

Whytemead Primary School
Religious Education Policy



Completed by: G. Peck July 2107

Introduction

Religious education is a legal entitlement for every pupil and forms part of the basic curriculum as set down in the 1998 Education Act. Its place in the curriculum is an acknowledgement of the fact that religious beliefs and practices play an important part in the lives of many people worldwide, and have done so throughout history. An understanding of religion can help children develop a better appreciation of themselves, the people around them and the world in which they live.

This is a county Primary school. The education acts require that the religious education should be provided according to the "Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education in West Sussex Schools. 2003." This document is available in school.

Our RE curriculum meets the requirements of the 2002 Education Act and follows 2010 DCSF Guidance to schools. The legislation stipulates that RE is compulsory for all children, including those in the Reception class. Parents can withdraw their child from RE lessons if they so wish, having notified the Governors in writing first. The law also allows teachers to refuse to teach RE, but only after they have given due notice of their intention to the Governors.

Aims and Objectives of Religious Education.

The school follows the aims and objectives set out in the West Sussex Agreed Syllabus.

Aims

To teach religious education so that children may:

- * 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;
- * identify areas of similarity as well as difference between the major world religions;
- * look beyond self and recognise the contribution of religion in the establishment of relationships and responsibilities in the family, among friends, in schools, the community and the world at large;
- * explore the consequences of religious belief and experience in the development of personal attitudes;
- * develop a positive attitude towards other people, respecting their right to hold beliefs different from their own, and towards living in a society of diverse religions.

General Objectives for Key Stage 1

To enable pupils:

- (a) to become increasingly aware of the significance of religious ideas and experiences by means of stories, drama, ritual and worship with emphasis on the Christian tradition;
- (b) to use and experience the creative arts in the exploration and communication of religious thoughts and feelings;
- (c) to develop religious insight and moral and spiritual values by encouraging a sensitivity towards other people and a capacity to form relationships.
- (d) to begin to enhance and clarify their own ideas about religion by developing self-expression, confidence and an enquiring and reflective attitude towards the rich variety and complexity of creation.

General objectives for Key stage 2

To enable pupils:

- (e) to acquire a more coherent knowledge of the life and teaching of Jesus;
- (f) to understand the structure of the Bible and obtain a basic knowledge of its key personalities;
- (g) to explore the nature of Christian worship and the use of signs and symbols in expressing religious feelings and beliefs;
- (h) to become familiar with different ways of communicating and interpreting religious experience;
- (i) to become aware of the importance of the spiritual dimension in their own experience and in the experiences of other individuals and communities;
- (j) to acquire a basic understanding of the place of religion in the world and its relevance to personal, social and moral issues.

Curriculum

R.E at Whytemead is concerned with educating children about religion and for them to learn from religion. It is not concerned with inducting them in a particular faith; this is the responsibility of the family or the faith community. Pupils will learn about Christianity as the main religious tradition in this country but also about the teaching and practices of some of the other principal world religions represented in this country.

Curriculum Organisation

The curriculum is planned to deliver R.E. through a combination of methods:

- (i) Religious education is taught mainly through weekly lessons (1 hour per week). The R.E. Units of work are linked with cross curricular school topics whenever possible;
- (ii) The opportunity is taken to deliver identified areas of R.E. through whole school assemblies where appropriate;
- (iii) Separately identified R.E. is found at different times of the year covering Christmas, Easter, Harvest, Advent, Shrove Tuesday etc.

Assessment, recording and reporting

Teachers use a variety of means of assessing pupils work in line with the whole school assessment policy and the requirements of the Agreed Syllabus.

Pupils' achievement in religious education is reported in the annual report to parents.

Promoting Pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social And Cultural Development

Religious education provides opportunities for:

spiritual development, through helping pupils to consider and respond to questions of meaning and purpose in life, and questions about the nature and values in human society;

moral development, through helping pupils to consider and respond to areas of morality using their knowledge and understanding of religious and ethical teachings. This enables them to make reasoned and informed judgements on religious and moral issues;

social development, through helping pupils to develop their sense of identity and belonging, preparing them for life as citizens in a plural society;

cultural development, through fostering pupils' awareness and understanding in a range of beliefs, practices and values in their own society and in the wider world. Pupils explore within and between faiths, developing their understanding of the cultural contexts within which they live.

Co-ordination

The day to day support for religious education is provided by the co-ordinator who is responsible to the headteacher for:

- supporting teachers in their medium and short term planning;
- attending relevant in-service courses to keep up to date on religious education and reporting to staff;
- managing the resources for religious education;
- co-ordinates the links with the local church;

Resources

Books, artefacts and other resources for classroom use are available from the R.E. Resource cupboard (currently situated in the material cupboard). A range of R.E. books can be found in the Library.

Further resources can be borrowed from the schools library service or through the County R.E. loan collection.

Written by R.Edmunds July 2015

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