



Religious Education Policy

Aims

Religious Education enables children to investigate and reflect on some of the most fundamental questions asked by people. At Four Oaks Primary School we develop the children's knowledge and understanding of the major world faiths. Children reflect on what it means to have a faith and to develop their own spiritual knowledge and understanding. We help the children learn from religions as well as about religions.

The aims of Religious Education are to help children:

- develop an awareness of spiritual and moral issues;
- develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other major world religions and value systems found in Britain;
- develop an understanding of what it means to be committed to a religious tradition;
- be able to reflect on personal experiences and to develop a personal response to the fundamental questions of life;
- develop an understanding of religious traditions and to appreciate the cultural differences in Britain today;
- develop investigative and research skills and to make reasoned judgements about religious issues;
- have respect for other peoples' views and to celebrate the diversity in society.

Entitlement

The children will be given the opportunity to be taught about the principle religions represented in Britain: Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism and Buddhism. At Four Oaks Primary we follow the RE Today educational scheme, which is the Liverpool agreed syllabus.

Curriculum content

The following will act as the basis for planning and teaching, so that children can:

Know about and understand a range of religions and world views:

- be able to describe, explain and analyse beliefs and practices, recognising the diversity which exists within and between communities and amongst individuals.
- to identify, investigate and respond to questions posed, and responses offered, by some of the sources of wisdom found in religions and world views.
- to appreciate and appraise the nature, significance and impact of different ways of life and ways of expressing meaning.

Express ideas and insights about the nature, significance and impact of religions and worldviews:

- to explain, using reasoned arguments, their ideas about how beliefs, practices and forms of expression influence individuals and communities,
- to express with increasing discernment their personal reflections and critical responses to questions and teachings about identity, diversity and meaning and value, including ethical issues.

Gain and deploy the skills needed to engage seriously with religions and worldviews:

- to investigate and respond to key concepts and questions of belonging, meaning, purpose and truth,
- to enquire into what enables different individuals and communities to live together respectfully for the wellbeing of all;
- to articulate clearly beliefs, values and commitments in order to explain why they may be important in their own and other people's lives.

EYFS

In the Early Years Foundation Stage, children are taught through festivals that are relevant to the specific cohort as they take place throughout the year. Through the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum, we relate the Religious Education aspects of the children's work to the objectives set out under the Personal, Social and Emotional Development and Understanding of the World areas which are crucial to the development and progress of all pupils at this stage.

Children begin to explore the world of religion in terms of special people, books, festivals and celebrations, places, objects and visiting places of worship. They are introduced to a range of religious words and use all their senses in exploring religions and beliefs, practices and forms of expression. They reflect on their own feelings and experiences and use their imagination and curiosity to develop their appreciation and wonder of the world in which they live.

Organisation

- Each class will receive a weekly Religious Education in addition to daily Collective Worship.
- Where appropriate, cross curricular links are made during the year particularly in connection with art, music and drama or when preparing for celebrations including Christian celebrations of Christmas, Easter and Mother's Day.
- Teachers will follow the Liverpool scheme of work for R.E.
- The teaching of R.E. remains objective and educational in its approach and never to covert or support any religion. It also contributes to the spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development of pupils, regardless of their beliefs.

Resources

We are well resourced in our school, which enables us to teach all our R.E. units of work. Resources are kept in a central store where artefacts together with a collection of books, DVDs, photo packs and other teaching resources are available to support the teaching of each religion.

Assessment

Assessments are completed at the end of a unit of work. Judgements are recorded on separate templates for each subject area. Only children who have not achieved the objectives for the unit of work are identified on foundation subject trackers. If a child does not appear in the tracker, then they have been identified as working at the expected standard in that unit of work.

Twice-yearly pupil voice sessions are conducted. Attainment, progress, accessibility and engagement are interrogated throughout the discussion with strengths, areas for development and matters arising identified.

Monitoring

The monitoring of Religious Education is led by the subject leader. This will be achieved by:

- checking planning against the scheme of work;
- monitoring quality of pupils' work in R.E books;
- monitoring of R.E. displays around school;
- pupil voice interviews;

Equal Opportunities

As set out in the Aims, the teaching of R.E. will reflect the whole religious community. Children from all backgrounds and gender will be encouraged to express their opinions. Through the school's resources and guest speakers, positive images of all faiths are taken into account.

SEND

Through our Religious Education teaching we provide learning opportunities that enable all pupils to make progress. We do this by setting suitable learning challenges and responding to each child's different needs. Religious Education is accessible to all children as part of their entitlement to a broad and balanced education for all children.

Community Links

The school is committed to offering practical first-hand experiences for all pupils. This may be achieved through visits to local places of worship and talks by guest speakers from the local community.

Culture Capital

At Four Oaks Primary School our RE curriculum is designed to equip children with the knowledge and cultural capital to succeed in life. We provide children with essential knowledge about world religions and different communities so that they are well-informed citizens ready for the real world.

Withdrawing pupils from RE lessons

The DfE states that schools have to teach RE but parents can withdraw their children for all or part of the lessons. Parents should make a request to withdraw their child from some or all lessons in writing to school. School will respect their decisions and an appropriate alternative activity will be set for the child.

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