude and valuing the beliefs of others, however different from their own.
- To reflect and relate their learning in RE to their own experience.

### **Guidelines**

1. RE will be planned, resourced and structured in the same manner as other areas of the National Curriculum, according to the Agreed Syllabus, Newcastle Upon Tyne Scheme of Work.
2. RE will be appropriate to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of our pupils.
3. Units of work will enable children to both learn explicit RE (identify, name, describe, give account, build a coherent picture) and implicit RE (give an informed and considered response to religious and moral issues)
4. RE will include exploration and awareness of Christianity and its denominations and Faiths of other cultures including Judaism, Islam and Hinduism.

5. Terminology will be incorporated into units and presented to children in age-appropriate/inclusive language.
6. The children in the Foundation Stage are taught RE through the area of Understanding the World. They begin to learn to understand the world and their place in it, know that all members of the school community show respect and tolerance for others and begin to develop their awareness of the culture and beliefs of others.
7. In Key Stage 1 and 2 children may be taught as part of a cross curricular approach or at a specific period of time e.g. Christmas and Easter.
8. Each Autumn Term a whole school project 'Celebrations and Festivals' will include each year group visiting a different place of worship. We believe that taking children to places of worship and welcoming visitors to our school not only brings RE to life but also gives our children the opportunity to ask questions and see for themselves.
9. During the 'Festivals and Celebrations' Project each year group will learn about the beliefs and celebrations of a different religion. As their knowledge and understanding develops, children are encouraged to be curious and to ask increasingly challenging questions.
10. Collective Worship is separate to the teaching of RE, though strands of Collective Worship may be used to enhance the RE curriculum.
11. Teachers should assess what pupils know about religions, what their attitudes are to religions and how well they are able to express their own views and feelings towards other religions.

### **Conclusion**

RE will be appropriate for the age, ability and background of the children, irrespective of gender and will follow the Agreed Syllabus for Newcastle Upon Tyne. We seek to ensure that all children in our school are educated to develop spiritually, academically, emotionally and morally to enable them to better understand themselves and others and to cope with the opportunities, challenges and responsibilities of living in a rapidly changing, multicultural world. Regular assemblies, Year group visits to different places of worship and celebrations of work taught and learnt will help to celebrate the diversity of the school community and promote positive images of people in the wider community, including their beliefs, traditions, culture, language and history.

## **Collective Worship**

The Education Act (1944) requires that Collective Worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character' but that the precise nature will depend on 'the family background, ages and abilities of pupils'.

Assemblies enable everybody in the school community to come together to learn about and understand the values and ambitions that underpin our school ethos and to prepare children to live as successful members of our wider society.

### **Aims**

1. To instil in pupils a 'worship attitude' characterised by feelings such as awe, wonder,
2. elation, appreciation, gratitude, respect, reverence.
3. To develop a sense of community within the school.
4. To celebrate achievements and special occasions in respect of individuals, the school and the wider community.
5. To celebrate new achievements and discoveries, birthdays, family events and religious festivals.
6. To enable pupils to use silence for reflection, contemplation and if appropriate, prayer.