

Religious Education (RE) Policy Northhill C of E VA Lower School

Aims and Objectives

To teach Religious Education so that children may:-

- a) Acquire a knowledge and understanding of the origins, contents and development of the Christian religion; and an awareness of its traditions and beliefs;
- b) Understand the important place that Christianity and Christian experience have in our British heritage, culture and society; and its influences on the lives of generations of individuals;
- c) Increase understanding of Christian beliefs, values, attitudes and its influences on relationships and responsibilities in the family, among friends, in the school, and the wider community;
- d) Gain and develop understanding of other principle religions represented in the United Kingdom, developing a positive attitude towards other people and their right to hold beliefs different from their own.
- e) Develop investigative and research skills and to enable them to make reasoned judgements about religious issues.
- f) Be able to reflect on their own experiences, and develop a personal response to questions and issues of life.

Teaching and Learning

The religious education curriculum forms an important part of our school's spiritual, moral and social teaching. It also promotes education for citizenship and has cross curricular links wherever possible. Our school RE curriculum is based on the Bedfordshire LEA's Agreed Syllabus launched in Autumn 2006 and it meets all the requirements set out in that document.

We base our teaching and learning style in RE on the key principle that good teaching in RE allows children both to learn about religious traditions and to reflect on what the religious ideas and concepts mean to them. Our teaching enables children to extend their own sense of values and promotes their spiritual growth and development. We encourage children to think about their what they have learnt from and what they have learnt about the themes and topics studied in the RE curriculum, helping them to develop and express their own opinions and values in relation to the themes and topics studied in the RE curriculum.

Our teaching and learning styles in RE enable children to build on their own experiences and extend their knowledge and understanding of religious traditions. We use their

experiences at religious festivals such as Easter, to compare with festivals from other faiths and to develop their religious thinking.

First hand experience provided through meeting people, making visits, and handling artefacts will be incorporated wherever possible within the scheme. At present the school visits the church every half term and Father Frank visits the school on a weekly basis every Thursday to conduct an assembly.

Curriculum planning in religious education

We plan our religious education curriculum in accordance with the Bedfordshire LEA's Agreed Syllabus Autumn 2006. We ensure that the topics studied in religious education build upon prior learning. We offer opportunities for children of all abilities, to develop their skills and knowledge in each unit, and we ensure that there is planned progression built into the scheme of work.

As we have mixed-age classes, we carry out the medium-term planning on a two-year rotation cycle. By so doing, we ensure that children have complete coverage of the Agreed Syllabus but do not have to repeat topics, except for seasonal ones, when we do cover different aspect and have different activities.

The religious education co-ordinator is Mrs E.A. Simpson who is responsible for researching and co-ordinating the subject within the school. The link Governor is Father Frank. The school teaches 45 minutes per week at Key Stage 1 and 1 hour at Key Stage 2.

Assessment of work

Assessment will be ongoing throughout units by the teacher. The school will evaluate the R.E assessment being produced by the Diocese and County when it is completed. The children are assessed using incerts and parents and children are informed of levels of ability at the end of each academic year.

Resources

Resources and artefacts are stored centrally in boxes relating to specific units of work.

Monitoring and Review

The teaching staff will evaluate children's work and the quality of teaching will be monitored by either the co-ordinator, Governor or Headteacher.

Health and Safety

Teachers should be aware of the school's Health and Safety Policy, especially when taking pupils on visits to places of worship.

Right of Withdrawal

Under the 1944 and 1988 Acts, parents have a right to withdraw their children from Religious Education or parts of Religious Education. Parents who wish to do so are encouraged to discuss this with the Headteacher first.

Signed on Behalf of the Governing Body

Tudor Fox
Chair of Governors

Date