



## Thurstonland First School

### Religious Education Policy

Thurstonland is a small village within a much larger community, where there is a wide range of faiths. It is the aim of the school to help our children to be aware of the 'spiritual and cultural diversity' of which they are a part. Using the Agreed Syllabus as a guide, the school also has two extra aims:

- To develop skills which are essential to the thorough understanding of one's own beliefs and the beliefs of others
- To promote healthy attitudes to
  - a) the study of religion
  - b) to the understanding and valuing of themselves, and
  - c) a sensitivity towards all people.

**The aims should be balanced through knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and world views, expression of ideas and insights around beliefs and meaning, and investigation and response to important questions for individuals and the wider community.**

#### **Curriculum Statement**

The school is part of the Shelley Pyramid and within this pyramid the need for a common approach to the teaching of RE has been agreed.

Classes within Thurstonland are mixed age groups and in some cases mixed Key Stages, as a result, it has been decided that RE will be taught in the following way.

1. Christianity will be taught throughout school
2. Islam/Sikhism/Buddhism will be introduced in Y2/5
3. Children will be aware of other festivals, eg. Diwali, and these will give some opportunities for raising awareness of Eastern religions before KS3
4. In all classes, RE is taught through a variety of media and teaching styles: stories, drama, worksheets, video and discussions. Work can be recorded in worksheet form, by retelling of stories, poetry, pictures and drama. The

Christmas story is usually part of the end of Autumn term celebrations, to which parents are invited. Other appropriate stories can be dramatized/retold during assemblies.

5. The coordinator will attend the Pyramid Network group to share resources and experiences.

The staff and pupils at Thurstonland school follow the Kirklees Agreed syllabus ( revised ) which includes a full scheme of work with assessment opportunities. There are two copies of the document in school, one of which is in the library.

### **Aims of Kirklees Agreed Syllabus**

The aim of Religious Education is to enable the children to:

- acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of all the principal religions represented in the school, the community, this country and the wider world.
- develop an understanding of the influence of beliefs, values and traditions on individuals, communities, societies and culture.
- develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues with the reference to the teachings of the principal religions in the school, the community, this country and the wider world.
- develop a positive awareness of their own worth.
- develop a positive attitude towards other people and their right to hold beliefs different from their own, and to living in a religiously diverse society.
- enhance their own spiritual, moral, cultural and social development:
- develop awareness of the fundamental questions of life raised by human experiences and how religious teachings relate to them;
- respond to such questions in the light of their own experience and with reference to the teachings and practices of religions;
- reflect on their own values and experiences in the light of their study.
  - develop a positive awareness of their own worth
  - develop a positive attitude towards other people and their right to hold beliefs different from their own, and to living in a religiously diverse society.

### **Time allocation**

The staff will follow the recommended guidelines of one hour per week for the teaching of RE. It is the parents' right to withdraw their child should they wish to do so.

Reviewed and updated in

September 2016