

Religious Education Policy

Rationale

The Education Act of 1996 states that religious education should be provided for all registered pupils, although parents have the right to withdraw their child from lessons.

RE within St. John's Primary is taught, in key stages 1 and 2 according to the Agreed Syllabus for Newcastle upon Tyne (2005). This syllabus reflects the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, whilst taking account of the teaching and traditions of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain. The syllabus is based on sessions of 45 minutes to an hour weekly. In Early Years it is taught according to the Early Learning Goals.

Religious Education is a subject that has an influence on every area of school life. It makes a unique contribution to our lives by offering principles for personal living and behaviour. The study of religion enhances pupils understanding of the religious and cultural diversity of today's world. It helps foster an awareness of the pupil's effect upon other people's lives and lets them develop a sense of identity and strengthen their self-respect.

R.E. is important in encouraging pupils to consider and respond to moral and ethical issues, which occur in their lives, enabling them to make their own reasoned and informed judgements about important issues. By understanding and respecting the beliefs of other people, pupils can be encouraged to recognise that human differences are interesting, natural and can be celebrated.

Purpose

By teaching Religious Education we aim to enable children to:

- Acquire a knowledge and understanding of the origins, content and development of the Christian religion and of other religions, their traditions and beliefs;
- Understand the importance of religious experience and recognise the ways by which these experiences have been interpreted and expressed through a variety of religious traditions;

- Appreciate the contribution that religious and spiritual ideas and concepts can make to their personal search for meaning and purpose in life, enabling them to develop their own spiritual values;
- Look beyond themselves and recognise the contribution of religion in the establishment of relationships and responsibilities, ie. within the family, community and the world at large.

Planning and Assessment

In the Early Years Unit, assessments are carried out and recorded in the Foundation Stage Profile.

Planning and Assessments, in other year groups, will be recorded on Weekly Plans and Learning Logs. This will then inform future planning.

(Reviewed January 2015- KE)

To be reviewed January 2018