

Newton Flotman C of E V.C. Primary School



Religious Education Policy

Policy agreed by: _____

Date: _____

Review date: _____

Policy Statement

R.E. contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and personal development of pupils. This reflects the ethos and aims of the school and the equal opportunities policy.

It offers children:

- The opportunity of learning from and about religions
- A realisation of the importance of religious experiences, beliefs and practices in the lives of believers
- An awareness of the spiritual dimension of life
- Some understanding of different belief systems
- Pupils will be encouraged to reflect on their own developing pattern of beliefs and values regarding truth, respect for others and responsibility to the community.

Legal Requirements

- R.E. is compulsory in both key stages
- It is taught according to the Norfolk Agreed Syllabus
- The 1988 education act requires teachers to take account of the principal religions represented in Great Britain
- Promoting any particular religious point of view is forbidden by law (1944 Education Act)
- Parents have the right to withdraw their children from R.E. The school requests this in writing. The child will be supervised within another class.
- It is recommended that 5% of curriculum time is devoted to R.E.

Aims of R.E Teaching

- To acquire knowledge and develop understanding of Christianity and the other principal religions represented in Great Britain. At KS1 these are Christianity and Judaism. At KS2 Christianity, Islam, and Hinduism are studied. The children will be given the opportunity to encounter the other main religions in topic work.
- To recognise and understand festivals and ceremonies, buildings, worship, symbols, dress and traditions
- To develop an understanding of the influence of beliefs, values and traditions on individuals, communities, societies and cultures
- To reflect on human experiences and relationships in the light of the children's own experience and beliefs, with reference to the teachings and practices of religions
- To enhance the spiritual, moral, cultural, and social development of the children
- To develop a positive attitude towards other people, respecting their right to hold beliefs different from the children's own

Teaching and Learning

R.E. can be approached thematically or systematically. Whatever approach is used, the four strands of knowledge, understanding, evaluation and spiritual development will be identified. Religious artefacts are used regularly.

Active learning techniques such as artwork, creative writing, role play, discussion groups, dance and music are all appropriate means of teaching and learning in R.E. This has close links with multicultural education.

There will be an emphasis on religion as it is lived today as well as its history.

Children need to record their work to help clarify their thinking, to communicate with others and to provide evidence of their work in R.E. This will include written work, pictures, diagrams, models and verbal recording either individually or as a group.

R.E will be linked to other areas of the curriculum and at times may be linked with collective worship, religious festivals and seasonal and school celebrations.

Planning and Assessment

At Key Stage 1 planning follows a two-year cycle linked to the Norfolk Agreed Syllabus, with reference to the Qualification, Curriculum Authority plans.

At Key Stage 2 planning follows a two-year cycle following the Norfolk Agreed Syllabus.

According to the Norfolk Agreed Syllabus the length of time given to Christianity is twice that of all the other religions combined.

Care will be taken to ensure continuity and progression.

Assessment will take place in the strand of knowledge, understanding, and evaluation but will not be expected in spiritual development.

Progress will be monitored through the marking process and reported to parents annually.

Special Educational Needs

As the work is differentiated for all abilities, children with special educational needs will be taught within the class. This is in accordance with S.E.N. policy and the Equal Opportunities policy.

Resources

Resources include the following:

- A set of 15 children's Bibles
- Individual boxes containing artefacts for the main religious beliefs
- The Miracle Maker, video of the life of Jesus, booklet and map
- Art books, Old Testament and life of Jesus
- A selection of books on the main religions in the school library
- Human resources include local clergy and representatives of other religions where available
- CD ROMS
- Websites
- We also try to include a display in the entrance hall relating to a particular religion or culture