

# Leechpool Primary School



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

This policy is intended to ensure consistency across the school in terms of the teaching of Religious Education (R.E.) which is statutory for all children on roll.

The R.E. curriculum taught at Leechpool is based on the West Sussex Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education (Revised 2015) as required by law.

### **The importance of R.E. in the curriculum:**

R.E. provokes challenging questions and raises issues about the meaning and purpose of life, beliefs about God, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human. It develops pupils' knowledge and understanding of Christianity, other religions and world views. It also offers opportunities for personal reflection and spiritual development.

R.E. encourages children to learn from the different religions which make up our multicultural society. It can enable them to flourish individually within their community and prepares them for adult life, developing respect for others, in particular for those whose faiths and beliefs are different from their own.

### **Agreed Procedures:**

At Leechpool Primary School we have children from faith communities other than Christianity and this is reflected in the delivery of our R.E. curriculum.

The attainment targets of West Sussex's Agreed Syllabus summarise what we are aiming to achieve:

- Learning about Religions – enquiry and investigation, beliefs, teachings and ways of life.
- Learning from Religion – developing reflection and responses to their own experiences and those of others.

**Foundation Stage:** The statutory requirement does not extend to nursery classes in maintained schools and is not, therefore, a legal requirement for much of the Foundation stage. It does however, form a valuable part of the educational experience of children throughout this stage of learning.

At Leechpool, children begin exploring religion by looking at special people, books, and artefacts, the wonders of the world around them, by visiting places of worship and meeting visitors from our local faith communities. They are encouraged to reflect on their own feelings by talking and sharing experiences and to use their natural curiosity to develop their appreciation and wonder of the world in which they live.

- **Key Stage One:** In Year One, pupils explore Christian stories and learn about the main Christian festivals while in Year Two Hinduism is studied and comparisons made with Christianity. Children look at how, for some people, religion is an important part of their lives and how beliefs can be expressed through worship, music, art and symbolism.



- **Key Stage Two:** Throughout this key stage pupils study key aspects of religions; stories, people and traditions, investigate the significance of religion in local, national and global communities and make links with world news and events. In Years Three and Four pupils mainly continue their exploration of the Christian faith, while in Years Five and Six pupils are introduced to both the Islam and Judaism, learning how Muslims and Jews practise their faiths. Children are encouraged to make comparisons between all the main world religions, discussing secular world views.

(Full details of coverage of the West Sussex Agreed Syllabus for R.E. are in the Leechpool R.E. Scheme of Work.)

- **Methods of Teaching:** Leechpool follows a cross-curricular approach to the planning and delivery of the curriculum. Teachers are responsible for the planning and teaching of R.E. which may be taught within a topic context, where appropriate, or in an identified weekly session. It is clearly acknowledged on the Learning Journeys on display in individual classrooms and is monitored by the R.E. subject leader.
- **Curriculum Time:** The school gives approximately 5% of its curriculum time to the teaching of R.E. This equates to approximately one hour a week, and includes stories and periods of quiet reflection during assemblies and collective worship.
- **Equal opportunities:** Work in R.E. should be relevant, interesting and of educational value to all pupils regardless of race, gender or ability. We welcome visitors to the school from our local community. Our scheme of work reflects the global nature of the main faiths.
- **Withdrawal from R.E.:** Parents have the right to withdraw their children from R.E. lessons. Following Curriculum meetings parents may request that their child be withdrawn and are invited to meet with the Head Teacher and R.E subject leader to clarify their views and set up alternative procedures for the child. Because of the need to supervise the child, alternative work will be completed within the classroom environment.
- **Resources:** A wide variety of resources are available for the teaching of R.E. at Leechpool and they aim to make lessons more interesting and relevant to the pupils. There are a wide variety of books, DVD's, posters and artefacts stored in clearly labelled storage boxes stored by library. There is also a scheme on the school system which complements and supplements the other resources.
- Teachers will report annually on pupil's progress to parents but there is no requirement to report in levels.

### **3. Is this working?**

- Do our children enjoy their R.E. lessons?
- Do our children have the opportunity to meet and talk with people of differing faiths?

## Leechpool Primary School



- Are our children tolerant of the views of others and do they recognise the right of every individual to follow their own beliefs?
- Is R.E. being given its statutory time in the curriculum or is it being pushed off an already overcrowded timetable?
- Do the staff feel supported by the subject leader and confident about the delivery of the R.E. syllabus?
- As a staff, do we exploit all opportunities for cross curricular links with other subject areas when teaching R.E.? Are these opportunities clearly displayed on our learning journeys?

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Subject Leader